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SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS GOALS

The School Committee believes that the District is an integral part of the community and that community support is necessary for the District's operation and achievement of excellence. The School Committee and District staff members recognize that community support is based on a mutual exchange, a dynamic process in which the District contributes to the community's success and, in turn, benefits from the community's resources.

In order to maintain productive relationships with the community, the District is committed to sustaining:

Effective, accurate, and meaningful communications that facilitate dialogue, encourage involvement in District programs, and create community advocacy for its public schools.

Volunteer programs that provide mutually enriching experiences for our students, staff, and community volunteers.

Recognition programs that publicly honor the contributions of our students, employees, and community partners and express pride in our individual and collective accomplishments.

Community service efforts which enable the District's staff and students to express their commitment to the community.

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

SCHOOL/PARENT RELATIONS GOALS

It is the general goal of the District to foster relationships with parents, which encourage cooperation between the home and school in establishing and achieving common educational goals for students.

While parents are individually responsible for their children, the District provides direct services of education and indirect services of childcare for students during the time when they are within the supervision of school personnel. Consistent with these shared responsibilities and as appropriate to the maturity of the student, members of the school staff will consult with parents regarding student progress and achievement, methods to enhance student development, and matters of corrective action as related to academics and discipline.

Additionally, parental involvement in the schools is encouraged through regular communication with the school Principal and staff, the parent/teacher organizations, the school volunteer program, and other opportunities for participation in school activities and District programs.

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS' RIGHTS

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 34H, a non-custodial parent may have access to the student record in accordance with law and Department of Education Regulations. The school district will follow the law and the regulations developed by the Massachusetts Department of Education to standardize the process by which public schools provide student records to parents who do not have physical custody of their children ("non-custodial parents").

As required by M.G.L. c. 71, § 34H, a non-custodial parent may have access to the student record in accordance with the following provisions.

- (a) A non-custodial parent is eligible to obtain access to the student record unless the school or district has been given documentation that:
 - 1. The parent has been denied legal custody or has been ordered to supervised visitation, based on a threat to the safety of the student and the threat is specifically noted in the order pertaining to custody or supervised visitation, or
 - 2. The parent has been denied visitation, or
 - 3. The parent's access to the student has been restricted by a temporary or permanent protective order, unless the protective order (or any subsequent order modifying the protective order) specifically allows access to the information contained in the student record, or
 - 4. There is an order of a probate and family court judge which prohibits the distribution of student records to the parent.
- (b) The school shall place in the student's record documents indicating that a non-custodial parent's access to the student's record is limited or restricted pursuant to 603 CMR 23.07(5)(a).
- (c) In order to obtain access, the non-custodial parent must submit a written request for the student record to the school principal.
- (d) Upon receipt of the request the school must immediately notify the custodial parent by certified and first class mail, in English and the primary language of the custodial parent, that it will provide the non-custodial parent with access after 21 days, unless the custodial parent provides the principal with documentation that the non-custodial parent is not eligible to obtain access as set forth in 603 CMR 23.07 (5)(a).
- (e) The school must delete all electronic and postal address and telephone number information relating to either work or home locations of the custodial parent from student records provided to non-custodial parents. In addition, such records must be marked to indicate that they shall not be used to enroll the student in another school.
- (f) Upon receipt of a court order which prohibits the distribution of information pursuant to G.L. c. 71, §34H, the school shall notify the non-custodial parent that it shall cease to provide access to the student record to the non-custodial parent.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:34D; 71:34H
603 CMR 23.07 (5) Access Procedures for Non-Custodial Parents
20 U.S.C. §1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

REVISED: January 25, 2007

Falmouth Public Schools

RELATIONS WITH PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

To foster relationships with parents that encourage the home and school to work together to establish and achieve common educational goals for students, the Superintendent and the professional staff will:

1. Consult with and encourage parents to share in school planning and in setting objectives and evaluating programs.
2. Help parents understand the educational process and their role in promoting it.
3. Provide for parent understanding of school operations.
4. Provide opportunities for parents to be informed of their child's development and the criteria for its measurement.

To accomplish the above and to enhance communications between parents and school officials, the Committee encourages the maintenance of formal parent organizations at each school building. For this purpose the Committee will officially recognize a parent organization at each building. These procedures will be observed:

1. Organizations will be officially recognized upon request by the building Principal who will file a copy of the organizational papers with the Superintendent.
2. A vote, open to all parents of children enrolled, will designate the organization to be recognized if more than one organization makes the request.

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

The School Committee endorses the concept that community participation in the affairs of the schools is essential if the school system and the community are to maintain mutual confidence and respect and work together to improve the quality of education for students. It therefore intends to exert every effort to identify the desires of the community and to be responsive, through its actions, to those desires.

All citizens will be encouraged to express ideas, concerns, and/or questions about the schools to the school administration, to any appointed advisory bodies, and to the Committee. Citizens of the community and graduates of the school system will be given opportunities to express their ideas, concerns, and judgments about the schools through such means as:

1. Written suggestions or proposals
2. Presentations at hearings
3. Responses to voluntary data gathering through interviews, written instruments, surveys, or other means
4. Comments at the appropriate places on the school committee agenda; and service on school councils, and citizen advisory committees

Residents who are specially qualified because of interest, training, experience, or personal characteristics, will be encouraged to assume an active role in school affairs. From time to time, these people may be invited by the Committee to act as advisors, either individually or in groups.

The Committee and the staff will give substantial weight to the advice they receive from individuals and community groups interested in the schools, particularly from those individuals and groups they have invited to advise them regarding specific problems, but will use their best judgment in arriving at decisions.

CROSS REF.: BDF, Advisory Committees to the School Committee

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS

The Superintendent will have authority to accept gifts and offers of equipment for the schools in the name of the Committee when the gift is of educational value. In the case of gifts from industry, business, or special interest groups, no extensive advertising or promotion may be involved in any donation to the schools.

Gifts that would involve changes in school plants or sites will be subject to School Committee approval.

Gifts will automatically become the property of the school system. Any gift of cash, whether or not intended by the donor for a specific purpose, will be handled as a separate account and expended at the discretion of the Committee, as provided by law.

The Committee directs the Superintendent to assure that an appropriate expression of thanks is given all donors.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:37A

USE OF POLICE

The Falmouth School Committee recognizes the value of having a positive working relationship with the Police Department. The decision to request the assistance of police in school related matters will be made by the respective school principal and the Superintendent.

Cooperative ongoing programs for structured surveillance or intervention, developed with any law enforcement agency in response to suspected criminal behavior and requiring covert action, will follow these guidelines:

1. The programs shall be developed with approval by the superintendent in consultation with appropriate law enforcement officials.
2. Before creating such cooperative ongoing programs, school administrators shall have used all reasonable methods, educational and disciplinary, to control a condition or problem.
3. Use of any such programs must treat all students equitably.
4. The scope of such programs shall be designed in order to meet the defined condition.
5. The Superintendent shall inform the school committee chairman of such programs prior to implementation. The chairman shall always be made aware of resulting consequences by the superintendent at a level of detail that does not compromise the confidentiality of the program. Furthermore, the school committee as a whole shall be informed of such operations and resulting actions as soon as possible after they are completed.

The superintendent will periodically review these guidelines with the policy subcommittee and will recommend amendments as they appear necessary.

DATE APPROVED: 12/16/75
REVISED & APPROVED: 3/6/79, 6/8/82, 10/23/01
SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

The School Committee is a public servant, and its meetings and records will be a matter of public information except as such meetings and records pertain to individual personnel and other classified matters.

The School Committee supports the right of the people to know about the programs and services of their schools and will make every effort to disseminate information. All requests for information will be acted on fairly, completely and expeditiously.

The official minutes of the Committee, its written policies and regulations, and its financial records will be open for inspection at the office of the Superintendent by any citizen desiring to examine them during hours when the office is open. No records pertaining to individual students or staff members will be released for inspection by the public or any unauthorized persons by the Superintendent or other persons responsible for the custody of confidential files. The exception to this will be information about an individual employee (or student) that has been authorized in writing for release by the employee (or student, or student's parent).

Each building administrator is authorized to use all means available to keep parents and others in the particular school's community informed about the school's program and activities.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 4:7; 66:10; 39:23B

CROSS REFS.: BEDG, Minutes
GBJ, Personnel Records
JRA, Student Records

NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS/NEWS RELEASES

Every effort will be made to assist the press and other communications media to obtain complete and adequate coverage of the programs, problems, planning, and activities of the school system.

All representatives of the media will be given equal access to information about the schools. General releases of interest to the entire community will be made available to all the media simultaneously. There will be no exclusive releases except as media representatives request information on particular programs, plans or problems.

In order that school system publicity is given wide coverage and is coordinated into a common effort and purpose, the following procedures will be followed in giving official information to the news media:

1. The School Committee chairman will be the official spokesman for the Committee, except as this duty is delegated to the Superintendent.
2. News releases are the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee.

While it is impossible to know how news releases will be treated by the press, every possible effort should be made to obtain coverage of school activities that will create and maintain a dignified and professionally responsible image for the school system.

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Although no member of the community will be denied the right to bring their complaints to the Committee, they will be referred through the proper administrative channels for solution before investigation or action by the Committee. Exceptions will be made when the complaints concern Committee actions or Committee operations only.

Complaints about school personnel will be investigated fully and fairly. However, before any such complaint is investigated, the complainant must submit his complaint in writing. Anonymous complaints will be disregarded.

The Committee believes that complaints are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible, and that the professional staff should be given every opportunity to consider the issues and attempt to resolve the problem prior to involvement by the Committee. Therefore, the proper channeling of complaints involving personnel, instruction, learning materials or discipline will be as follows:

1. Teacher or staff person
2. School building administrator
3. Superintendent
4. School Committee

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

Matters referred to the Superintendent and/or School Committee must be in writing and should be specific in terms of the action desired.

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

LEGAL REFS.: MG.L. 76:5

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

The following procedures are established 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 will be restricted in meaning to that criticism of particular school employees by a citizen of the School District which includes or implies a demand for action by school authorities. Other comments and suggestions will be referred informally to affected personnel.

1. If a complaint comes first to the person against whom it is directed, he/she will listen courteously and may try to resolve the difficulty by explaining the background and educational purpose involved. If the complaint remains unsatisfied, the employee will refer him/her 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 will immediately inform his/her supervisor of the complaint.
2. If a complaint comes first to the Principal or other supervisor of the person criticized, he/she should listen courteously or acknowledge a letter promptly and politely, but 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 person criticized and should inform that person immediately of the complaint.

If the complainant has already met with the person criticized and remains unsatisfied, the supervisor should invite the complainant to file his complaint in writing and offer to send him the appropriate form regarding a school employee's behavior, character or qualifications.

3. If a complaint comes first to any other school employee, that employee will refer the complainant to the person criticized or his immediate supervisor and immediately inform both.
4. No further action on the complaint should be taken unless the complainant submits the complaint in writing.
5. When a written complaint form is received, the Principal or other supervisor will schedule a conference with himself, the complainant, the person criticized, and if advisable, the department chairman or other personnel that either the supervisor or the person criticized feels could contribute 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 will be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Committee meeting. The decision of the Committee will be communicated in writing to all interested persons.

LEGAL REFS.: 603 CMR 26.09 and 26.10

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The School Committee, though it is ultimately responsible for all curriculum and instructional materials (including library books), 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 professional staff to select books and other materials supportive of the school system's educational philosophy and goals.

Criticism of a book or other materials used in the schools may be expected from time to time. In such instances:

1. If a parent requests that his/her own child not read a given book, the teacher and/or school administrator should resolve the situation, perhaps by arranging for use of alternative material meeting essentially the same instructional purpose.
2. The Committee will not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but recognizes that at times a reevaluation of certain material may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use:
 - a. The person who objects to the book or other material will be asked to sign a complaint on a standard form on which he/she will document his criticism.
 - b. Following receipt of the formal complaint, the Superintendent will provide for a reevaluation of the material in question, he/she will arrange for the appointment of a review committee from among the faculty to consider the complaint.
 - c. The Superintendent will review the complaint and the committee's reevaluation and will render a decision in the matter. Should the decision be unsatisfactory to the complainant, he/she may appeal it to the Committee.

In summary, the Committee assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials it makes available to students; it holds its professional staff accountable for their proper selection. It recognizes rights of individual parents with respect to controversial materials used by their own children; it will provide for the reevaluation of materials in library collections upon formal request. On the other hand, students' right to learn and the freedom of teachers to teach will be respected.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 76:5

CROSS REFS.: IJ, Instructional Materials
IJJ, Selection and Adoption of Textbooks
IJL, Selection and Adoption of Library Materials

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

I. Purposes for which buildings and grounds may be used:

Individuals and organizations may be granted permission to use school facilities for educational, cultural, civic, philanthropic, social, recreational and other comparable purposes not conflicting with the use of the premises for school purposes.

II. Purposes for which facilities may not be used:

Use of school facilities is prohibited for games of chance, professional boxing or wrestling, public dances for private gain, consumption of alcoholic beverages or other activities which may be deemed to be objectionable.

III. Application and Permit Procedure:

Any individual or organization wishing to use school facilities must make application sufficiently in advance, on a form prepared by the Central Office and submitted to the Principal in charge of the facilities to be used. The form will provide for identification of the organization and individual responsible for the event, description of the event, exact dates and times, exact description of area(s) to be used and such other information as is needed to implement this policy. If the Principal concurs in the use of the facilities and the schedule and areas proposed, he/she will indicate on the form the appropriate assignments of school personnel (custodians, cafeteria workers etc.) and charges to be made, if any, and give his/her approval by signing the form. The form will then be forwarded to the Superintendent for his/her approval. When signed by the Superintendent, the form will become a permit for use of the school facilities. The permit will be returned to the principal for forwarding to the requestor and coordination of all necessary follow-up. In the event of rejection at any point in the procedure it will be the Principal's responsibility to communicate with the requestor.

IV. Responsibilities of the Requestor and Permit Holder:

1. The requestor must be at least 21 years of age, certify that he is an authorized representative of the requesting organization and that he/she will assume responsibility for conforming to the school's rules, regulations and limitations of the permit.
2. The permit holder must comply with all applicable laws of the Commonwealth and Town of Falmouth to obtain all necessary licenses and comply with Internal Revenue Service requirements when admission is charged.
3. The permit holder will be responsible for any damage to school property.
4. The permit holder must confine members of his group and spectators to designated areas.
5. The permit holder must be present for the entire activity and be responsible for the decorum of those present.
6. The permit holder will comply with requests of the custodian, cafeteria worker, or other school employee in charge regarding use of facilities and equipment.
7. Consumption and service of food shall be restricted to kitchen and cafeteria areas within the building. Consumption and service of food on the grounds will be permitted when specifically authorized by the permit.

IV. Responsibilities of the Requestor and Permit Holder (continued):

8. Activities or use of equipment which might damage school property are strictly prohibited. Flammable materials must be restricted and care must be taken to avoid overload of electrical circuits.
9. No alteration will be made, by the licensee, to electrical facilities or school equipment.
10. The licensee must obtain the approval of the Falmouth Fire Department and/or the Falmouth Electrical Inspector whenever flammables, flame, sparks, or special wiring are to be employed.
11. No school furniture or equipment will be moved without the consent of the custodian on duty or other authorized school employee.
12. Nothing shall be affixed to walls, which might mar or damage them.
13. The permit holder shall be responsible for payment to the school of all charges and fees (except charges for police protection) by the date indicated on the permit which will be a date in advance of the event.
14. The permit holder shall be responsible for providing police protection as may be appropriate and shall pay the Police Department directly for police services. In cases of questionable need, the permit holder will be responsible for reviewing the situation with police officials. The licensee shall comply with any request of school officials for police protection.
15. The permit holder will be required to carry public liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000 per person and \$300,000 per accident.
16. The permit holder must agree to hold the Falmouth Public Schools and its employees harmless against any claims of loss or damage to property of the licensee on school premises.

V. Special Requirements:

1. The presence of a custodian will be required whenever a building is open for an event. The same custodian may service two different events in close proximity in which case the custodian charge will be equally divided.
2. The presence of a cafeteria worker will be required whenever the kitchen is used.
3. Laboratories and shops will not normally be opened for the purposes stated herein; however, should a special dispensation be made, it will be necessary to have appropriate school personnel present to provide supervision. (Charges will be established, in each instance, of greater than the classroom charge but not greater than the kitchen charge.)

VI. Charges and Fees:

Charges and fees will be reviewed periodically and set by the School Committee at the recommendation of the Superintendent. Such fees and charges will be set at levels that:

- A. Are reasonable in meeting the costs of operating a facility.
- B. Honor the community use philosophy of the school system in making facilities readily available.
- C. Are equitable and meet the federal and state laws relative to access.

Such fees will cover the following:

- A. Charges for custodial coverage when normal custodial hours and duties do not provide needed services for the event.
- B. Charges for cafeteria coverage to oversee kitchens if they are requested.
- C. Fees for specific facilities in the various buildings.

Users will be charged fees as determined by the Superintendent or designee guided by the definition below. The final discretion relative to which fees will be necessary will be made by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee is empowered to negotiate rates for multiple date uses or long-term uses of facilities.

- A. Some groups are not subject to most fees:
 - 1. Any town government committee or component of town, county or state government in the course of fulfilling its defined governmental purpose for residents of the Town of Falmouth.
 - 2. Any non-profit community organizations in Falmouth providing activities at no cost for Falmouth youth (those 18 years of age or younger) that meet the purpose statements in Section I.
- B. All other users are subject to fees, including:
 - 1. Government committees or groups doing fundraising or activities not directly related to their defined tasks.
 - 2. For-profit groups charging admission for events and/or providing activities predominantly for adults.
 - 3. Non-profit groups, charging admission for events and/or providing activities predominantly for adults, unless they submit letters of approval or appropriate certificates from the state government and the IRS to substantiate official nonprofit status, in which case they will be charged a lower non-profit rate.

All charges and fees will be paid by check or money order, payable to the Falmouth Public Schools, and will be deposited in a revolving account established for facilities use. Wages paid to custodians, cafeteria workers, or others as may be necessary, will be paid from the revolving account.

VII. Priorities:

School related activities will have the highest priority. Events for profit will usually have the lowest priority.

VIII. Cancellation of Permits:

The Superintendent shall have the right to cancel outstanding permits. The permit holder shall have the right of appeal to the School Committee.

APPROVED: 10/20/81

REVISED: 1/26/99; 6/14/05

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

GENERAL DISASTERS

In the event of a major natural disaster or warning thereof which may affect a large number of people, the Falmouth School District shall open its school buildings and appropriate facilities to the public. Warnings of impending storms and similar dangers are issued by the Weather Bureau and the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC). People asked to evacuate an area will be instructed to move to one of the Falmouth Schools for emergency housing. Here they will continue to receive advice and guidance from the Falmouth LEPC.

DATE: 9/28/76

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

No dogs shall be allowed on school property at times when school is in session or during school sponsored events unless upon a leash under the control of its master.

DATE: 8/9/77

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

USE OF SCHOOL PARKING AREAS

Parking lots that are part of the school grounds are restricted for use as follows:

1. by staff who are regularly employed at the school or are attending a meeting scheduled for the building
2. by students who regularly attend the school
3. by visitors to the school
4. by spectators at school athletic contests authorized under School Committee and Town policies.
5. by users of the special recreational facilities available to the public on school grounds under School Committee and Town policies
6. by patrons of school-sponsored functions
7. by patrons attending other functions that are held in the schools or individuals who have been granted use of the areas under School Committee policies.

No other use of school parking facilities shall be granted except by official vote of the Committee at a scheduled meeting with the purposes for such use clearly defined in advance of the meeting.

DATE: 7/22/75

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

PUBLIC SOLICITATIONS IN THE SCHOOLS

The School Committee will place limits on commercial activities and fund-raising activities in the schools for the following reasons:

1. The school system should provide students, parents, and employees some measure of protection from exploitation by commercial and charitable fund-raising organizations.
2. The school system should not give the public the impression of generally endorsing or sanctioning commercial and fund-raising activities.
3. Commercial and fund-raising activities may disrupt school routine and cause loss of instructional time.

Following these guiding statements, the Superintendent and Principals may permit occasional commercial or fund-raising activities related to the objectives of the schools with the following exceptions:

1. No direct solicitation of students or employees may take place without Superintendent or designee permission.
2. No general or class distribution of commercial or fund-raising literature may take place without Superintendent or designee permission.

For the purposes of this policy, local PTA and PTO groups and groups representing school system employees will be considered "school groups" and will be governed by the Committee's policy on staff solicitations.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 44:53A

CROSS REFS.: GBEB, Staff Gifts and Solicitations
JJE, Student Fund-Raising Activities
JP, Student Gifts and Solicitations
KHB, Advertising in the Schools

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

The School Committee encourages parents and guests to visit classrooms to observe and learn about the instructional programs taking place in our schools. Such visits can prove most beneficial in promotion of greater school-home cooperation and community understanding of how we carry out the school system's mission and goals.

Visits by parents to several classrooms in a given grade for the purposes of comparing teaching styles to provide a basis for a request for student assignment to a particular teacher are strongly discouraged because the School District's policy of assigning a student to a particular class is the sole responsibility of the building Principal in consultation with the staff of that school.

The following guidelines to classroom and school visits should be followed:

1. Parental requests for classroom visitations will be welcomed as long as the educational process is not disrupted. To this end we request that such requests be made at least forty-eight hours in advance to allow for proper arrangements to be made.
2. The building Principal has the authority to determine the number, times, and dates of observations by visitors. This will be done in consultation with staff members so as to give adequate notice to the staff members of the impending visits.
3. For security purposes it is requested that all visitors report to the Principal's office upon entering and leaving the building and sign a guest log showing arrival and departure times. Teachers are encouraged to ask visitors if they have registered in the Principal's office.
4. Under ordinary circumstances classroom observations will be strongly discouraged during the first three weeks of school in September and during the month of June.
5. Any student who wishes to have a guest in school **MUST** ask permission of one of the administrative staff **24 HOURS** in advance of the proposed visit. If permission is granted, the guest is expected to follow the standards of behavior expected of all students. Upon arrival the guest must register in the office. Any guest who fails to comply with student regulations will be asked to leave the school building and grounds immediately.

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

RELATIONS WITH BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

The School Committee recognizes that the endeavors and objectives of booster organizations and similar groups can be a valuable means of stimulating interest in and endorsement of the aims and achievements of our public school system.

Generally, actions initiated by boosters provide the atmosphere and climate to foster and encourage community-school relationships.

Booster-proposed plans, projects, or activities must be evaluated and promoted in light of their stated contribution to the academic as well as the athletic and fine arts programs of the schools. Care must be taken to avoid compromising or diluting the responsibilities and authorities of the School Committee.

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

RELATIONS WITH POLICE AUTHORITIES

Cooperation with law enforcement agencies is essential for the protection of students, for maintaining a safe environment in the District schools, and for safeguarding all school property.

Relationships between the schools and officials of law enforcement agencies in investigative matters concerning pupils will take into consideration the respective roles of the schools and law enforcement agencies in assisting and protecting the interests of the community, and ensuring the rights of all concerned.

The School Committee also recognizes the potential enrichment that law enforcement agencies can make in the educational program.

Efforts should be made to develop and maintain a healthy attitude toward law enforcement agencies and personnel to promote better understanding and communication.

CROSS REF.: Memorandum of Understanding between the Falmouth Public Schools and the Falmouth Police Department

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

RELATIONS WITH PLANNING AUTHORITIES

The School Committee will participate in local and state planning functions that could directly affect District schools and their immediate environment.

The Superintendent or designee will keep the School Committee informed of planning matters bearing directly on the operation of District schools or school-sponsored programs, and will undertake action on behalf of the School Committee to influence matters in the best interests of the students, the schools and the District.

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools

RELATIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES

The School Committee and its administrative officers welcome all who seek to serve the residents of the community and will participate with them in the planning and execution of such projects as will be mutually beneficial for students.

It is School Committee policy that administration informs elected and appointed officials of the local and county government of the desire to work cooperatively for improved services.

SOURCE: Falmouth Public Schools