

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.: 901
Section: COMMUNITY
Title: COMMUNITY RELATIONS OBJECTIVES
Date Adopted: 5/16/05
Date Last Revised: 2/18/2020; 12/6/19; 6/11/12; 5/11/12

901 COMMUNITY RELATIONS OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this community relations policy is to establish and maintain communication that informs the parents/guardians, public and other members of the Lower Merion School District community and involves them in the educational goals and programs of the District's Schools.

The Board of School Directors, in an effort to ensure and enhance the possibilities for excellence in the education of our youth in a free society, presents and endorses this statement of policy on public information because of its conviction that (a) the public schools belong in every sense to the community who created them by consent, and support them by taxation; (b) the schools are only as strong as the intelligent and informed support of the community; and (c) the support of the community must be based upon their knowledge of, their understanding about, and their participation in the aims and efforts of the public schools.

It shall be the policy of the District to:

1. Keep the citizens of the District regularly and thoroughly informed through all the channels of communication on all the policies, programs, problems, and planning of the District;
2. Explain the programs, achievements, and needs of the schools to parents/guardians and the community as a whole;
3. Determine which particular areas of the school program, policies or operations need further clarification or explanation;
4. Keep students, staff members, parents/guardians, and residents fully informed about the District policies, procedures and District-wide activities;
5. Operate in public session, as speedily and efficiently as circumstances permit and with appropriate public participation;
6. Invite the advice and counsel of the community of the District at all times and especially at all regularly scheduled meetings of the Board;
7. Solicit the sound thinking and studied counsels of the community through advisory committees selected from the community and appointed by the Board to consider selected topics which vitally affect the future of our youth;

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8. Recognize students and their achievements.

It shall be the responsibility of all District staff to:

1. Acquaint students, staff members, parents/guardians, and residents with the work of the schools and students through a variety of media, including but not limited to:
 - a. interschool communications,
 - b. bulletin boards,
 - c. District produced cable television,
 - d. the District website,
 - e. the District email distribution lists,
 - f. District produced publications such as the official student newspapers,
 - g. transmissions through students to their homes by the District, and
 - h. District-sponsored Social Media, as defined in the accompanying Administrative Regulation.
2. Give courteous and thoughtful consideration to all inquiries and suggestions and carefully investigate all complaints.
3. Make parents/guardians, volunteers, and visitors feel welcome in the school and in the classroom in accordance with established procedures.
4. Cooperate with Home and School Associations and other community groups.
5. Maintain student relations that encourage cooperation of the home.
6. Encourage staff relations conducive to high morale that merits the respect of students and citizens.

The Superintendent shall establish regulations implementing this policy which shall include, but not be limited to, the use of District-sponsored Social Media consistent with the educational mission of the District.