8:10 Connection with the Community
8:20 Community Use of School Facilities
8:25 Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities
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Connection with the Community

The Board of Education endorses the concept that public schools belong to the people by virtue of the fact that the public schools are created by the people and supported by taxation of the people. Public support enhances the Board’s goal to provide an educational system which meets the needs of all students and leads to the attainment of educational excellence by the students.

Continuing support for public schools depends upon the community’s awareness and understanding of the District’s efforts and goals. The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide the community with information regarding the policies and programs of the District. The Board intends to provide channels of communication through its own efforts and those of the administrative staff to carry out its responsibility.

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to plan and implement a connecting with the community program. The District’s connecting with the community program will be driven by the following objectives:

- To develop public understanding of all aspects of school operation; to ascertain public attitudes toward issues in education; and to discover the public’s aspirations for the education of their children.
- To secure adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
- To help citizens feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
- To earn the good will, respect and confidence of the public with regard to the schools’ staff and services.
- To foster understanding of the need for constructive change and solicit public advice on how to achieve educational goals.
- To involve citizens in the work of the schools and the solving of educational problems.
- To promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community and to set up channels for sharing the leadership in improving community life.

The Superintendent shall evaluate the connecting with the community program.

Priority Objectives

In accordance with its stated goals concerning school-community relations, the District’s objectives shall be:

1. to provide an information program to aid public understanding of the schools which shall include, but not be limited to, a regular district wide calendar, regular news releases and feature stories and various brochures describing District programs and policies;
2. to assess public opinion as a means to assist the Board of Education in policy determination and to assist the professional staff in the operations of the schools;
3. to recognize the right of the news media to inquire, research, and report to the public information about the District and its schools;
4. to seek ways to involve citizens in the work of the schools, to foster community understanding and a sharing of responsibility for the quality of education;
5. to provide in-service activities to assist all employees in the District in recognizing their roles as representatives of the District in the total school-community relations effort;

6. to conduct all of its business in an open meeting except for those areas which of necessity should and by law may be considered in a closed meeting.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers)

ADOPTED: October 16, 2006
Community Relations

Community Use of School Facilities

School facilities are available to community organizations during non-school hours when such use does not: (1) interfere with any school function or the safety of students or employees, or (2) affect the property or liability of the School District. The use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses. Persons on school premises must abide by the District’s conduct rules at all times.

Student groups and school-related organizations and local governments are granted the use of school facilities at no cost. Other organizations granted use of facilities shall pay fees and costs.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to manage community use of school facilities. Use of school facilities requires the Superintendent's approval and is subject to the procedures. However, at the request of election officers, any publicly owned building must be made available for use as a polling place.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7905.
10 ILCS 5/19-2.2.

CROSS REF.: 7:330 (Student Use of Building - Equal Access), 8:25 (Distribution and Display of Community Flyers and Posters), 8:30 (Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: November 19, 2007
Community Relations

Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities

No material or literature shall be posted or distributed that would: (1) disrupt the educational process, (2) violate the rights or invade the privacy of others, (3) infringe on a trademark or copyright, or (4) be defamatory, obscene, vulgar, or indecent.

Community, Educational, Charitable, or Recreational Organizations

Community, educational, charitable, recreational, or similar groups may, under procedures established by the Superintendent, advertise events pertinent to students’ interests or involvement. This may include displaying posters in areas reserved for community posters, providing a central location where flyers are made available to students, or being included in the school’s or District’s website where appropriate. All material and literature must be student-oriented and have the sponsoring organization’s name prominently displayed.

Commercial Companies and Political Candidates or Parties

Commercial companies may purchase space for their advertisements in or on: (1) athletic field fences, (2) athletic, theater, or music programs, (3) scoreboards, or (4) other appropriate location, provided the advertisements are consistent with administrative procedures and approved by the Board of Education. No Board approval is needed for commercial material related to graduation, class pictures, or class rings.

No part of the School District, including facilities, the name, the staff, and the students, shall be used for advertising or promoting the interests of any commercial company except as authorized by and consistent with administrative procedures and approved by the Board.

Material from candidates and political parties will not be accepted for posting or distribution, except when used as part of the curriculum.


DiLoreto v. Downey Unified School Dist., 196 F.3d 958 (9th Cir. 1999).

Hedges v. Wauconda Community Unit School Dist., No. 18, 9 F.3d 5 (7th Cir. 1993).


Sherman v. Community Consolidated School Dist. 21, 8 F.3d 1160 (7th Cir. 1993), cert. denied, 114 S.Ct. 2109 (1994).

CROSS REF.: 7:325 (Student Fund-Raising Activities), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal

ADOPTED: June 14, 2004
Community Relations

Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

The following definitions apply to this policy:

School property - School buildings and grounds, all District buildings and grounds, vehicles used for school purposes, and any location used for a Board meeting, school athletic event, or other school-sponsored event.

Visitor - Any person other than an enrolled student or District employee.

All visitors to school property are required to report to the Building Principal’s office and receive permission to remain on school property. All visitors must sign a visitors’ log, show identification, and wear a visitor’s badge. When leaving the school, visitors must return their badge. On those occasions when large groups of parents and friends are invited onto school property, visitors are not required to sign in but must follow school officials’ instructions. Persons on school property without permission will be directed to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

The Superintendent or designee may post certain school facilities for the community’s use on non-school days when they are not being used for school purposes.

Requests to access a school building, facility, and/or educational program, or to interview personnel or a student for purposes of assessing the student’s special education needs, should be made at the appropriate building. Access shall be facilitated according to guidelines from the Superintendent or designee.

The School District expects mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among all people on school property or at a school event. No person on school property or at a school event (including visitors, students, and employees) shall:

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, a Board member, sports official or coach, or any other person;
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, or use vulgar or obscene language;
3. Possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device;
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property;
5. Damage or deface School District property;
6. Violate any Illinois law, or town or county ordinance;
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products;
8. Consume, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs;
9. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner);
10. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the Board of Education;
11. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized District employee’s directive;
12. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding;
13. Violate other District policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or District employee; or
14. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the District or a School function.

**Exclusive Bargaining Representative Agent**

**Please refer to the “Agreement between Board of Education Panhandle Community Unit School District #2 and Panhandle Teachers’ Association, IEA-NEA”**.

Authorized agents of an exclusive bargaining representative, upon notifying the Building Principal’s office, may meet with a school employee (or group of employees) in the school building during free-times of such employees.

**Convicted Child Sex Offender**

State law prohibits a child sex offender from being present on school property or loitering within 500 feet of school property when persons under the age of 18 are present, unless the offender is:

1. A parent/guardian of a student attending the school and the parent/guardian is: (i) attending a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of his or her child academically or socially, (ii) participating in child review conferences in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to his or her child regarding special education services, or (iii) attending conferences to discuss other student issues concerning his or her child such as retention and promotion and notifies the Building Principal of his or her presence at the school, or

2. Has permission to be present from the Board of Education, or Superintendent. If permission is granted, the Superintendent or Board President shall provide the details of the offender’s upcoming visit to the Building Principal.

In all cases, the Superintendent, or designee who is a certified employee, shall supervise a child sex offender whenever the offender is in a child’s vicinity.

Any staff member may request identification from any person on school grounds or in any school building; refusal to provide such information is a criminal act. The Building Principal or designee shall seek the immediate removal of any person who refuses to provide requested identification.

Any person who engages in conduct prohibited by this policy may be ejected from school property. The person is also subject to being denied admission to school events or meetings for up to one calendar year.

**Procedures to Deny Future Admission to School Events or Meetings**

Before any person may be denied admission to school events or meetings as provided in this policy, the person has a right to a hearing before the Board. The Superintendent may refuse the person admission pending such hearing. The Superintendent or designee must provide the person with a hearing notice, delivered or sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least 10 days before the Board hearing date. The hearing notice must contain:

1. The date, time, and place of the Board hearing,
2. A description of the prohibited conduct,
3. The proposed time period that admission to school events will be denied, and
4. Instructions on how to waive a hearing.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/24-24, and 5/24-25.
720 ILCS 5/11-9.3.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250
(Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:190 (Student Discipline), 8:20
(Community Use of School Facilities)

ADOPTED: April 19, 2010
Community Relations

Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities shall be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities and will not be subject to illegal discrimination. When appropriate, the District may provide to persons with disabilities aids, benefits, or services that are separate or different from, but as effective as, those provided to others.

The District will provide auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity.

Each service, program, or activity operated in existing facilities shall be readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities. New construction and alterations to facilities existing before January 26, 1992, will be accessible when viewed in their entirety.

1. The Superintendent or designee is designated the Title II Coordinator and shall: Oversee the District's compliance efforts, recommend necessary modifications to the Board, and maintain the District's final Title II self-evaluation document and keep it available for public inspection, for at least 3 years after its completion date.

Institute plans to make information regarding Title II's protection available to any interested individuals with disabilities should notify the Superintendent or Building Principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Individuals with disabilities may allege a violation of this policy or federal law by reporting it to the Superintendent or designated Title II Coordinator, or by filing a grievance under the Uniform Grievance Procedure.


CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:150 (Facility Management and Expansion Programs)

ADOPTED: February 8, 2010
Community Relations

Gifts to the District

The Board of Education may accept gifts from any education foundation or other entity or individual, provided the gift can be used in a manner compatible with the Board’s educational objectives and policies. While the Board encourages unrestricted gifts, donations to fund specific projects are acceptable if the project is approved by the Board. All gifts received become the School District’s property.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/16-1.

ADOPTED: June 14, 2004
Community Relations

Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

Parent organizations and booster clubs are invaluable resources to the District’s schools. While parent organizations and booster clubs have no administrative authority and cannot determine District policy, the Board of Education welcomes their suggestions and assistance.

Parent organizations and booster clubs are recognized by the Board of Education and permitted to use the District’s name, a District school’s name, or a District school’s team name, or any logo attributable to the District provided they first receive the Superintendent or designee’s express written consent. Consent to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the organization or club has by-laws containing the following:

1. The organization’s or club’s name and purpose, such as, to enhance students’ educational experiences, to help meet educational needs of students, to provide extra athletic benefits to students, to assist specific sports teams or academic clubs through financial support, or to enrich extracurricular activities.

2. The rules and procedures under which it operates.

3. An agreement to adhere to all Board policies and administrative procedures.

4. A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, meaning that membership is open to parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school, District staff, and community members.

5. A statement that the District is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization’s or club’s business or the conduct of its members.

6. An agreement to maintain and protect its own finances.

7. A recognition that money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the District to use at its discretion. The Board of Education’s legal obligation to comply with Title IX by providing equal athletic opportunity for members of both genders will supersede an organization or club’s recommendation.

Permission to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos may be rescinded at any time and does not constitute permission to act as the District’s representative. At no time does the District accept responsibility for the actions of any parent organization or booster club regardless of whether it was recognized and/or permitted to use any of the above-mentioned names or logos. Booster clubs are understandably selective in their support. However, by accepting booster club assistance that creates vast gender differences, a Board of Education may face claims that it has violated Title IX Title IX’s focus is on equal funding opportunities, equal facility availability, similar travel and transportation treatment, comparable coaching, and comparable publicity.

The Superintendent shall designate an administrative staff member to serve as the liaison to parent organizations or booster clubs. The liaison will serve as a resource person and provide information about school programs, resources, policies, problems, concerns, and emerging issues. Building staff will be encouraged to participate in the organizations.

CROSS REF.: 8:80 (Gifts to the District)

ADOPTED: May 8, 2006
Community Relations

Parental Involvement

In order to assure collaborative relationships between students' families and the Board of Education and District personnel, and to enable parent(s)/guardian(s) to become active partners in education, the Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to:

1. Keep parent(s)/guardian(s) thoroughly informed about their child's school and education.
2. Encourage involvement in their child's school and education.
3. Establish effective two-way communication between all families and the Board of Education and District personnel.
4. Seek input from parent(s)/guardian(s) on significant school-related issues.
5. Inform parents/guardians on how they can assist their children's learning.

The Superintendent shall periodically report to the Board on the implementation of this policy.

CROSS REF.: 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:90 (Parent Organizations)

ADOPTED: June 14, 2004
Community Relations

Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

The District shall cooperate with other organizations and agencies, including, but not limited to:

- County Health Department;
- law enforcement agencies;
- fire authorities;
- planning authorities;
- zoning authorities; and
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), local organizations for civil defense, and other appropriate disaster relief organizations concerned with civil defense
- other school districts.

CROSS REF.: 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 4:170 (Safety), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

ADOPTED: January 11, 2010
Community Relations

Public Complaints

Please refer to the “Agreement between Board of Education Panhandle Community Unit School District #2 and Panhandle Teachers’ Association, IEA-NEA”.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications to and from the Board), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 3:30 (Line and Staff Relations), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs)

ADOPTED: June 14, 2004