

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

August 14, 2012

SUBJECT:

Amendments to Policy KBE *Relations with Parent Organizations* – **Final Reading**

BACKGROUND:

Policy KBE provides the basic structure for Board and District relations with parent organizations and expresses a philosophy for support of such groups. The policy establishes essential guidelines for interaction between the schools and the groups which support those schools. The Board approved these changes on First Reading July 17, 2012.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

While most organized parent groups are separate legal entities from the public schools and operate under their own rules and by-laws, the Board believes that it is prudent for the District schools to assist these groups with implementing various safeguards to their record keeping and financial operations since fund raising and fund solicitations are made on behalf of District schools and student activities, and as an adjunct to the same. There is a general public expectation of accountability by such groups. The proposed amendments further clarify the Board's support for the administration's authority to facilitate reasonable operational guidelines – particularly concerning financial matters and training in the utilization of those procedures. These amendments are not intended to place a legal responsibility upon the administrative staff at any school or within the District. Rather, the changes simply suggest a clearer authority to facilitate these groups' operations in this context.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Amended Policy on Final Reading.

ATTACHMENT:

Policy KBE, as amended

PREPARED BY:

William H. Burkhalter, Jr.

Policy KBE Relations with Parent Organizations

Issued 2/02; revised 8/12

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for board and district relations with parent organizations.

The board looks upon school support groups as an integral part of the district. These groups can help the district promote an effective educational program. The board encourages the participation of parents' organizations, parents' and teachers' organizations, booster organizations, and similar volunteer groups.

These groups will not have administrative authority in connection with the operation of the school. The board has final authority over all phases of school operations. Equipment donated to the school becomes the property of the district. Many parent organizations have their own by-laws, organizational structures, and must follow certain tax reporting and/or registration regulations required by the state or federal governmental entities.

The board encourages administration, staff and employees to be supportive and accommodating to the activities of these groups. The board may request a statement of purpose and regulations governing a proposed group's involvement in support of the education program. For those organizations that are involved in fund raising activities on behalf of District and student endeavors, the Board supports the administration's right to request that reasonable financial safeguards be utilized by such groups and to request periodic review of financial records. The Administration may provide guidelines for prudent financial management and is authorized to provide some training assistance to those officers in parent organizations who are authorized to handle funds and keep records.

These support groups need administrative approval for any events, programs or operations that involve the following.

- participation of children
- operation of a school service
- charges to children
- solicitation of children
- communications sent home with all children in a school

This policy governs all groups currently in existence in the district as well as those formed after the date of adoption of this policy and any revisions to the same.

Adopted 11/9/71; Revised 2/26/02; 8/14/ 2012