

## RSU #63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** JJIB
- b. **Title:** Sponsorship & Evaluation of Athletic Programs
- c. **Author:**
- d. **Replaces Policy:**
- e. **Date Approved:** 02/27/2017 RSU #63
- f. **Previously Approved:** 11/27/2006
- g. **Policy Expiration:** Review as Needed
- h. **Responsible for Review:** Superintendent & Policy Committee
- i. **Date Reviewed:** 12/05/2016 Superintendent  
12/05/2016 Policy Committee
- j. **References:**
- k. **Cross References:** JJI-Philosophy of Athletics  
JJBA-Hiring & Evaluation of Coaches  
JJIBB-Sportsmanship  
JJIBC-Relations with Booster Groups

### k. Narrative:

It is the desire of the RSU 63 Board of Directors (the Board) to offer our students athletic programming that provides diverse and developmentally appropriate opportunities that encourage student participation. At the same time, the Board recognizes that resources may not be available to fund all of the sports in which students and the community have an interest. In order to provide students with meaningful athletic experiences while maintaining high quality, sustainable programs, the Board adopts this policy governing sponsorship and evaluation of the district's athletic programs.

- I. Through sponsorship, the district assumes responsibility for, and control of, a particular program. Sponsorship requires Board approval. The district assumes responsibility only for those interscholastic athletic programs the Board has designated as school-sponsored.
- II. The Board will approve for sponsorship only those programs that are consistent with its philosophy and policies and with regulations established by the appropriate governing bodies, including the Maine Principals' Association, which refers to its regulations as "policies." Sponsorship does not mean that funding will be provided in whole or in part through the district's budget. Sponsorship is required even for activities that may be funded in full by booster organizations.
- III. Sponsorship is required before any team may represent itself using the school name, to be eligible for league play and tournament participation, or to be eligible for school athletic awards.
- IV. In order to assess the sustainability of athletic activities, each ongoing activity will be evaluated on at least a five-year cycle.

- V. The Board establishes the following process for the approval and evaluation of athletic programs:
- A. Criteria for Approval & Evaluation of Athletic Programs.
  - B. The Principal of the middle school will be responsible for developing a process for evaluating potential athletic programs and assessing the viability of existing programs. The process will take into consideration the following factors, which will be applied consistently to all programs:
    - 1. Student body interest,
    - 2. Community interest,
    - 3. Gender equity,
    - 4. Impact of facilities,
    - 5. Impact on existing programs,
    - 6. Impact on administration & staff,
    - 7. Expenses,
    - 8. Availability of competition,
    - 9. Potential to field competitive teams,
    - 10. Alignment with Board philosophy and policies, and
    - 11. Availability of funds, consideration of extraordinary costs (e.g., rental of facilities, transportation, specialized equipment), and other relevant data.
  - C. The process should include a scale for weighting and rating these criteria and for reporting a total score that may be used for comparison purposes.

**VI. Approval of New Athletic Programs:**

- A. Sponsorship of all new interscholastic athletic programs must be approved in advance. The Principal of the middle school will be responsible for making and supporting recommendations to the Board at least six months prior to the proposed starting date. Recommendations are to be made based on data from the evaluation process.
- B. The Board may impose conditions that must be met for the program to be approved.
- C. Following initial approval, new programs will be placed on a two-year probationary status.
- D. Six months prior to the end of the probationary period, the Principal of the middle school must submit a report to the Board including recommendation and support for continued Board approval. The Board may provide for continuing approval, deny approval, or extend the probationary status for one additional year. Probationary status will not exceed a total of three (3) years.

**VII. Evaluation of Existing or Ongoing School-Sponsored Athletic Programs:**

- A. Every athletic program will be reviewed on a five-year cycle.
- B. The purpose of evaluation is to ensure that all existing or previously approved programs continue to meet the standards and criteria established by the Board.
- C. The Board may authorize a program to be reviewed out of sequence based upon the recommendation of the Principal of the middle school.
- D. The evaluation of existing or ongoing approved programs will be done using the same process used to assess proposed programs.
- E. Based upon the data, the Principal of the middle school will make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the program should continue or be deleted. The Board may vote to delete any program that is deemed no longer sustainable or in keeping with the Board philosophy, standards, or criteria.

**VIII. Delegation of Authority:**

- A. The Principal of the middle school may appoint a program evaluation or review committee to perform evaluations of proposed and existing athletic programs. Any such committee must have balanced representation including the Principal of the middle school, teachers who are employed as coaches, parents, students, and community. Any such committee will use the developed process for program evaluation.
- B. The committee will be advisory to the Board. While it may make recommendations to the Board, the Board retains full authority over the middle school athletic programs.