

POLICY _____

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY

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7481 - UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS also known as DRONES)

The Board of Education is concerned for the safety of all staff members, students, parents, community members, and visitors while on school grounds. The Board of Education recognizes the operation of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) on school grounds or flying an unmanned aircraft on or over school grounds presents a public safety issue as school grounds are populated many hours of the day by students, staff members, parents, and community members.

An unmanned aircraft system is the unmanned aircraft and all the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc. necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. The unmanned aircraft is the flying portion of the system by a pilot via a ground control system, or autonomously through the use of an on-board computer, communication links and any additional equipment that is necessary for the unmanned aircraft to operate safely. A model aircraft is considered an unmanned aircraft.

The Board of Education prohibits the operation of an unmanned aircraft system on school grounds, the launching or landing of an unmanned aircraft on school grounds, or the flying of an unmanned aircraft over school grounds at all times.

However, the Board of Education may authorize the use of an unmanned aircraft system on school grounds for an approved school district purpose. The use of an unmanned aircraft system on school grounds for school district purposes that is owned and operated by the Board of Education or owned and operated by a student and used in an approved school district program must be operated under the supervision of a school district staff member(s). The unmanned aircraft system shall only be operated on school grounds and the unmanned aircraft shall only be launched or landed on school grounds or flown over school grounds. The Superintendent or designee shall approve the specific activity(ies) or event(s) in which an unmanned aircraft system may be used. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the use of a school district-owned or student-owned unmanned aircraft system is in compliance with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration regulations and State and local laws for the operation of an unmanned aircraft system. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure the Board of Education has insurance coverage for the use or operation of an unmanned aircraft system. The insurance coverage shall be determined by the Board after consultation with the Board's insurance company and Board Attorney.

The Board of Education may post signage on school grounds indicating the operation of an unmanned aircraft system or flying an unmanned aircraft over school grounds without Board of Education approval is prohibited at all times.

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The Board of Education will take appropriate action in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations and/or any State and local laws against any violations of the provisions of this Policy.

Adopted: 6 February 2017