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9001 School and Community Relations

The Board believes that in order for a district to be successful, it must involve and obtain the support of an informed community. The District will communicate to the public through the appropriate use of available means of communication.

The Superintendent, or designee is responsible for the development and enforcement of administrative procedures to provide newsletters, website updates, cable TV feeds, and other similar forms of communication concerning the objectives, achievements, needs and issues of the District to the public.

The Superintendent, or designee has the authority to issue news releases regarding issues related to the District, as well as other items deemed news worthy

Approved: September 24, 2018

9005 Green Policy

The Board recognizes the critical importance of environmental awareness, environmental sustainability, and has committed the District to fostering the principles of environmental, economic, and social stewardship through the incorporation of sustainable best management practices throughout the District.

Through this policy, the District shall strive to provide a healthy learning/working environment, which contributes to protecting, conserving, and enhancing the earth's environmental resources while educating our students on Environmentally Sustainable Practices. To that end, the District shall:

1. Heighten awareness about the importance of environmental sustainability throughout the District through the curriculum and the promotion of environmental programs and initiatives.
2. Promote the use of "Green Seal" certified cleaning products in conjunction with environmentally sustainable cleaning practices throughout the school district whenever possible.
3. Purchase paper and paper products that are made of recycled materials whenever possible.
4. Encourage "no idle" policy for transportation and District vehicles and when purchasing equipment consider fuel-efficient fleet vehicles.
5. Support the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle principles through recycling and reducing waste while educating students through best management practices (hereafter refer to as BMP's).
6. Explore all aspects of recycling when contracting waste management companies.
7. Model environmental and conservation BMP's in the building, landscape design, and maintenance by using sustainable site planning and environmentally preferable building materials.
8. Review on a regular schedule all BMP's to implement new or modify any existing standard within the District.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9010 Public Information Program

The Board shall attempt to keep the public informed about the direction, operation, finances, programs, and policies of the District through all reasonable means.

Public's Right to Know (Cf. 1370)

All decisions of the Board shall be made during a public meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The Board shall hold closed sessions only as necessary in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws. The District will cooperate with the regulations of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9015 Citizen Advisory Committees

The Board, at its discretion, may establish citizen advisory committees to address specific issues facing the District. The Board shall approve the organization of appointments to such committees as well as establish the focus thereof. The terms of such committees shall be set at their inception and may be modified any time by the Board. Committees shall dissolve at the end of the determined timeline, or at the Boards discretion.

The committees are encouraged to utilize available resources to meet the goals established by the committee. It is the Boards intent to ensure that the committee represents the community, the area affected by the issue, or the focus of the committee.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9020 News Media Relations (Cf. 9190)

The District shall attempt to maintain a positive relationship with the media. The District will seek corrections for any inaccurate information that is reported by any media source.

News Release

News and information concerning school events, personnel, students, and programs may be released to the press with the approval of a designated Administrator

The Board or Superintendent shall approve the release of any information that provides an official position of the District, or other items deemed appropriate by the Superintendent through an Administrative Procedure.

Reference: Board Policy #9190.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9060 Campaign Information

Any campaign information shall be released under the direction of the Superintendent. District funds shall not be used to produce persuasive information during ballot campaigns.

LEGAL REF: MCLA 169.257

Approved: September 24, 2018

9100 Community Relations

The Board encourages all community members to participate in District activities. Those residents who are especially qualified because of training, experience, or special talents may be solicited to partake in District activities.

Senior citizens of the District, persons 55 years of age or older, may request-a senior citizen guest pass which shall permit them to attend some activities of the District at a free or reduced expense.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9170 Solicitations

All persons seeking to sell, solicit, or display an item relating directly to expenditures of District funds to any school employee on school premises must first secure permission from the Superintendent, or designee before any appointment is made.

Solicitation of Students

Selling of merchandise to students requires the permission of the building administrator. Solicitation is restricted to approved student organizations, parent/guardian groups and vendors, and shall be for the purpose of benefiting the District, its recognized organizational groups, or for the convenience of the students. Such solicitation should not interfere with the academic instruction of a student.

Solicitation by Students

Solicitation by students shall be at the discretion of the building administrator within the following guidelines:

1. Solicitations shall not interfere with normal academic instruction;
2. Solicitations shall not become the primary function of any club; and
3. Solicitations shall not be mandatory for any student.

Distribution of Circulars

Distribution of circulars shall only be permitted after approval from the Superintendent or designee.

Distribution of Surveys

Distribution of surveys by or to students from any private, political or social group shall be prohibited unless approved by the Superintendent or designee and has an educational function.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9190 Interviews with Students

Occasionally, the media may request an opportunity to visit the schools during school hours for the purpose of preparing background material for a news feature. To avoid interference with the normal operation of the school day, the Superintendent, or designee shall approve such requests after determining the value of such a news feature to the overall educational program.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9250 Community Use of District Facilities

The Board encourages the utilization of District facilities during approved times by properly organized and responsible groups whose primary purpose is to benefit the District or members of the community.

The use of any District facility shall not interfere with any curricular or extra-curricular student activity. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish a fee schedule for the use of any school facility for the purpose of covering the costs of utilizing such facility property. Individual groups utilizing any District facility shall be held responsible for any damage or loss to the facility during its utilization.

District facilities and equipment shall not be used or made available for or any profit-making activities without prior clearance from the Superintendent or Board.

Approved: September 24, 2018

LEGAL REF: MCL 333.12601 *et seq.*; AG Opinion #6460; *Lamb's Chapel v Center Moriches Union Free School District*

9300 Tobacco Products On/In District Premises

In accordance with Michigan State Law, Michigan Board of Education guidelines, and the Michigan Smoke-Free Air Law, tobacco products in any form, including electronic cigarettes (or vaping) shall not be used by any person in District buildings or on District property.

Notification

Copies of the tobacco policy shall be distributed or posted to all employees and made available to all students, visitors, and community members and shall be published in student, staff, and community publications.

Approved: September 24, 2018

LEGAL REF: MCL 333-12601 *et seq.*; AG Opinion #5336; 750.473
Check with Lisa on regulations

9350 Public Gifts and Bequests

Board members and employees of the school District shall be prohibited from accepting gifts from any person or company, which are intended to influence the employee when making decisions regarding the person or company on behalf of the District. Any gift that is received or rejected by the Board, Administrator, or an employee, that is intended to influence a decision, or could give the appearance of influence, shall be disclosed to the Board for consideration.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9370 Materials Distribution in Schools

The Superintendent is authorized to refuse distribution of any material by outside individuals or groups to the students of the District that he/she deems inappropriate.

Advertising in the Schools

Solicitation of advertising or use of the school system to promote the merit of any product by brand name or trademark shall be prohibited, unless deemed educationally beneficial and approved by the Board. The advertising of any alcohol, tobacco, or any other product deemed inappropriate for children is prohibited.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent suitable advertising in student publications, which are published by student organizations.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9400 Visitors to the School

All visitors to District facilities must first register with the appropriate office as posted. All visitors will be under the rules and regulations established by the Board, Superintendent, Building Administrator and Law.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent, or designee, to establish guidelines for visitors, including performing a background check (iChat) for any individual that will have direct contact with a student, may be left alone in the building, or for any other reason designated by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee has the authority to prohibit entry of any persons to any District facility or to remove any visitor when there is reason to believe that the individual's presence will interfere with the educational process or pose a safety risk for any student or staff member. The Superintendent or designee has the authority to request the assistance of any law enforcement agency if necessary to remove any visitor who refuses to leave or is creating a disturbance.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9450 Concerns

Any individual, with legitimate reason, shall have the right to present a concern or issue concerning the District for review or consideration. The Board reserves the right to protect the District employees, administrators and staff from unnecessary harassment or burden. It is the intent of this Board to resolve all concerns dealing with the District in an appropriate and timely manner. All concerns regarding the District, or any item related to the District, should be resolved at the lowest possible administrative level.

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it shall be referred to the appropriate administrator for investigation and a possible resolution.

Approved: September 24, 2018

LEGAL REF: MCL 15.261 *et seq.*

9470 Loitering - Unauthorized Persons

Unauthorized persons loitering on or about any school building or on school grounds shall be asked to leave the premises. Any such person failing to leave the premises shall be considered to be displaying disorderly conduct or trespassing, and the law enforcement officers shall be notified and requested to remove the individual from the building or grounds. The Superintendent is authorized, on behalf of the District, to file charges against any individual who must be removed from the premises by the authorities or creates a safety risk.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9500 Relations with Other School Districts

The Board shall cooperate whenever possible and reasonable with other school Districts in matters of common concern. This cooperation may extend to such areas as joint educational services, research, exchange of data and information, curriculum, coordination of school activities and calendars, and cooperative use of school facilities.

Approved: September 24, 2018

LEGAL REF: MCL 380.1280a

9620 Relations with Political Organizations

Political candidates or parties shall be prohibited from promoting candidates or political party activities on school property during school hours. These individuals might be invited to speak, either as part of a class project or as part of the instructional program with the approval of the building administrator.

The circulation of petitions is not permissible during an employee's working hours or during regular school hours, or if it interferes with the educational program or the normal operations of the District.

Approved: September 24, 2018

Reference: Board Policy 9400
Board Policy 9250

9710 Relations with Parent/Booster Organizations (Cf. 9730)

The Board encourages cooperation with Parent/Teacher and Booster organizations that support the District.

Each Parent Teacher and Booster organization shall be approved by the Board annually. Each organization must submit to and update the Superintendent's office with a record of officers, bylaws, mailing address and other pertinent information. Such organizations shall be subject to District policies and procedures. Although, each organization maintains their own individual financial records, they are required to submit annual financial statements to the Superintendent or designee. The District must include such organizations in its consideration for insurance and liability expenses.

All fundraisers of the organizations shall be approved by the school Administrator or designee and must comply with all applicable Board policies. The fundraisers of such organizations shall be for the sole purpose of supporting and enhancing school related programs. No fundraisers shall interfere with the normal academic instruction of a student, nor the normal operation of the District.

All purchases by such organizations shall be billed directly to or reimbursed by the organization. Purchases shall be delivered to the school unless pre-approved by the building administrator.

Equipment and material purchased by these organizations and presented to the District shall become the property of the District.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9840 Student Teaching, Observations and Internships

The District will participate in Student Teaching, Observations and Internship programs. The Board encourages the Superintendent to evaluate the merit and impact of such programs as needed.

Approved: September 24, 2018

LEGAL REF: MCL 380.1531b

9900 Education Research Agencies

The Board shall cooperate, when possible and reasonable, with colleges, universities, and other recognized agencies to promote educational research opportunities.

Approved: September 24, 2018

9920 School Accreditation

The Board shall make every effort through its policies and decisions to operate an educational institution that meets the criteria of the Federal and State Accreditation Programs and the state adopted partnership agency. The District shall cooperate fully with these associations in their periodic evaluations of the schools in the District and shall keep the Board informed as to the status of these evaluations.

Approved: September 24, 2018

LEGAL REF: MCL 380.1204a; 380.1277a

9950 State Education Agency Relations

The Board seeks to cooperate fully with the rules and regulations of the Michigan State Board of Education and the Michigan State Department of Education.

The Board shall make every effort to keep its members, administrators, staff, and community informed of state legislative proposals that affect schools. The Board may take positions on such issues and communicate such positions to legislators, legislative committees, or through its state, county and national associations. Copies of positions sent to legislators and committees may be sent to the Michigan Association of School Boards as a matter of record. The Board shall encourage its members to take an active role in influencing legislation affecting schools.

Approved: September 24, 2018