SECTION K

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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.

SCHOOL/PARENT RELATIONS GOALS

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

While parents/guardians 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 strive to collaborate with parents/guardians regarding student progress and achievement, methods to enhance student development, and matters of 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.

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS/GUARDIANS' 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 Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education Regulations. The school district will follow the law and the regulations developed by the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education to standardize the process by which public schools provide student records to parents/guardians who do not have physical custody of their children ("non-custodial parents/guardians").

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/guardians. 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/guardians 20 U.S.C. §1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Adopted:

December 11, 2006

File: KBE

RELATIONS WITH PARENT/BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

To enhance communications between parents/guardians and school officials, the Committee encourages the maintenance of formal parent organizations, including booster organizations, at each school building. For this purpose, the Committee will officially recognize parent/booster organizations. 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/guardians of children enrolled, will designate the organization to be recognized if more than one organization with the same purpose makes the request.

3. All parent/booster organizations shall obtain 501C3 status and file appropriate paperwork with state authorities and make proof of such status available to school district administration.

4. All parent/booster organizations must comply with federal and state laws relating to equity and non-discrimination.

LEGAL REFS: Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972

CROSS REFS: AC- NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY INCLUDING HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION

SOURCE: MASC - Updated 2022

Revised and Approved by the Natick School Committee - December 4, 2023

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.

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 weigh 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

<u>File</u>: KCD

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS

The Superintendent will have authority to accept gifts and offers of equipment or services under \$5,000 in value for the schools in the name of the Committee. These gifts will be reported to the School Committee on a regular basis, but at least annually. In the case of gifts from industry, business, or special interest groups, no advertising or promotion may be involved in any donation to the schools, except as in keeping with the naming rights policy, or upon approval of the School Committee.

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 to all donors.

Ownership of Donations

Any donations to the District, whether in cash or in kind, that are accepted in accordance with this Policy, automatically become the property of the District.

All proposals to the School Committee for donations from staff and the general public require relevant departmental and administrative approval prior to being presented. District employees, applying for grants and/or seeking donations or outside funding for education services, professional development, and/or materials, must receive prior approval from the Superintendent or Designee, before submitting applications for funding. Donations may not be spent or used in the school unless and until they have been accepted on behalf of the District by a vote of the School Committee, subject to the exceptions stated below. Donations that are accepted by the School Committee will ordinarily be accepted without condition or restriction, unless the School Committee approves a proposed condition or restriction as being in the interest of the District. All donations accepted by the School Committee will become the property of the District to be used as the Natick Superintendent deems appropriate and are subject to the same controls and laws that govern the use and disposal of other school-owned property. Monetary donations will be placed in accounts as needed and in compliance with applicable laws. Donations of capital in excess of the greater of \$35,000 or the applicable statutory threshold at the time of the proposal will require an analysis as to whether compliance with applicable public bidding and/or purchasing laws is required. The District will comply with all such laws where applicable, including the conduct of any required processes to request proposals in advance of final approval.

School Committee Approval

Donations may not be spent or used in the District unless they have been accepted by a vote of the School Committee, except in the following circumstances when District personnel are authorized to accept donations on behalf of the School Committee:

- 1. The Superintendent/Principal is authorized to accept grants on behalf of the Committee from the federal, state, county, or local governmental agencies, private foundations, corporations, or private organizations when the District or a staff member has applied for the grant with the prior approval of the Superintendent/ Designee.
- 2. In-kind contributions may be accepted by the District only upon the advance approval of the School Committee. In determining whether to grant such approval, the School Committee will consider such factors as it deems relevant, including any safety considerations and any costs of installing or maintaining the property and its usefulness to the educational program. The School Committee may condition its acceptance of a contribution in kind on the agreement of the donor to bear the costs of installing or maintaining the property to be offered in kind, or may condition its acceptance upon any other condition that the School Committee determines to impose.
- 3. Donations of time and personal services by parents and other Natick residents shall not be subject to this policy. This exemption shall apply to individual volunteerism only and shall not extend to donations of services by employees and agents of businesses or commercial entities, which shall be treated the same as donations of money or other contributions of economic value under this policy.

Donations of cash may be accepted for the purpose(s) specified by the donor, upon approval by the School Committee. Donations in-kind that are subject to conditions or restrictions imposed by the donor will not be accepted by the School Committee or the Superintendent/Principal or any other District official, as the case may be. However, the School Committee will consider donor requests for the use and assignment of donated property before accepting contributions in kind.

Student Donations & Gifts

Conditions for Acceptance of Donations or Fundraising Proceeds

The School Committee reserves the right to reject any donation or proceeds from fundraising if it finds that the donation would not serve the interests of the District. The School Committee will normally accept only those gifts that benefit the District as a whole or all the same classes in a subject or grade level within the school (e.g., those that strengthen the scope and sequence of the curriculum or the many co-curricular and support programs), subject to the limited exceptions listed below. The School Committee will consider the overall interests of the District in reviewing each circumstance, but generally will not accept donations or proceeds from fundraising under the following circumstances:

- 1. The targeted purpose is incompatible with existing or planned curriculum, programs, or educational goals of the District.
- 2. The donation for fundraiser proceeds would result in an unreasonable inequity among classes or groups of students within the District that are protected by applicable anti- discrimination laws (e.g., gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability).
- 3. The donation or purpose for fundraising would constitute an operating expense and result in a recurring cost to the District such as the salary or benefits for a staff position, or ongoing maintenance or support of equipment or materials, or would create a cost to the District to terminate or eliminate the staff, equipment or materials {e.g., unemployment}. Funding for ongoing maintenance must accompany any donation of capital or capital purchased through fundraising.
- 4. The donation or purpose for fundraising may require special supplies, maintenance, or installation, or entail other significant costs not covered by the donation or funds raised.
- 5. The donation or purpose for fundraising would involve unreasonable advertising or promotion of a commercial interest.
- 6. The donation or purpose for fundraising would support a program that has been discontinued or any program, equipment or materials, or a capital item that was proposed but not funded through the District's budget. The Committee recognizes that any policy statement on this topic will not be comprehensive in its resolution of all questions and situations. The Committee expects, from time to time, to render specific decisions, including policy exceptions, when it deems circumstances so warrant. Moreover, the Committee may amend this Policy from time to time at its sole discretion.

Reference:

Mass General Laws, Ch 71, 37A Mass General Laws, Ch 44, 53A, as amended

Approved by the Natick School Committee: June 19, 2017

Natick Public Schools

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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. 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. Neither Superintendent nor other persons responsible for the custody of confidential files will release for inspection by the public or any unauthorized persons the records pertaining to individual students or staff members. 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).

Each building administrator is authorized to use all means available to keep parents/guardians 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; 30A:18-25

CROSS REFS.:

BEDG, Minutes GBJ, Personnel Records JRA, Student Records

File: KDD

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 while still respecting the right of students or parents/guardians to control the release of their image or video.

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 that are of a system-wide or a sensitive nature or pertain to established Committee policy are the responsibility of the Superintendent.
- 3. News releases that are of concern to only one school, or to an organization of one school, are the responsibility of the Principal, with approval of the Superintendent, of that particular school. All statements made to the press by other staff members of the particular school must be cleared with the Principal, through the Superintendent.

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.

Adopted by the Natick School Committee - December 5, 2022

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.

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 instruction, discipline or learning materials will be as follows:

- 1. Teacher
- 2. School building administrator
- 3. Superintendent
- 4. School Committee (as permitted by law)

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 ABOUT SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the School Committee as a whole or to a Committee member as an individual, it will be referred to the school administration for study and possible solution. Anonymous complaints will be disregarded.

The Superintendent will develop, for approval by the Committee, procedures that assure prompt and fair attention to complaints against school personnel. The procedures will require 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 Committee for a formal hearing and decision. Statutory restrictions on executive sessions will be observed.

LEGAL REFS.: 603 CMR 26.09 and 26.10

CROSS REF.:

BEC, Executive Sessions

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT SCHOOL PERSONNEL

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 themselves, 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 to the 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.

File: KEB-R

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 have 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. This does not apply, however, to basic program texts and materials that the Committee has adopted.
- 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/guardians 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 IJ-R, Reconsideration of Instructional Material IJL, Selection and Adoption of Library Materials

PUBLIC USE OF NATICK SCHOOL FACILITIES

Under Chapter 71, Section 71, the School Committee is empowered to set policy, regulations and fees regarding public use of school facilities. Such regulations will allow the use of school premises without interference to its regular school program, "by individuals and associations for such, educational, recreational, social, civic, philanthropic, and like purposes as it deems for the interest of the community."

The law further states that the affiliation of any such association with a religious organization shall not disqualify the association of such use, and that public school may be used as a place of assemblage for citizens to hear candidates for public office.

The use of public school facilities for school-related purposes will take precedence over all outside use.

Rental fees are set by the School Committee. The School Committee retains the right to empower the Superintendent or their designee as its agent on matters relating to the day to day implementation of the regulations under this policy and any exemptions or separate contracts governed by this policy. The Superintendent or their designee shall have the final decision in all scheduling, permit issuances, and interpretation of the Policy, unless otherwise directed by the School Committee. School Committee approval shall be required for any exceptions to the fees hereunder.

The School Committee retains the right to deny the use of school facilities to any group if it deems the use is detrimental to the interest of the community or interferes with the operation of the schools. Regulations and fee schedules pertaining to the use of school facilities shall insure the security of school property, and the Town will be absolved from any liability in case of accident by means of a general liability insurance policy.

The following three groups of eligible users have been established:

Group I - School and Town Departments

Group I Rates will apply to the Recreation Department or Town Department revenue generating programs. There will be no charge for School Department usage, publicly posted Town business (i.e. Town Meeting, Elections, etc.), or recognized parent groups (PTO, PTA, Booster, NEF, etc.).

<u>Group II</u> - Non Profit Natick Community Groups, Organizations, and Activities

Group II Rates will apply to any youth/adult group*, community, philanthropic, artistic; or recreational activity sponsored by a non-profit organization, whose principal office or official business address is located within the political boundaries of the Town of Natick.

(*Groups must have a minimum membership of 50% Natick residents—rosters will be requested by NPS for verification. Memberships less than 50% will be categorized as a Group III organization.)

<u>Group III</u> - All Other Groups, Organizations, and Activities

Group III Rates will apply to all groups, organizations, or activities which do not meet the requirements of Group I or II, including individuals, private and commercial groups, societies, religious organizations, non-profits, and registered public charities.

The School Committee reserves the right to make changes/deletions and/or additions to this Policy if deemed appropriate for the Natick School Department.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:71

File: KHA

PUBLIC SOLICITATIONS IN THE SCHOOLS

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

- 1. The school system should provide students, parents/guardians, 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 <u>direct solicitation</u> of students or employees may take place without School Committee permission.
- 2. No general or class <u>distribution</u> of commercial or fund-raising literature may take place without School Committee 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.:

JJE, Student Fund-Raising Activities JP, Student Gifts and Solicitations KHB, Advertising in the Schools

ADVERTISEMENT

The Natick School Committee or administrative designee reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement based upon appropriateness of content, format style and/or any other reason it deems necessary. The Natick School Committee or administrative designee shall be the sole judge of appropriateness and acceptability.

Solicitation of sales or use of the name of the school system to promote any product will not be permitted except by vote of the School Committee.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

The School Committee encourages parents/guardians 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/guardians 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. Each Natick school will schedule and clearly advertise an open-house program(s) each year.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. For security purposes it is required that all visitors report to the main office upon entering and leaving the building and sign a guest log showing arrival and departure times and will be provided a visitors badge which must be worn or displayed. Teachers are required to ask visitors if they have registered in the main office.
- 5. Under ordinary circumstances classroom observations will be strongly discouraged during the first three weeks of school in September and during the month of June.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Principals have the authority to make accommodations for all volunteers.

Food Delivery on School Grounds

Food delivery to students from outside private vendors during school hours or during school sponsored after-school activities will not be permitted on school grounds.

CROSS REF.: IHBAA, Observations of Special Education Programs

Revised and Approved by the Natick School Committee on October 2, 2023

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.

The Natick Public Schools and the Natick Police Department have developed and maintained a "Memorandum of Understanding".