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PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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7446 – SCHOOL SECURITY PROGRAM

The safety of students, staff members, and visitors on school grounds is an important concern for the Board of Education.

School Resource Officer Program

The Board of Education authorizes a School Resource Officer Program in partnership with the municipality and local law enforcement. The Program is designed for municipal officials, law enforcement officers, and school authorities to work together to identify major problems faced by their schools and to create a more secure school environment through the presence of law enforcement officers within the school district. A School Resource Officer assigned to the school district shall remain an employee of the municipality and its Police Department.

The School Resource Officer may be a full-time Police Officer or a Class Three Special Law Enforcement Officer employed by the municipality in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.11. A Class Three Special Law Enforcement Officer is authorized to exercise full powers and duties similar to those of a permanent regularly appointed full-time police officer while providing security at a public school during hours when school is normally in session or when occupied by students or school staff members. The use of a firearm by a Class Three Officer is authorized pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.14. A Class Three Officer shall not carry a firearm except when engaged in the actual performance of the Officer's official duties as a School Resource Officer and when specifically authorized by the Chief of Police or in the absence of the Chief, a designee. The Board of Education and the municipality shall enter into a partnership agreement that sets forth the respective obligations of the municipality, local law enforcement, and the school district. The agreement shall include, but is not limited to, the following terms: the number of police officers assigned to the school district; the school(s) to be covered; the days of police coverage in the school district; the process for the Police Department to assign and the process for the Board of Education to approve a School Resource Officer(s); the duties of the assigned School Resource Officer(s); the reporting requirements for the School Resource Officer; and the financial obligations of the parties. The School Resource Officer Program Agreement shall be approved by the Board of Education.

A School Resource Officer who is a full-time Police Officer or a Class Three Special Law Enforcement Officer must comply with all statutes and codes regarding their law enforcement status and all other statutory and administrative code responsibilities.

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School District Employed Security Officers – (Unarmed and/or Armed)

The Board of Education authorizes the employment of school district security officers. The district's security officers will be required to wear Board-approved uniforms and shall work in cooperation with the school administration to provide security services on school grounds. The security officers will be provided the necessary equipment to perform the security functions assigned by the administration. The Superintendent of Schools may recommend for Board approval a school security officer who was a law enforcement officer who retired in good standing and has a valid permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4, and a permit to possess a handgun in a school building or on school grounds during his/her workday provided the employee meets the exception to N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5 outlined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6(1).

In order for a school security officer to be authorized to carry a handgun in a school building or on school grounds, the school security officer must provide the Superintendent of Schools with documentation supporting compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6(1), including, but not limited to, a copy of an identification card issued by the Superintendent of the State Police permitting the retired officer to carry a handgun in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6(1)(4). The identification card shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance, valid through the State, not transferable to any other person, and shall be carried at all times on the person of the retired law enforcement officer while the officer is carrying a handgun. The retired law enforcement officer shall produce the identification card for review on the demand of any law enforcement officer or authority.

The Superintendent of Schools will contact the Superintendent of the State Police to confirm the issuance of the identification card permitting the retired officer to carry a handgun in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6(1)(4). The Superintendent of Schools will also submit the identification card to the school district's insurance company to ensure the Board of Education has the appropriate insurance for a school security officer to carry a handgun in accordance with this Policy. The school security officer's authorization to carry a handgun in school buildings and on school grounds will be dependent upon receipt of written confirmation from the school district's insurance company that sufficient insurance coverage, as determined by the Board, will be provided to the school district and school employees should any liability arise from the school security officer's handgun. The inability to obtain sufficient insurance coverage may independently form the basis for denial of a school security officer's authorization to carry a handgun in school buildings and on school grounds.

The appointment and authorization for a school security officer to carry a handgun in school buildings and on school grounds must be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education. Any authorization will only be for the time period the New Jersey State Police issued identification card is valid and under no circumstances will the authorization exceed one year. The Superintendent of Schools, if recommending a school staff member be authorized to carry a handgun in school buildings and on school grounds, will provide the Board of Education with a copy of all the information submitted by the school

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security officer in support of the application, any documentation from law enforcement agencies, and information from the district's insurance company. The Board of Education may approve the Superintendent's recommendation after review of the documentation, and upon such approval, the Superintendent of Schools will provide written authorization to the school security officer along with any conditions on the authority to carry a handgun in school buildings or on school grounds. The Superintendent of Schools or designee will inform local law enforcement officials of any school district security officer(s) authorized to carry a handgun in school buildings or on school grounds. A school security officer authorized to carry a handgun is not authorized to carry a handgun in school buildings or on school grounds beyond the hours of the officer's workday or work assignment.

A school security officer approved and authorized by the Board of Education to carry a handgun in school buildings and on school grounds must comply with all applicable New Jersey laws, including but not limited to: N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4; N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5; N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6; and N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4.]

This Policy will be reviewed and approved by the Board attorney for compliance with applicable statutes and administrative code provisions before initial adoption and subsequent re-adoptions by the Board.

N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4; 2C:39-5; 2C:39-6; 2C:58-4;
40A:14-146.10; 40A:14-146.11;
40A:14-146.14

Adopted: 8 May 2017