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SECTION K: SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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*denotes areas covered by Sandusky Board policy

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS GOALS

Staff members have a responsibility to promote good school-community relations. The school-community relations program is directed by the Superintendent and is based upon the following principles.

1. The school-community relations program is a planned, systematic, two-way process of communications between the District and the community.
2. The program may use media sources and other forms of communications available to effectively communicate with the citizens and employees.
3. Communications with the public should promote involvement, objective appraisal and support.
4. Communications should be internal as well as external and provide factual, objective and realistic data.
5. The school communications program should be responsive both to events as they arise and to evaluations of the program.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3315.07
OAC 3301-35-03(J)

CROSS REFS.: AE, School District Mission, Goals and Objectives
KBA, Public's Right to Know

PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

The Board supports the right of the people to know about the programs and services of their schools and makes efforts to disseminate appropriate information. Each building principal is authorized and expected to keep the school's community informed about the school's programs and activities. The release of information of Districtwide interest is coordinated by the Superintendent.

Business of the Board is discussed and decisions are made at public meetings of the Board, except such matters required to be discussed in private executive sessions.

The official minutes of the Board, its written policies, its financial records and all other public records are open for inspection in the central office during the hours when the administrative offices are open.

Each Board member attends public records training every term for which he/she is elected to public office. However, the Board may, by resolution, designate one or more persons to attend public records training on its behalf. If so decided, the Board appoints a designee whenever the composition of the Board changes.

The District may ask that the identity of an individual requesting information and the reason the information is sought be in writing. The District first informs the requester that such disclosure is not mandatory, unless the request is for student directory information. The District also informs the requester that providing such information in writing enhances the District's ability to identify, locate or deliver the records sought. The District may also ask that the request be put in writing, but notifies the requester that it is not mandatory to do so.

Any individual who wants to obtain or inspect a copy of a public record may request to have the record duplicated on paper, on the same medium on which the record is kept or on any other medium that the Superintendent/designee determines reasonable. If the request is ambiguous or overly broad, the District informs the requester of the manner in which records are maintained and accessed in the ordinary course of business and allows the requester to revise the request.

Records pertaining to individual students and other confidential materials are not released for inspection. Only that information deemed "directory information" may be released from an individual student's file, and only after complying with the regulations prepared by the administration for the release of such information. Student directory information is not released for profit-making purposes or when parents have affirmatively withdrawn their consent to release in writing. Student records that consist of "personally identifiable information" generally are exempt from disclosure.

All records responsive to the request are made available in a reasonable period of time. The District makes the requester aware of any information that is exempt from disclosure requirements by notifying the requester of any redacted information or by making redactions in a plainly visible manner. If a public records request is denied, the District provides an explanation with legal authority for the denial of the request. This explanation is provided in writing if the request is made in writing or if the Superintendent/designee determines written explanation is necessary.

The Superintendent/designee transmits the information sought by mail or by any other means of delivery requested, if the method is reasonably available. The number of requests physically sent by mail or another delivery service to any one person may be limited to 10 a month unless the person certifies, in writing, that neither the records nor the information in them will be used for commercial purposes. If the District provides public records on a free and accessible website the number of requests delivered in a digital format to any one person may be limited to 10 a month unless the records requested are not provided on the website and the person certifies, in writing, that neither the records nor the information in them will be used for commercial purposes.

A fee may be charged for copies and/or delivery. The District may require the fee charged for copies and/or delivery be paid in advance.

The Board's public records policy is posted in a conspicuous location in the central office and in all other District buildings and employee handbooks provided by the District. The policy is distributed directly to the records custodian and receipt of the policy by the custodian is acknowledged. A copy of the records retention schedule is maintained and readily available to the public in the central office.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: June 30, 2003]

[Re-adoption date: November 4, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: October 10, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC, Section 1232g

ORC 121.22

149.011; 149.35; 149.381; 149.41; 149.43

3319.321

OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: BDC, Executive Sessions
BDDG, Minutes
EHA, Data and Records Retention
GBL, Personnel Records
GBS, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities
JO, Student Records
KA, School-Community Relations Goals
KKA, Recruiters in the Schools

NEWS RELEASES

The District is a public institution endeavoring to serve the educational needs of the community. It is important that information be disseminated concerning school activities and problems. The Superintendent develops procedures to provide wide coverage and to coordinate publicity which enhances the image of the District.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REF.: OAC 3301-35-03(J)

NEWS RELEASES

The procedures regarding news releases are as follows.

1. The Board President is the official spokesperson for the Board, except as this duty is delegated to the Superintendent or another Board member.
2. News releases which are of a Districtwide nature or pertain to established Board policy are the responsibility of the Superintendent or a designated member of the administrative staff.
3. News releases which are of concern to only one school or to an organization of one school, are the responsibility of the principal of that particular school.
4. The Board expects the administration to maintain a vital and effective link with the media sources of the community. This includes a variety of forms and forums. This effort is directed by the Board President or his/her designee.

(Approval date: November 19, 2001)

NEWS MEDIA SERVICES AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board believes that one of the paramount responsibilities of a Board is to keep the public informed of its actions. Consequently, the local news media representatives are welcome to attend all regular, special and annual meetings of the Board.

A copy of the agenda will be provided to members of the working press who request it. In the event that representatives of the news media are unable to attend a meeting, upon request they shall be provided a summary of important Board actions.

All reports approved by the Board shall be a matter of official record and, upon request, will be made available to the press or other members of the public. No report-in-progress, including all of those on which the Board has taken no final action, shall be released by any Board or staff member unless the Board specifically authorizes its release as a "tentative report."

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 121.22

BROADCASTING AND TAPING OF BOARD MEETINGS

Photographic and electronic audio and video broadcasting and recording devices may be used at regular and special Board meetings legally open to the public according to the following guidelines.

1. Photographs, broadcasting and recordings of meetings are permitted only when all parties involved have been informed that cameras, broadcasting and/or recording devices are being used.
2. Persons operating cameras, broadcasting and/or recording devices must do so with a minimum of disruption to those present at the meeting. Specifically, the view between Board members and the audience must not be obstructed, interviews must not be conducted during the meeting and no commentary is to be given in a manner that distracts Board members or the audience.
3. The Board has the right to halt any recording that interrupts or disturbs the meeting.

The Board may make the necessary arrangements to have audio recordings of all regular meetings and any special meeting that it deems appropriate.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. I
ORC 121.22
2911.21
2917.12
2921.31
3313.20

TAX ISSUES

The Board examines financial needs in advance of any levy or bond elections. The Board provides the public with information on school building needs and on levy and bond elections. It does not use District funds to promote approval of school-related tax issues.

Tax reduction factors are considered in coordination with the Sexennial Reappraisal and/or the Triennial Update in affected District counties. In considering a potential tax issue, the Board examines all legal options to obtain additional revenue.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: July 13, 2015]

LEGAL REFS.: Ohio Const. Art XII, Sections 2, 5
ORC Chapter 133
319.301
3311.21
3313.37; 3313.375
3315.07
3501.01
Chapter 5705
Chapter 5713
5715.33
5748.01 et seq.
OAC 5703-25-45 through 5703-25-49

CROSS REFS.: BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board
FL, Retirement of Facilities

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

Community participation in the schools is essential to promote and maintain the quality of education for all students.

In addition to electing fellow citizens to represent them on the school board, all citizens may express ideas, concerns and judgments about the schools to the administration, to the staff, to any appointed advisory bodies and ultimately to the Board. Ideas should be addressed to the responsible individual in an appropriate fashion.

Residents may be invited by the Board to act as advisors, individually and in groups.

The Board gives consideration to the advice it receives from individuals and community groups. Final authority for all decisions rests with the Board.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REF.: OAC 3301-35-03(J)

CROSS REF.: BCFA, Business Advisory Council to the Board

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board and Board-appointed committees are open to the public.

Any person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. Procedures for addressing the Board are printed in the agenda.

Agendas are available on the District web site and to all those who attend Board meetings.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: March 19, 2007]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
3313.20

CROSS REFS.: BCE, Board Committees
BD, School Board Meetings
BDDB, Agenda Format
KL, Public Complaints

COMMUNITY INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Helping each student develop to his/her full potential and to become a citizen contributing to the welfare of the community are important objectives of the District's educational program. The Board encourages administrative and instructional personnel to rely on the community as one of its educational resources. The administration directs a community instructional resource program designed to involve the citizens, institutions and environment of our community in the education of its children.

The Superintendent/designee has supervisory control over the community resources, which includes the school volunteer service. Members of the staff and of the community are encouraged to offer their ideas and services through the channels which the administration develops.

The Superintendent reports to the Board on the involvement and effectiveness of the community resources program.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REF.: OAC 3301-35-03(J)

CROSS REF.: IICC, School Volunteers

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES
(Equal Access)

Although the basic purpose of public school premises is to provide the youth of the community a sound educational program, the complete function of education is not achieved until the school premises are made to serve the entire community. To accomplish this objective, when school premises are not in use for school purposes, the Board shall, upon payment of the prescribed fee and subject to the requirements of applicable regulations, permit the use of school premises for auxiliary, educational, recreational, cultural, civic, social, religious or other Board-approved purposes.

The District may rent or lease premises to a public or nonpublic university for use for evening and summer classes.

Any school within the District receiving Title I funding must offer the same premises access to Boy Scouts as to other organizations.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: July 23, 2012]

[Re-adoption date: April 13, 2015]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Title VIII, Section 801
ORC 3311.215
3313.75; 3313.76; 3313.77; 3313.78; 3313.79
4303.26

CROSS REFS.: KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Regulations Governing Use of Specific Facilities

1. Auditoriums (See fee schedule #1)
 - A. Available: Sandusky High School – Seating capacity, 1599; Adams Junior High – Seating capacity, 800; Sandusky High School Large Group Instruction Center – Seating capacity, 180 (or 90)
 - B. If additional equipment (e.g., sound system) and/or rooms (e.g., ticket booths) are necessary for a program, mention of such shall be included in the rental agreement.
2. Cafeterias (See fee schedule #2)
 - A. High school seating capacity, 500 maximum
 - B. School kitchen facilities used by organizations for the preparation of dinners is discouraged. If used, a cafeteria worker shall be present. All banquets are to be prepared by school cooks under the direction of the lunchroom supervisor.
 - C. All banquets will be held at Sandusky High School and will be served “buffet style.”
 - D. When the kitchen facility is used for preparing tea, cookies, ice cream, etc., a cafeteria worker must be present.
3. Classrooms (See fee schedule #3)
 - A. Classrooms are used daily for the day school program and are equipped for that purpose. Prior agreement shall be made for the use of these rooms and equipment.
 - B. All furniture and equipment shall be in its proper place and chalkboards erased at the close of an event.
 - C. Arrangements for visual aids shall be made in advance.
4. Pools and Locker Facilities (See fee schedule #5)
 - A. Children’s groups shall have adult supervision in dressing and pool areas.

- B. A registered lifeguard shall be on duty during any pool use.
 - C. The maximum number allowed to use either of the pools at one time is 35.
 - D. All personal equipment shall be provided by the individuals in the rental groups.
 - E. A copy of the pool regulations form shall be signed by the group sponsor and returned before the contract is considered valid.
 - F. Pool arrangements shall be made by an adult in charge of the group renting the pool.
5. Gyms and Fitness Areas (See fee schedule #4)
- A. Main high school gymnasium seating capacity – 2300, 1800 downstairs.
 - B. The athletic and intramural activities of the schools leave a limited time for rental of these facilities; however, they are available when scheduling will permit.
 - C. Only the equipment included in the signed contract will be available for use by the renting group.
 - D. Adult supervision shall be provided by the rentee for children's groups.
 - E. Activities other than those for which the facility was designed are not permitted unless adequate provisions are made to prevent damage.

School Personnel Requirements

1. Custodians: In most instances on school days, the school facilities have a custodian on duty in the evening. When this is the case, no custodial fee will be charged, unless extra hours are involved. There will be a charge for custodial service unless staff is already on duty and the activity requires no additional custodial time and/or responsibilities.
2. School Supervisor: When the use of school facilities by an outside organization requires a school or faculty supervisor, the contracting party will be charged for this service.
3. Cooks: There will be a charge for the cooks who prepare banquets. The cost of the cooks will be included in the meal charge for the banquet.

4. Cafeteria Supervisor: There will be a charge for the cafeteria supervisor who plans and supervises banquets. Cost of this service will be included in the meal charge for the banquet.
5. Gymnasium Supervisor and Lifeguards: There will be a charge for these employees.
6. Stage Personnel: When necessary, either a stage manager (faculty) and/or stagehands shall be employed to operate equipment and supervise activities held in the auditorium using the stage.

Procedure for Collection of Rentals and Reimbursement of Workers

1. The custodial staff must be advised of all rentals. When appropriate, the supervisor or building principal shall sign either a completed contract or use agreement, retain a duplicate copy on file and forward the other copies to the facilities manager's office or the business office.
2. All moneys collected by the principal and supervisor in payment for labor and use of buildings shall be sent to the business office.
3. Workers will be paid by check directly from the business office.
4. Retirement, withholding taxes, city and state taxes are deducted from pay when appropriate.
5. When appropriate, the personnel charge includes the cost that must be added by the Board as its contribution to employee retirement.

(Approval date: November 19, 2001)

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

All persons on District grounds are expected to abide by all applicable laws, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building regulations.

No person on District property may assault, strike, threaten, menace or use improper, indecent or obscene language toward a teacher, instructor, other District employees or students at any time. This prohibition is extended to all athletic officials, coaches and athletes in the District and all visiting teams.

Unless otherwise permitted by law, no person is permitted to bring deadly weapons or dangerous ordnances into a school safety zone.

No person may disrupt, disturb or interfere with the teaching of any class of students or any other activity conducted in a school building or upon the campus or grounds at any time.

Whoever violates this policy and/or building regulations will be asked to leave the property by whoever is in charge. Should that person refuse, law enforcement officials will be called. If the offender should be a student, the person in charge should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the State and local ordinances.

Good Conduct and Sportsmanship

The Board recognizes the value of cocurricular and extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the classroom.

Students and adults participating in cocurricular and extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior and good conduct. The Board encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship in all phases of the educational process, including athletics and all other cocurricular and extracurricular activities. Rules are posted at the entryways to all athletic events for all participants and spectators to review.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: April 7, 2008]

[Re-adoption date: February 8, 2010]

LEGAL REFS.: Gun-Free Schools Act; 20 USC 8921
ORC 2903.13; 2903.22
2911.21
2917.11
2923.1212; 2923.122
3313.20(A)

CROSS REFS.: GBCB, Staff Conduct
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
KG, Community Use of School Facilities (Equal Access)
KGC, Smoking on District Property
KK, Visitors to the Schools

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

An ordinance to provide for crimes relating, among other things, to conduct or persons in and about schools, providing penalties and declaring an emergency.

It is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety, peace and welfare, the City Commission finds that an emergency now exists in regard to the aforesaid, and that it is deemed advisable to declare this Ordinance to be an emergency measure and to take effect immediately upon its adoption.

1. No person shall purposely and maliciously injure or deface a schoolhouse or other school building, its fixtures, books or appurtenances, or commit a trespass or a nuisance or loiter therein, or purposely and maliciously commit trespass or loiter upon the enclosed grounds attached thereto of fixtures place thereon, or upon an enclosure, sidewalk, driveway or parking lot appurtenant thereto.
2. No person shall purposely and maliciously assault, strike, threaten or menace a teacher or other person in charge of a class or assemblage of students, or any employee of a school while in the performance of his/her duties, or disrupt, disturb, interfere with the teaching of any class of students or any activity conducted in a school or grounds therefor or in any public place.
3. No person shall purposely and maliciously assault, strike, threaten, menace, follow, pursue or lay hands upon a student or other person in a school, school building or the grounds thereof.
4. No person shall use improper, indecent or obscene language toward a student, teacher or other person in charge of a class or assemblage of students, or any employee of a school while in the performance of his/her duties, or use such language purposely and maliciously in a class or assemblage of students or other persons in a public place or in a school or grounds thereof.

Whoever violates Section 1, 2 or 3 of this Ordinance shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. Whoever violates Section 4 of this Ordinance shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$300.00 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both.

That for the reasons set forth in the preamble thereof, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in full force from and after its adoption and due authentication by the President and Clerk of the City Commission.

NO TOBACCO USE ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

The Board has a duty to protect and promote the health and well-being of all students and staff. The Board is acutely aware of the serious health risks associated with the use of tobacco products, both to users and nonusers, and that most tobacco use begins by the age of 18. The Board recognizes that staff and school visitors serve as role models to students and, therefore, adopts this 100% tobacco-free District policy to endorse a healthy lifestyle and prevent tobacco use.

For the purpose of this policy, “tobacco” is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette and any other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew and snuff, in any form.

For the purpose of this policy, electronic cigarettes are considered “tobacco.”

Tobacco Use Prohibited

No volunteer or school visitor is permitted to smoke, inhale, dip or chew tobacco at any time, including non-school hours:

1. in any building, facility or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the District or
2. on school grounds, athletic facilities or parking lots.

Tobacco Advertisements and Promotions

Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school grounds, in all school-sponsored publications and at all school-sponsored events. Tobacco promotional items that promote the use of tobacco products, including clothing, bags, lighters and other personal articles, are not permitted on school grounds, in school vehicles or at school-sponsored events.

Providing Notice

“No Tobacco” signs will be posted throughout the District at entrances and other appropriate locations in all academic buildings, administrative spaces and athletic fields. District vehicles will display the international “No Smoking” insignia. Announcements will be made during home athletic events both before the event and during intermission, as well as at all school functions where deemed appropriate. School programs will include a written reminder of the no tobacco use on District property policy.

Enforcement

Citizens failing to comply with this policy are educated as to State law and the Board's policy on smoking. Persons refusing to extinguish smoking materials are directed to leave school property and may be fined by the Ohio Department of Health or its designees.

The following disciplinary actions may be taken against school visitors found in violation of this policy

1st offense: verbal notification of the policy

Multiple offenses: removal from school property or, if off-campus, removal from school activity

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: April 23, 2007]

[Re-adoption date: January 12, 2009]

[Re-adoption date: April 14, 2014]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Goals 2000: Educate America Act; 20 USC 6081 through 6084
ORC 3313.20
3794.01; 3794.02; 3794.04; 3794.06
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: GBK, Tobacco Use on District Property by Staff Members
JFCG, Tobacco Use by Students
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE DISTRICT

The Superintendent is authorized to accept gifts to the District and others whom he/she may designate is authorized to accept gifts for particular schools, on behalf of the Board. The donor will be officially thanked in the Board's name and all major gifts are reported to the Board and publicly announced unless the donor requests anonymity.

In instances where the Superintendent or his/her designee doubts the appropriateness or usefulness of an offered gift, the gift may be declined.

Library Books

The Board welcomes gifts of books and other materials to school libraries, provided that they meet the same standards of selection as those applied to the purchase of library materials.

School libraries may dispose of gifts at their discretion (for example, if the books are out-of-date or in poor condition.)

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 9.20
3313.36

PUBLIC SOLICITATIONS IN THE SCHOOLS

No person may sell or offer for sale within school buildings or on school property any articles or services or solicit contributions except those approved by the Superintendent or the Board. This policy does not prohibit any school fund-raising activity authorized by the Superintendent or other appropriate building administrator.

Salespeople representing educational companies may be granted the opportunity to speak to teachers by making arrangements through the principal's office. Such appointments must not interfere with the classroom work of the teachers.

The school directory or lists of students are not made available to any outside person or agency for a profit-making purpose.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2921.43; 2921.431
3319.321

CROSS REFS.: GBI, Staff Gifts and Solicitations
JL, Student Gifts and Solicitations
KG, Community Use of School Facilities (Equal Access)
KK, Visitors to the Schools

ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS

Notices, advertisements or written matter of any nature on behalf of persons or organizations not officially connected with the District shall not be distributed or displayed in any school building or on District property without permission of the Superintendent/designee. Appeal of the Superintendent's decision may be made to the Board.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: March 19, 2007]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.47

CROSS REFS.: EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
IGDB, Student Publications
IIBH, District Web Site Publishing

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

The Board encourages parents and other citizens of the District to visit classrooms to observe the work of the schools and to learn what the schools are doing. Visits should be scheduled with the teacher, in advance, to avoid any unnecessary disruption to classroom instruction or activities.

To maintain the safety of students and staff and to ensure that no unauthorized persons enter buildings, all visitors must first report to the main office to receive authorization to visit. (Authorization is not needed for school programs, assemblies, graduations and athletic events.)

All participants and spectators of school programs, assemblies, graduations and athletic events are expected to abide by all applicable laws, local ordinances, Board policies and District and building regulations pertaining to public conduct on District property.

School principals and their designees are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent and remove, if necessary, unauthorized persons from entering District buildings, loitering on the grounds and/or creating disturbances anywhere on District property.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: April 7, 2008]

[Re-adoption date: February 8, 2010]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 3313.20(A)

CROSS REFS.: BG, Board-Staff Communications (Also GBD)
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools

RECRUITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

All recruiters, military, employment and educational, are treated uniformly in the conduct of on-campus student recruitment. Recruiters are afforded the opportunity to conduct meetings during the school day with those students who are interested.

All group meetings are scheduled through the principal's office. Classroom teachers who schedule recruiters as a career awareness activity should coordinate these activities through the appropriate building administrator.

Names and addresses of students in grades 10 through 12 must be released to a recruiting officer of the armed forces unless a parent or student (age 18 or older) submits a written request not to release the information.

[Adoption date: April 10, 2006]

[Re-adoption date: October 16, 2006]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
20 USC 7908
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC Section 1232g
National Defense Authorization Act: 10 USC 503: (P.L. No. 107)
ORC 149.41; 149.43
1347.01 et seq.
3317.031
3319.32; 3319.321
3321.12; 3321.13
3331.13

CROSS REFS.: JO, Student Records
KBA, Public's Right to Know

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Constructive criticism of the District is welcomed by the Board. Although no member of the community is denied the right to bring his/her complaints to the Board, he/she is referred to the proper administrative channels for solution before investigation or action by the Board. Exceptions may be made when the complaints concern Board actions or Board operations.

The Board believes that complaints and grievances are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. The staff should be given the opportunity to consider the issues and attempt to resolve the problems prior to involvement by the Board. The proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline or learning materials is employee, principal, Superintendent and then the Board of Education.

If a complaint, which was presented to the Board and referred through the proper channels, is resolved before it comes back to the Board, a report of the disposition of the matter is made to the Board and then placed in the official files.

The Board expects the staff to receive complaints courteously and to make a proper reply to the complainant.

Matters referred to the Superintendent and/or Board must be in writing and signed. Requests are expected to be specific in terms of the action desired. Matters that are presented in writing and signed will receive a response.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: March 19, 2007]

[Re-adoption date: December 7, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
149.43

CROSS REFS.: KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials
KLD, Public Complaints About District Personnel

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board recognizes the need and right of students to free access to many different types of books and materials. It also recognizes the right of the certificated staff to select books and other materials supportive of the Board's educational philosophy and goals.

Criticism of a book or other materials used in the District may be expected from time to time. In such instances, the following guidelines shall apply.

1. If a parent requests that his/her own child not read a given book, the teacher and/or school administrator should resolve the issue, perhaps by arranging for use of alternative material meeting essentially the same instructional purpose.
2. The Board does not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but it recognizes that, at times, a re-evaluation of certain material may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use, the following steps are taken.
 - A. The person who objects to the book or other material is asked to sign a complaint on a standard form documenting his/her criticism.
 - B. Following receipt of the formal complaint, the Superintendent provides for a re-evaluation of the material in question. He/She arranges for the appointment of a review committee from among the faculty and community to consider the complaint.
 - C. The Superintendent reviews the complaint and the committee's re-evaluation and renders a decision in the matter. Should the decision be unsatisfactory to the complainant, it may be appealed to the Board.

The Board assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials which it makes available to students and it holds its certificated staff accountable for their proper selections. The Board also recognizes rights of individual parents with respect to controversial materials used by their own children and provides for the re-evaluation of materials in library collections upon formal request.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
3329.07; 3329.08; 3329.09

CROSS REFS.: IIA, Instructional Materials
IIAA, Textbook Selection and Adoption
IIAC, Library Materials Selection and Adoption
INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues
KL, Public Complaints
KLD, Public Complaints About District Personnel

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Procedures for Dealing with Challenged Materials

1. This procedure is for the purpose of considering the opinions of those persons in the schools and community who are not directly involved in the selection process.
2. Request for Informal Reconsideration:
 - A. The school receiving a complaint regarding library materials shall try to resolve the issue informally.
 - B. The principal or librarian shall explain to the questioner the school's selection procedure, criteria and qualifications of those persons selecting the resource.
 - C. The principal or librarian shall explain the particular place the questioned resource occupies in the educational program and its intended educational usefulness or refer the party to someone who can identify and explain the use of the resource.
 - D. If the questioner wishes to file a formal complaint, a copy of the Reconsideration Request Form shall be given or mailed to the questioner by the principal.
3. Request for Formal Reconsideration:
 - A. Each school will keep on hand and make available Request for Reconsideration forms. All formal objections to materials must be made on these forms.
 - B. The Request for Reconsideration form shall be completed and signed by the complainant and filed with the principal.
 - C. Copies of the Request for Reconsideration forms shall be sent to the appropriate librarian, Superintendent and assistant superintendent within five days by the principal.
 - D. Upon receipt of a formal request for reconsideration of a resource, the Superintendent shall:
 - 1) Appoint a review committee to include the following membership:
 - the appropriate assistant to the Superintendent
 - one member of the school teaching staff on the appropriate grade level and/or subject area
 - the librarian involved
 - one administrator
 - E. The review committee may choose to consult District classified staff and/or community persons with related professional knowledge.

- F. The review committee shall:
 - 1) read or examine the challenged item;
 - 2) determine professional acceptance by reading critical reviews;
 - 3) weigh values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole rather than on passages or sections taken out of context;
 - 4) discuss the challenged item in the context of the educational program;
 - 5) discuss the challenged item with the individual questioner when appropriate and
 - 6) maintain a file and written report.
- G. The written report shall be discussed with the individual questioner.
- H. The file shall be retained by the assistant to the Superintendent with copies of the report forwarded to the Superintendent and the school principal.
- I. If the final decision of the committee is unacceptable to the complainant, the Board will act on any further appeal.
- J. A decision to sustain a challenge shall not be interpreted as a judgment of irresponsibility on the part of the professionals involved in the original selection or use of the material.

Guidelines

1. The principal should review the selection and reconsideration policy with the teaching staff at least annually. The staff should be reminded that the right to object to learning resources is one granted by policies enacted by the Board.
2. No parent has the right to determine reading, viewing or listening matter for students other than his/her own children.
3. This District supports the Library Bill of Rights, adopted by the American Library Association. (A copy of the Library Bill of Rights is attached to this policy.) When resources are challenged, the principles of freedom to read/listen/view must be defended.
4. Access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
5. The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.

(Approval date: November 19, 2001)

CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
LIBRARY/CURRICULUM MATERIALS

Type of material (book, film, pamphlet, etc.) _____

Author _____

Title _____

Publisher (if known) _____

Request initiated by _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Complainant represents: Self _____

Organization _____

Other _____

1. To what do you object? (Be specific, cite pages, frames) _____

2. What do you believe might be the result of reading or seeing this material? _____

3. For what age group do you recommend this material? _____

4. Is there anything good about this material? _____

5. Did you read or see the entire material? _____

What parts? _____

6. Are you aware of the judgment of this material by professional critics? _____

7. What do you believe is the theme of this material? _____

8. What would you like your school to do about this material? _____

Do not assign it to my child.

Withdraw it from all students as well as my child.

Restrict it to more mature students.

Send it back for re-evaluation.

Signature of Complainant

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Complaints about personnel are investigated fully and fairly. Before any such complaint is investigated, it must be submitted in writing and signed. Anonymous complaints are disregarded.

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it is referred to the school administration for study and possible solution.

The Superintendent develops, for approval by the Board, procedures that ensure prompt and fair attention to complaints against school personnel. The procedure requires that an employee who is the object of a complaint be informed promptly and be afforded the opportunity to present the facts as he/she sees them.

If it appears necessary, the administration, the person who made the complaint or the employee involved may request an executive session of the Board for a formal hearing. Statutory restrictions on executive sessions are observed. Any Board action on the matter is taken in public session.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: May 16, 2005]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22
149.43

CROSS REFS.: BDC, Executive Sessions
BDDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings (Also KD)
GBL, Personnel Records
KL, Public Complaints
KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

CONTRACT REFS.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement
Classified Staff Negotiated Agreement

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT DISTRICT PERSONNEL

The following procedures are to ensure that a citizen's complaint is given respectful attention and that the integrity of the educational program is upheld. "Complaint" in this regulation is restricted in meaning to that criticism of a particular employee by a citizen of the District which includes or implies a demand for action by District authorities. Other comments and suggestions are referred informally to appropriate personnel.

1. If a complaint comes first to the person against whom it is directed, he/she listens and may try to resolve the difficulty by explaining the background and educational purpose involved. If the complaint remains unsatisfied, the employee refers the complainant to the building principal or other immediate supervisor to have his/her views considered further. Whether the complaint terminates with the individual staff member involved or seems likely to go further, the staff member immediately informs his/her supervisor of the complaint.
2. If a complaint comes first to the principal or other supervisor of the person criticized, the principal or supervisor should make no commitments, admissions of guilt or threats. If the complaint involves a particular employee, the supervisor should suggest a conference between the complainant and the employee criticized and should inform that employee immediately of the complaint. If the complainant has already met with the employee criticized and remains unsatisfied, the supervisor should invite the complainant to file the complaint in writing.
3. If a complaint comes first to any other school employee, that employee refers the complainant to the person criticized or to his/her immediate supervisor and immediately informs both.
4. No further action on the complaint should be taken unless the complainant submits the complaint in writing.
5. When a written complaint is received, the principal or other supervisor schedules a conference with the complainant, the person criticized and if advisable, the department chairman or other personnel who, in the opinion of either the supervisor or the person criticized, could contribute to resolution of the problem.
6. If the complainant is not satisfied with the results of the conference above, he/she should then be referred to the Superintendent, who may handle the complaint personally or refer it to other personnel, as he/she may see fit.
7. Should dissatisfaction remain after the above steps have been taken, the matter may be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The decision of the Board is communicated in writing to all interested persons.

(Approval date: November 19, 2001)

Sandusky City School District, Sandusky, Ohio

RELATIONS WITH PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board supports all organizations of parents whose objectives are to promote the educational experiences of District students. However, in using the name of the District or its schools and in organizing a group whose identity derives from a school(s) of the District, parent organizations share responsibility with the Board for the welfare of participating students.

Parent organizations desiring to use the name or offices of the District to organize students must obtain the approval of the Board as a prerequisite. Continued use of the school's name, logo, mascot, etc., is contingent upon compliance with all applicable Board policies and regulations.

Principals and staff members need to work closely with the officers of all parent organizations to provide a sustained system of activities that increase and enhance the educational opportunities for students. The activities must be integrated and balanced in accordance with the total District educational program and District goals and objectives and must comply with all State and local laws and regulations.

Parent organizations meeting the charitable trust filing requirements must file with the Ohio Attorney General and submit to the Superintendent a certificate indicating that filing requirements have been met.

Parent organizations that wish to construct anything on school property must have the permission of the Board in advance of the construction project. The organization must provide the Board, in writing, proof of financial stability and that funds are available for the construction project.

Acceptance of donated equipment or materials may depend upon the compliance with, or experience related to, the Board's policy of standardizing materials and equipment.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: May 16, 2005]

[Re-adoption date: October 16, 2006]

[Re-adoption date: November 4, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.17; 3313.20; 3313.36; 3313.47
OAC 109:1-1-02

CROSS REFS.: AE, School District Goals and Objectives
KG, Community Use of School Facilities (Equal Access)
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KH, Public Gifts to the District
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools
KJ, Advertising in the Schools
KMB, Relations with Booster Organizations

RELATIONS WITH BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

The Board recognizes that the endeavors and objectives of booster organizations can be a valuable means of stimulating interest and endorsement of the aims and achievements of the District. Care must be taken to avoid compromising or diluting the responsibility and authority of the Board.

Annually, booster organizations must submit to the Superintendent/designee their tentative goals, objectives, projects and/or activities along with their fundraising plans for the next school year and any changes made during the school year for review by the Board.

The Board retains final authority over all plans, projects and activities involving District students.

Booster organizations must abide by all District policies and rules as well as the following list.

1. Booster organizations should not use the school's tax ID number.
2. Booster organizations should not accept checks made out to the school and vice versa.
3. District officials should not have a leadership role in booster organizations.
4. Fundraising activities should not occur on school premises or during school hours unless permission has been given by the Superintendent/designee.
5. Documentation on ownership of property and fundraising activities is required.
6. The use of the District name and emblems must be authorized.
7. Booster organizations must submit their bylaws as well as quarterly reports on income, expenses and balance sheets to the Superintendent for review and approval.
8. Booster organizations meeting the charitable trust filing requirements must file with the Ohio Attorney General and submit to the Superintendent a certificate indicating that filing requirements have been met.

Booster organizations must have permission from the Board prior to any construction of facilities. The organization must provide the Board, in writing, that funds are available to complete the project.

Acceptance of donated equipment or materials may depend upon the compliance with, or experience related to, the Board's policy of standardizing materials and equipment.

[Adoption date: November 19, 2001]
[Re-adoption date: May 16, 2005]
[Re-adoption date: October 16, 2006]
[Re-adoption date: November 4, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.47
OAC 109:1-1-02

CROSS REFS.: IGDG, Student Activities Funds Management
IGDH, Contests for Students
KG, Community Use of School Facilities (Equal Access)
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
KH, Public Gifts to the District
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools
KK, Visitors to the Schools
KMA, Relations with Parent Organizations