



Regional School Unit 5
Durham · Freeport · Pownal

“To inspire and support every learner by challenging minds, building character, sparking creativity, and nurturing passions.”

Becky Foley, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Peggy Brown, Interim Director of Finance & Human Resources

Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Bonnie Violette, Ph.D., Director of Instructional Support

TO: Colin Cheney, Candy deCsipkes, Maddy Vertenten
CC: Anne-Marie Spizzuoco, Jennifer Winkler
FROM: Cynthia Alexander
DATE: February 14, 2022
RE: Policy Meeting – March 4, 2022

The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, March 4, 2022 at 8:45 a.m. via Zoom at the following link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/88179232220> Meeting ID: 881 7923 2220 or join by telephone at 1-646-876-9923

Agenda

1. FFA - Memorials and Remembrances
2. New Policy ECF - Sustainability
3. JKD - Suspension of Students

DRAFT MEMORIALS AND REMEMBRANCES

PURPOSE

The RSU No. 5 Board recognizes that when a school community experiences the death of a student or staff member, it is important to the school community and to those who are personally affected by the death to acknowledge the event.

The social and emotional well-being of the staff and student body is important. With an understanding that our responsibility is to serve all students of the school unit, the intention of this policy is to create an environment where all losses are treated equitably.

The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines for responding to the death of a student or staff member. This policy will outline guidelines for the expression of grief in the school community which is caring and respectful yet minimizes disruption to learning. Because schools are designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the primary venue for memorializing a student or staff member.

GUIDELINES

The following outlines how the school may provide space to mourn the loss of students or staff equitably and appropriately, and provide a template for how requests for memorials will be decided upon.

SCHOOL response

Following the death of a student or staff member or other traumatic event, the principal is responsible for determining the school response in consultation with the Superintendent, and as appropriate the family of those affected.

The principal shall consider questions of student equity and discretion in consideration of the social and emotional well-being of the student body when determining approved activities. *Care should be taken that these do not detract from regularly scheduled classroom or school programs. Rescheduling or canceling events, will only occur with prior Superintendent approval only.*

The following guidelines shall be used by the principal to determine appropriate response(s):

Allowable

- Additional district counseling services may be made available to provide support.
- Schools may observe a moment of silence.
- Remembrances of flowers, personal messages and mementoes may be allowed near lockers, parking spaces and other areas on district property. The display of all remembrances shall be temporary in nature, removed after an appropriate period of time, and may be offered to the family.
- School yearbooks, graduation ceremonies, and other district activities may memorialize an individual.
- Contributions may be made to a general memorial scholarship fund established by the school unit memorializing a member or members of the school community or in memory or recognition of certain events;
- Contributions to existing memorial gardens such as money, plants, and service. installed at Freeport High School for all district RSU loss, without particularly naming the individual lost;

Not Allowable

- Classes will not be dismissed early or canceled on the day of a memorial or funeral service.
- Flags may be lowered only in accordance with state and federal law.
- The school unit will not install permanent memorials, such as trees, nor will any items be accepted by the district from outside persons in memory of an individual or event.
- District property (e.g., buildings, rooms, fields, gymnasiums, etc.) must comply with Board policy FF Naming Facilities
- The Board regards the use of district property for memorial services as generally inappropriate. Any such request will be considered in accordance with Board policy KF – Community Use of School Facilities and applicable administrative procedures.

If people are dissatisfied

Grandfathering

Memorials that are currently in existence, shall remain.

Cross Reference: **EBCA – Emergency Management Plan**
 FF – Naming Facilities
 KF – Community Use of School Facilities

Adopted: _____

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The RSU No. 5 Board of Directors is committed to environmental leadership through the incorporation of sustainability principles and practices throughout the district. Accordingly, the Superintendent or designee shall develop guidelines, procedures or strategies to:

1. Prepare students for the future by providing a high-quality curriculum that supports concepts and practices of environmental responsibility and sustainability;
2. Maintain a healthy learning and working environment by adopting sustainable practices that protect students, staff and community from environmental harm;
3. Provide quality professional development to staff to facilitate the effective transition to sustainability planning and practices.

Plant and operations:

4. While considering fiscal responsibility, when possible, emphasize the use of sustainably sourced materials, renewable energy sources, energy efficient building design, and other environmentally sensitive best practices.

For example:

- a. Monitor and analyze energy consumption while continuing to invest in proven energy efficient technologies for heating/cooling, air filtration, lighting, transportation, and equipment/ appliances used in the operation of the district's operations.
- b. Develop building facility and grounds maintenance plans that are committed to addressing indoor and outdoor environmental concerns in a proactive manner;
- c. Promote environmentally sustainable cleaning practices by minimizing the use of potentially harmful or toxic substances and by encouraging the use of products that save energy and water and that reduce waste;

Nutrition:

5. Strive to serve locally sourced, sustainable foods that are healthy and nutritious. Support the creation of school gardens and encourage composting in all the schools;
6. Minimize the amount of waste sent to landfills and maximize the amount of waste that gets composted or recycled;
7. Purchase products with little packaging, and products made of recycled, recyclable or compostable materials when possible. Minimize the use of single-use products such as paper cups and plates, plastic utensils and straws;

Transportation:

8. Reduce RSU5's carbon footprint by encouraging the use of school buses, carpooling, biking and/or walking to school;
9. When possible purchase fuel efficient vehicles, particularly buses, which have a reduced impact on the health of students and the environment.
10. Practice a no idling policy unless 20 degrees or below.

Appointment and Role of the Sustainability Committee

The Board shall appoint a district-wide Sustainability Committee comprised of at least one of each of the following:

- A. Two Board members,
- B. Two administrators,
- C. One teacher,
- D. Two student representatives, and
- E. Three community representatives.

The Sustainability Committee shall serve as an advisory committee in regard to sustainability-related issues and will be responsible for making recommendations related to the sustainability policy, sustainability goals, administrative or school regulations and practices, and raising awareness of sustainability issues. With the prior approval of the Superintendent/designee, the Sustainability Committee may survey parents, students and the community and/or conduct focus groups or community forums. The Sustainability Committee will meet a minimum of twice a year to review current practices and provide periodic reports to the Superintendent/ designee and, as requested, to the Board.

SUSPENSION OF STUDENTS

The Board delegates to the principals the authority to suspend disobedient and disorderly students for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. Suspensions may be in-school or out-of-school at the discretion of the principal. The Board may impose suspensions longer than 10 days.

Prior to the suspension, except as hereinafter provided:

- A. The student shall be given oral or written notice of the charge(s) against them;
- B. The student shall be given an explanation of the evidence forming the basis for the charge(s); and
- C. The student shall be given an opportunity to present their version of the incident.

However, students whose presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the instructional process may be immediately removed from school. In such cases, the notice of charges, explanation of evidence, and the student's opportunity to present their version of the incident shall be arranged as soon as practicable, not to exceed five student days, after removal of the student from school.

The student's parents/guardians shall be notified of any in-school or out-of-school suspension as soon as practicable by telephone (if possible) and by written notice sent by mail and by email, if possible. In the event a parent/guardian is not available, the student will not be released until an emergency contact or suitable adult is notified. A copy of the notice shall also be sent to the Superintendent.

Students are not allowed on school property during any out-of-school suspension except with the prior authorization of the principal or Superintendent. Students serving out-of-school suspensions shall not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.

Students shall be responsible for any schoolwork missed during their suspension. After readmittance, they shall be permitted to take tests, quizzes or any other form of evaluation affecting their grades.

Students assigned to in-school suspensions are expected to work on assignments from classroom teachers, remain in the in-school suspension location throughout the school day, and follow school expectations for conduct. Students serving in-school suspension shall not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9), (15-A)(D)

Cross Reference: JIC – Student Code of Conduct
JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety

JICK - Bullying
JK - Student Discipline
JKE - Expulsion of Students
JKF – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

Adopted: March 24, 2010
Revised: March 13, 2013
Reviewed: January 23, 2019
Revised: June 9, 2021