

**Union City Area
School District**

**SCHOOL BOARD
POLICY**



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1100**COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND NEWS RELEASES**

Public support is vital to a public school system. It is the policy of the Board to maintain a continuing information program for compiling and distributing news of events, noteworthy facts, statistics, plans and forecasts necessary to the creation of an interested and informed public.

The superintendent and staff are encouraged to use all available modes of communications to keep the public continuously informed concerning schools, cost, curriculum change, expansion, special events, and other items of public interest.

The superintendent is responsible to develop and implement a system-wide distribution program to disseminate pertinent information to the staff, students, parents, guardians and community. All materials will be approved by the superintendent prior to distribution.

The Board may, at its discretion, disseminate news releases if the situation is warranted.

1105 SCHOOL MEDIA/NEWS RELEASES

The superintendent is responsible for all informational services to and from the public, except for such matters as the Board may, at their discretion, wish to disseminate through one or more of their members.

The principal of each school is responsible for routine school announcements to parents such as those concerning closing of school, PTO meetings, clothing and fund drives, lunch tickets, etc.

The superintendent will be responsible for coordinating the release of information concerning the school, and actions of the Board.

The superintendent is responsible to develop and implement a system-wide distribution program to disseminate pertinent information to the staff, students, parents, guardians and community. All materials will be approved by the superintendent prior to distribution.

The Board may, at its discretion, disseminate news releases if the situation is warranted.

1140**STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

The strongest link of communication with parents, and one of the most effective public relations areas, is the pupil in the classroom. Since failure to provide pupils with information leads frequently to misinformation, it will be the responsibility of the administration to see that information regarding school activities and programs of organizations is properly disseminated through the pupils to parents.

Information provided by administration or staff, which is conveyed by letters and bulletins by pupils to their parents, is encouraged. Care should be exercised, however, that such conveyance of information by students is about the school system, a particular school or school district, and cannot be used to advance a private or political point of view.

1200 PARENT/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

PURPOSE

The Union City Area School District (hereinafter referred to as “District”) and the Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as “Board”) are committed to the belief that all children can learn and acknowledge that parents share the District’s commitment to the educational success of their children. The Board believes that the education of children is a joint responsibility, one it shares with the parents of the school community. To ensure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained.

AUTHORITY

The federal government, under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires all school districts to adopt and implement a district-wide parental and family engagement policy for students being served in Title I programs funded under the Act, and therefore, the Board adopts this policy.

As a recipient of Title I funds, the District shall develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy. This policy is to be incorporated into the District’s plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

DEFINITION

Parent and family involvement shall be defined as an ongoing process that assists parents and families to meet their basic obligation as their child’s first educator, promotes clear two-way dialogue between home and school and supports parents as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their child/children.

A written policy for Title I parent/family engagement that establishes programs and practices to enhance parent/family engagement and reflects the needs of students and families will be jointly developed by parents/family members and District staff.

The plan will also include a school-parent/family members compact and support the development, implementation and regular evaluation of the parent/family member program by parents/family members and District staff.

GUIDELINES

The Board directs that the following activities be implemented to encourage parent/family member- District cooperation:

1. Parent-Teacher conferences to permit two-way communication between home and school
2. Open House to provide parents/family members with the opportunity to see the school facilities, meet the faculty, and review classroom materials on a first-hand basis.
3. Special events of an educational and/or cultural nature, which are initiated by the school or by parent/family member groups, and involve the cooperative effort of the school, students and parents/family members, and are of general interest to the schools or community.

For the benefit of children, the Board believes that parents/family members have a responsibility to encourage their child's career in school by:

1. Supporting the school requirement that children observe all rules and regulations, and by accepting their responsibility for their child's/children's willful in-school behavior.
2. Sending children to school with proper attention to their health, personal cleanliness, and dress.
3. Maintaining an active interest in their children's daily work and making it possible for them to complete assigned homework by providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study.
4. Reading all communications from the school, as well as, signing and returning forms promptly when required.
5. Cooperating with the school in attending conferences set up for the exchange of information on the child's/children's progress in school
6. Participating in in-school activities and special functions.

For students participating in Title I programs, the Superintendent and/or designee(s) shall develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents/family members of children participating in a Title I program a written parental/family member engagement policy, which shall describe the means for carrying out the following requirements:

1. That parents/family members be involved and provide input in the development of the policy. To meet this requirement, each Title I school shall do the following:

- a. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents/family members of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents/family members of the District's development of a parental/family member engagement policy and the right of the parents/family members to be involved in the process.
 - b. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning and the evening.
 - c. Involve parents/family members in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under federal law including the planning, review and improvement of the school parental/family member engagement policy.
 - d. Provide parents/family members timely information about:
 - (1) ESSA programs.
 - (2) A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
 - (3) If requested by parents/family members, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
2. That each school develop jointly with the parents/family members a school-parent/family member compact that outlines how parents/family members, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents/family members will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve Pennsylvania's high standards. This compact will:
- a. Describe each individual school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the students to meet Pennsylvania's student academic achievement standards, and the ways in which each parent/family member will be responsible for supporting their child's learning, such as: monitoring attendance, homework completion, television watching, and video game playing; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and positive use of extracurricular time.

- b. Address the importance of communication between the teachers and parents/family members on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, the following:
 - (1) Parent –teacher conferences in the elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child’s achievement.
 - (2) Frequent reports to the parents/family members on their child’s progress.
 - (3) Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class, and observation of classroom activities.
- 3. That the effective involvement of parents/family members is ensured and a partnership among the school, parents/family members and community to improve student academic achievement is supported by helping parents/family members understand academic content standards and state standards and assessments and by utilizing other techniques outlined in federal law.
- 4. That, to the extent practicable, each school shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents/family members with limited English proficiency, parents/family members with disabilities, and parents/family members of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such as parents/family members understand.

COMMUNICATIONS

The District pledges to maintain two-way communication with the parents/family members concerning academic progress, discipline, the emotional and physical well-being of the student, assisting parents/family members in meeting their child’s needs at home and involving parents/family members in the school.

- 1. Parents/family members will be notified of their child’s academic progress on a regular basis.
- 2. In matters of discipline involving suspension, expulsion or reassignment to an alternative school, the parent/family member responsible for the student will be notified. For discipline involving suspensions or placement in an alternative school, an informal hearing will be provided regarding the incident. For discipline involving expulsions, a formal hearing will be held.
- 3. At the counselors’ discretion, administering guidance procedures that will address the emotional wellbeing of a student and are of a sensitive nature, the parent/family member responsible for the student will be notified if and when appropriate.

4. In cases of medical and dental examinations or treatments, the parent/family member responsible for the student shall be advised in advance.
5. Assistance to parents/family members to develop parenting skills to foster positive relationships at home that support the efforts of their children and provide techniques designed to assist their children with learning at home.
6. In order to meet the needs of the child, the District will attempt to connect parents/family members with outside agencies.
7. Provide parent/family member involvement opportunities through the school's Parent Teacher Organization.
8. The District maintains a website (www.ucasd.org) which contains pertinent information about the District's staff and policies.

PARENT-EDUCATOR GROUPS

Contact with parents/family members by working together in conferences and social gatherings to provide school personnel with opportunities for gaining friendly and intelligent cooperation from those most interested in schools and for sampling public opinion.

Principals and teachers are encouraged to assist parents/family members in organizing strong and active groups and channeling their energies toward programs mutually beneficial to schools and the community.

Adopted: 10/13/03
Revised: 2/12/07, 3/8/18

1210**PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION [PTO]**

It is the policy of the Union City Area School Board to encourage the organization, and support the activity of Parent-Teacher Organization in our schools in the development of closer working relations and better understanding between parents, teachers and students.

The Board encourages participation in and cooperation with PTO on the part of all school personnel.

PTO is considered a school organization and is exempt from the payment of any fees for the use of facilities for regular meetings. PTO sponsored groups are exempt from rental and payment of any fees for the use of facilities for regular meetings.

The Superintendent will establish a procedure for the approval of activities conducted by the PTO.

Revised: 3/8/99

1212

**COOPERATION OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL WITH
PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS**

The School Board encourages participation in and cooperation with the PTO on the part of all school personnel. The value and the strength of these organizations are in the cooperative endeavor of the staff with the parents. The Board encourages membership, attendance and participation on the part of all staff members.

1300**SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

It is policy of the Union City Area School District to maintain the most cordial relationship possible between community and school. To this end, every employee will be expected to represent the school system to the best of his/her ability both in the performance of his/her position and in endeavoring to give or secure a complete and courteous answer to every question asked by the public.

Re-titled: 3/8/99

1305 HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

So as to maintain the most cordial relationship possible between community and school, any and all complaints concerning the school or any of its personnel, programs, or activities will be immediately brought to the superintendent's attention, regardless if received by the Board, a board member or any staff member. If possible it will at the same time be given to the appropriate building principal. The superintendent will assure that each and every complaint is appropriately addressed. If the complaint is in writing and signed, the complainant will be responded to, otherwise, the complaint will simply be taken under advisement.

Re-titled: 3/8/99

1310**PROTOCOL FOR VISITS TO SCHOOLS**

In order to assure the safety of all students and staff, all visitors to the schools must notify the appropriate principal's office of their presence immediately upon entering the building. This does not apply to those times when the buildings are open to the public such as concerts, sporting events, or open house.

Re-titled/Revised: 3/8/99

1330 PUBLIC RELATIONS – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Members of the Board, individually and collectively, are responsible to listen to comments and suggestions from the residents and taxpayers of the district.

Board members who are contacted individually should refer compliments, suggestions and constructive criticism about operational matters directly to the superintendent of schools for appropriate consideration and action.

Unless authorized by the Board, no individual member of the Board will speak or act for, or in the name of, the Board.

Re-titled/Revised: 3/8/99

1350**EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The superintendent is responsible for the organization and operation of all educational advisory committees. These committees will be under the control of the superintendent. The Board will be notified whenever the committee is established or disbanded. The board may from time to time require the superintendent to evaluate or report on the functioning of such committees.

1400**COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

In all district programs, it is policy of the Board to utilize the services of, and/or interact with whatever agencies will most benefit the students of this district.

In order to provide a basic education and recreation program for children of school age, it is the policy of the Union City Area School Board to cooperate with other agencies, e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League, etc. which operate in the areas served by the school system to provide services beyond the basic school program.

Revised: 3/8/99

1403.1 COOPERATION WITH FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Educational programs designed to make the youth of our schools sensitive to the need for and the practice of good safety habits will be sponsored jointly by the school district and the various fire and police departments. The school staff and the administrators shall cooperate with personnel of the fire departments in every possible way.

Revised: 3/8/99

1418**USE OF FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

The law requires proper control of public school facilities, equipment and supplies. The Board encourages community use of school facilities. The rules and fees for community use of school facilities, equipment, and supplies are set forth in application forms, which are available at all School District offices and on the District website. The Superintendent or his/her designee may refuse a request for use of school facilities, equipment or supplies.

Re-titled: 3/8/99; 3/9/09
Revised: 7/10/00
4/23/01
3/23/09

1420 STAFF USAGE OF EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND FACILITIES

School facilities may be used by staff for personal use in accordance with policy 1418, USE OF FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.

School supplies are purchased for official school use only. Any personal use of school supplies by members of the staff is not permitted.

Re-titled/Revised: 3/8/99
Revised: 9/8/03

1424.1 FUNDRAISING BY ADULT BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

In the interest of maintaining good community relations, fundraising by adult groups on behalf of student classes, athletic teams or organizations should only be initiated by those groups sanctioned by the Union City Area School District Board of Directors. No soliciting of funds in the name of the Union City Area School District or any of its student organizations is permitted without the recommendation of the appropriate building principal and the Superintendent.

Currently sanction booster organizations are:

1. Union City Bears Club
2. Union City Band Boosters
3. PTO

Adopted: 3/8/99
Revised: 11/22/99; 4/9/01

1425 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

1. An automated external defibrillator (hereinafter referred to as “AED”) is a portable device which uses electric shock to restore a stable heart rhythm to an individual experiencing cardiac arrest.
2. The District owns two AEDs. One of the AEDs will be kept in the Middle School/High School at all times, and the second AED will be kept in the Elementary School at all times. The School Nurse will be responsible for ensuring that the AEDs are secured in safe, but readily accessible locations at all times.
3. The School Nurse will be responsible to ensure that at least two persons who work in the Middle School/High School, and at least two persons who work in the Elementary School are trained in the use of an AED.
4. The School Nurse will ensure that the District personnel who are expected to use the AEDs, complete training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and in the use of AEDs. This training must be provided by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or through an equivalent course of instruction approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
5. District personnel who are authorized to use an AED will be required to receive annual training in the use of AEDs. This annual training will be provided by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or through an equivalent course of instruction approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
6. The School Nurse will be responsible to properly maintain and test the AEDs according to the manufacturer’s operational guidelines.
7. The School Nurse shall instruct District personnel who are authorized to use an AED to utilize available means to immediately contact and activate the emergency medical services system in the event an individual experiences a cardiac arrest. The School Nurse will place a copy of the District’s Crisis Response Plan with each AED.
8. The School Nurse will be responsible to ensure that any appropriate data or information is made available to emergency medical services personnel or other health care providers when requested.
9. The School Nurse will instruct District personnel who are authorized to use an AED to never obstruct or interfere with care and treatment being provided to a stricken individual by emergency medical services personnel or by a health professional.

10. The District's use of AEDs will comply with the provisions set forth in 42 Pa.C.S.A. Section 8331.2 which pertains to Good Samaritan Civil Immunity for use of AEDs.
11. The School Nurse will develop and implement guidelines and procedures for the use of AEDs by District personnel.

Adopted: 1/13/03

1427

SCHOOL-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**1. Purpose.**

The Board recognizes the existence and appreciates the efforts of various school-related organizations at work in the school community. The Board further recognizes that the purpose of such organizations is to assist in support, but not to direct or supplant the existing activity or athletic programs of the District. Therefore, all District-sponsored activities must remain under the control, direction, and supervision of the Board through its Administration. Only those organizations operating under the approval of the Board will be recognized by the District.

The Board is fully aware that without countless hours that the members of these organizations give to their respective organizations, District programs would suffer. The Board also recognizes that the focus of each organization is student-centered and, thus, these organizations contribute in a material way through services, supplies, and equipment to the youth of our District. As a result, the financial burden to the District taxpayers is significantly reduced.

2. Guidelines.

The primary role of a support/booster organization (school-related organizations) is to provide support for the advisors, coaches, and principals as deemed appropriate by them in pursuit of their goals for that program under the auspices of the District's goals and policies.

School-related organizations are considered advisory in nature. Input regarding program management and direction, supervision, and staffing will be by invitation only.

School-related organizations and its members shall operate within the guidelines and policies set forth by the District. Issues and concerns need to be communicated by the organization to the appropriate District employee.

Booster organizations that support PIAA sports or activities shall operate within PIAA regulations and guidelines.

Parental participation is not mandatory in school-related organizations. No student will be denied the ability to participate due to lack of personal funds, parental participation, or participation in fund-raising activities of school-related organizations.

3. Recognition and Affiliation.

Each organization expressing a desire to serve students and programs is responsible to solicit Board approval to operate as a school-related organization by submitting an application for recognition. Each organization is required to have the written support of the Administration of the District. The Board will recognize organizations which seek approval through the formal application procedures.

Each recognized organization in subsequent years shall indicate its intention to continue to function as a support organization by submitting a list of officers annually to the Superintendent by September 1. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of the annual organization of officers. Each school-related organization shall maintain by-laws and/or an organizational document to be filed with the Superintendent in order to ensure that the documents adhere to school policies.

The Board has the authority to disband any school-related organization that violates the spirit of this Policy.

4. Financial and Operational Guidelines.

- (a) School-related organizations must submit annually to the Superintendent a financial report, which must set forth a detailed accounting of the revenues and expenses for the organization during the preceding year. The annual report must be submitted to the Superintendent by August 1 of each year of the organization's existence.
- (b) School-related organizations requesting use of facilities and/or services shall coordinate their requests with the Superintendent in compliance with the Board's policy on use of facilities. No activity will be permitted without such approval.
- (c) Any purchase or donations of equipment, services, or materials for a program of the District shall have the prior written approval of the Superintendent.
- (d) The Board does not assume any financial responsibility for a school-related organization and excludes itself from any liability that a school-related organization may incur.
- (e) By August 1 of each year, school-related organizations must submit a general plan of operation for the upcoming school year. This plan will include a list of officers, an estimate of annual expenses and disbursements, as well as a proposed listing of fund-raising and activities for the organization.

- (f) School-related organizations should ensure that all proper licenses have been procured for proposed fund-raising activities. Proper documentation to this effect must be on file with the Superintendent.
- (g) School-related organizations must file forms with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) when required by law.
- (h) A procedure must be in place for all financial transactions for the school-related organization and these transactions must be reflected in the organization's minutes. Financial records and minutes should be retained for a minimum of seven (7) years.
- (i) Any request for changes in the plan submitted to the District regarding fund-raising activities for the organization should be submitted sixty (60) days prior to the approval date by the Board.
- (j) All plans submitted for approval should be reviewed by the Superintendent, who will make a recommendation to the Board.
- (k) The fiscal year for all school-related organizations shall be from July 1 through June 30.
- (l) If the District is concerned about the potential financial mismanagement of a school-related organization, then the District may require an audit by its independent accounting firm. If an audit is deemed necessary, then the school-related organization will pay for the audit from its own funds. Furthermore, if an audit is deemed necessary, the operations of the school-related organization may be suspended by the Board during the pendency of the audit.

Adopted: 2/13/14

1428 VISITORS

Purpose

The Board welcomes and encourages interest by the public in educational programs and activities of the School District. The Board recognizes that such interest may result in visits to the School District by members of the public. The Board adopts this Policy to ensure order in the schools of the School District and to protect the safety and welfare of students and employees of the School District.

Definitions

Visitor – an individual whose actions do not rise to the level of a volunteer. A visitor is an individual who poses no real threat to the safety of children because steps are taken within the school setting to ensure that a visitor has no direct contact with one or more children without supervision by an employee of the School District at all times and who is not responsible for the welfare of one or more children. The Board directs the Superintendent to institute procedures to ensure that visitors will have no direct contact with children without a school employee being present at all times.

Volunteer – an adult serving in an unpaid position who is responsible for the welfare of one or more children or has direct contact with one or more children.

Delegation of Responsibility

In accordance with both Pennsylvania and Federal statutes and regulations, the Superintendent and the building principal each have the authority to prohibit the entry of any individual to a school building.

Guidelines

1. Individuals wishing to attend a school program or visit a classroom should make arrangements in advance with the school office or classroom teacher in that building.
2. Upon arrival at the school, visitors must utilize the kiosk to register and to obtain a visitor's badge and then sign out at the kiosk upon departure and/or sign-in and out at the office.
3. Only the main entrances to each school building shall be used by visitors.

1. All staff members shall be responsible for requiring a visitor to demonstrate that he/she has a visitor badge, has registered at the school office and received authorization to be present for the purpose of conducting business.
2. Visitors must be escorted by a staff member to the area that they are visiting and must be escorted to the school office by a staff member after their visit has concluded.
3. Parents/guardians dropping off materials, clothing, food and so forth to their student must follow all visitation guidelines listed above.
4. No visitor may work with or confer with a student in school without the approval of the building principal and/or classroom teacher.
5. If an emergency requires that a student be called to the school office to meet a visitor, the building principal or designee shall be present during the meeting.
6. The building principal and/or the classroom teacher have the authority to ask a visitor to leave if the visitor disrupts the classroom routine, educational program or daily schedule, or if a visitor violates Board Policy. Failure to leave when asked or repeated documented disruptions may result in a loss of visitation privileges.
7. The failure to comply with these Guidelines will result in more limited access to the school by the visitor.

Military Personnel

Members of the active and retired Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, shall be permitted to:

1. Visit and meet with School District employees and students when such visit is in compliance with this Board Policy and the procedures of the School District.
2. Wear official military uniforms while present on School District property.

Miscellaneous

1. No visitor badge will be required at sporting events, open-houses, or other events of the School District as determined by the Superintendent or designee. However, individuals attending school-sponsored events or athletic events are required to remain in those areas authorized for those individuals attending such events.

3. Authorized emergency personnel responding to an emergency situation are excluded from complying with the provisions of this Policy.
4. Visitors must remain only in those areas that they have been granted permission to visit.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this Policy.

Adopted: 4/10/17

1500 STUDENT and STAFF MEMORIALS

1. Memorials will be accepted for students who were enrolled in the School District at the time of their death or for a staff member who was employed by the School District at the time of their death. Memorials may only be established with the approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.
2. Appropriate memorials may include:
 - a. A memorial scholarship administered by the Union City Area School District Foundation.
 - b. Purchase of library books, CD ROMS, and furniture/equipment, such as bookcases, display cases, benches and playground equipment with the approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee. Library books may have the inscription "Donated In Memory Of" or "In Memory Of" and the legal name of the student or staff member.
 - c. The words "In Memory Of" and the legal name of the deceased staff member and the dates of birth and death may be included in the yearbook published during the year of the staff member's death. For a deceased student, "In Memory Of" and the legal name of the deceased student may be included in the yearbook of the class in which the deceased student would have graduated. Pictures of the deceased staff member or deceased student, if available, may be included in the yearbook. The purchase of advertisements in memory of a deceased student or deceased staff member will not be allowed in the yearbook.
 - d. If a plaque is displayed, the top of the plaque will be engraved with the words "In Memory". Individual plaques will include the legal name of the deceased student or staff member and may include the dates of birth and death. Individual plaques for staff members will be removed after ten (10) years and offered to the family of the deceased staff member. Individual plaques for students will be removed at the end of the school year in which the student would have graduated or no later than one year following the date the student would have graduated and offered to the family of the deceased student.
3. Memorials that will not be acceptable are those that:
 - a. May alter the conduct of a regular school day.
 - b. Alter school activities or the school activity schedule.

- c. Require the retirement or discontinued use of school property. The number on a deceased student's athletic jersey can be retired and the athletic jersey can be given to the deceased student's family, but not displayed on School District property.
 - d. Infringe on the separation of church and state.
 - e. Involve the naming of any School District building or portion thereof after a deceased student or deceased staff member unless consent is given by the Board of School Directors.
- 4. Any memorial donor desiring a tax-deductible contribution must send a monetary contribution to the Union City Area School District Foundation.

Adopted: 6/14/04

1801 PUBLIC RECORDS

The Board recognizes the importance of public records as the record of the School District's actions and the repository of information about this School District. The public has the right to access and procure copies of public records, with certain exceptions, subject to law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

Financial record - any account, voucher or contract dealing with the receipt or disbursement of funds or acquisition, use or disposal of services, supplies, materials, equipment or property; or the salary or other payments or expenses paid to an officer or employee, including the individual's name and title; and a financial audit report, excluding the audit's underlying work papers.

Public record - a record, including a financial record, that is not protected by a defined privilege or is not exempt from being disclosed under one of the exemptions in Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law or under other federal or state law or regulation, or judicial decree or order.

Record - information, regardless of physical form or characteristics, that documents a School District transaction or activity and is created, received or retained pursuant to law or in connection with a School District transaction, business or activity, including: a document; paper; letter; map; book; tape; photograph; film or sound recording; information stored or maintained electronically; and a data-processed or image-processed document.

Response - the School District's notice informing a requester of a granting of access to a record or the School District's written notice to a requester granting, denying, or partially granting and partially denying access to a requested record.

Requester - a legal resident of the United States, or an agency, who requests access to a record.

The Board shall make the School District's public records available for access and duplication to a requester, in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations, if any such regulations are adopted.

The Board shall designate an Open Records Officer, who shall be responsible to:

1. Receive written requests for access to records submitted to the School District.
2. Review and respond to written requests in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

3. Direct requests to other appropriate individuals in the School District or in another agency.
4. Track the School District's progress in responding to requests.
5. Issue interim and final responses to submitted requests.
6. Ensure School District staff are trained to perform assigned job functions relative to requests for access to records.

Upon receiving a request for access to a record, the Open Records Officer shall:

1. Note the date of receipt on the written request.
2. Compute and note on the written request the day on which the five-day period for response will expire.
3. Maintain an electronic or paper copy of the written request, including all documents submitted with the request, until the request has been fulfilled.
4. If the written request is denied, maintain the written request for thirty (30) days or, if an appeal is filed, until a final determination is issued or the appeal is deemed denied.

Requesters may access and procure copies of the public records of the School District during the regular business hours of the Administration Office.

A requester's right of access does not include the right to remove a record from the control or supervision of the Open Records Officer.

The School District shall not limit the number of records requested.

When responding to a request for access, the School District is not required to create a record that does not exist nor to compile, maintain, format or organize a record in a manner which the School District does not currently use.

Information shall be made available to individuals with disabilities in an appropriate format, upon request and with sufficient advance notice.

The School District shall post at the Administration Office and on the School District's web site, the following information:

1. Contact information for the Open Records Officer.
2. Contact information for the state's Office of Open Records or other applicable appeals officer.

3. A form which may be used to file a request, with a notation that the state Office of Open Records form may also be used if the School District decides to create its own form.
4. Board policy, administrative regulations and procedures governing requests for access to the School District's public records.

A. Request For Access

A written request for access to a public record must be addressed to the Open Records Officer.

Written requests may be submitted to the School District in person, by mail, to a designated facsimile machine, and to a designated e-mail address.

Each request must include the following information:

1. Identification or description of the requested record, in sufficient detail.
2. Name and address of the individual to receive the School District's response.

The School District shall not require an explanation of the reason for the request or the intended use of the requested record, unless otherwise required by law.

B. Fees

Except for the duplication fee established by the state, the Board shall approve a list of reasonable fees relative to requests for public records. The School District shall maintain a list of applicable fees and disseminate the list to requesters.

No fee may be imposed for review of a record to determine whether the record is subject to access under law.

Prior to granting access, the School District may require prepayment of estimated fees when the fees required to fulfill the request are expected to exceed \$100.

The Superintendent may waive duplication fees when the requester duplicates the record or the Superintendent deems it is in the public interest to do so.

C. Response To Request

District employees shall be directed to immediately forward requests for access to public records to the Open Records Officer.

Upon receipt of a written request for access to a record, the Open Records Officer shall determine if the requested record is a public record and if the District has possession, custody or control of that record.

The Open Records Officer shall respond as promptly as possible under the existing circumstances, and the initial response time shall not exceed five (5) business days from the date the written request is received by the Open Records Officer.

The initial response shall grant access to the requested record; deny access to the requested record; partially grant and partially deny access to the requested record; or notify the requester of the need for an extension of time to fully respond.

If the School District fails to respond to a request within five (5) business days of receipt, the request for access shall be deemed denied.

Extension Of Time

If the Open Records Officer determines that an extension of time is required to respond to a request, in accordance with the factors stated in law, written notice shall be sent within five (5) business days of receipt of request. The notice shall indicate that the request for access is being reviewed, the reason that the review requires an extension, a reasonable date when the response is expected, and an estimate of applicable fees owed when the record becomes available.

Up to a thirty (30) day extension for one (1) of the listed reasons does not require the consent of the requester. If the response is not given by the specified date, it shall be deemed denied on the day following that date.

A requester may consent in writing to an extension that exceeds thirty (30) days, in which case the request shall be deemed denied on the day following the date specified in the notice if the Open Records Officer has not provided a response by that date.

Granting Of Request

If the Open Records Officer determines that the request will be granted, the response shall inform the requester that access is granted. When a request is granted, the response shall note that access to the requested records will be provided by (1) including information on the regular business hours of the administration office where the records can be inspected; (2) providing electronic access to the records; (3) stating where the requester may go to inspect the records; (4) supplying a link to the information which is contained on a publically accessible site; or (5) making arrangements to supply the records upon payment of all fees.

A public record shall be provided to the requester in the medium requested if it exists in that form; otherwise, it shall be provided in its existing medium. However, the School District is not required to permit use of its computers.

The Open Records Officer may respond to a records request by notifying the requester that the record is available through publicly accessible electronic means or that the School District shall provide access to inspect the record electronically. If the requester, within thirty (30) days following receipt of the School District's notice, submits a written request to have the record converted to paper, the School District shall provide access in printed form within five (5) days of receipt of the request for conversion to paper. Appropriate copying fees shall be assessed to the requester when records are converted to paper.

A public record that the School District does not possess but is possessed by a third party with whom the School District has contracted to perform a governmental function and which directly relates to that governmental function shall be considered a public record of the School District. When the School District contracts with such a third party, the School District should require the contractor to agree in writing to comply with requests for such records and to provide the School District with the requested record in a timely manner to allow the School District to comply with law.

If the Open Records Officer determines that a public record contains information both subject to and not subject to access, the Open Records Officer shall grant access to the information subject to access and deny access to the information not subject to access. The Open Records Officer shall redact from the record the information that is not subject to access. The Open Records Officer shall not deny access to a record if information is able to be redacted.

If the Open Records Officer responds to a requester that a copy of the requested record is available for delivery at the administration office and the requester does not retrieve the record within sixty (60) days of the School District's response, the School District shall dispose of the copy and retain any fees paid to date.

Notification To Third Parties

When the School District produces a record that is not a public record in response to a request, the Open Records Officer shall notify any third party that provided the record to the School District, the person that is the subject of the record, and the requester.

The Open Records Officer shall notify a third party of a record request if the requested record contains a trade secret or confidential proprietary information, in accordance with law and administrative regulations, if any are adopted.

Denial Of Request

If the Open Records Officer denies a request for access to a record, whether in whole or in part, a written response shall be sent within five (5) business days of receipt of the request. The response denying the request shall include the following:

1. Description of the record requested.
2. Specific reasons for denial, including a citation of supporting legal authority.

3. Name, title, business address, business telephone number, and signature of the Open Records Officer on whose authority the denial is issued.
4. Date of the response.
5. Procedure for the requester to appeal a denial of access.

The Open Records Officer may deny a request for access to a record if the requester has made repeated requests for that same record and the repeated requests have placed an unreasonable burden on the School District.

The Open Records Officer may deny a request for access to a record when timely access is not possible due to a disaster, or when access may cause physical damage or irreparable harm to the record. To the extent possible, a record's contents shall be made accessible even when the record is physically unavailable.

It shall be deemed a partial denial when information contained on a public record and that is not subject to access is redacted.

If a written request for access to a record is denied or deemed denied, the requester may file an appeal with the state's Office of Open Records within fifteen (15) business days of the mailing date of the Open Records Officer's response or deemed denial.

Adopted: 12/1/08
Revised: 9/14/17

3000**BUSINESS**

3260	Obsolete Equipment
3355	Control and Accounting of School District Property and Equipment
3516	Telephones
3532	Insurance - Liability
3545	Transportation
3546	Transportation Policy
3547	Drug Testing – School Bus Drivers
3548	Notification of Criminal Offense by School Transportation Drivers
3800	Privacy of Employee and Student Protected Health Information

3260

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

The Superintendent will be authorized to dispose of obsolete equipment by selling it to the highest bidder and will report all such transactions to the Board.

**3355 CONTROL AND ACCOUNTING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY
AND EQUIPMENT**

It will be the responsibility of the Business Manager, in cooperation with the building principals, to insure that an inventory of all equipment is maintained on a current basis. Copies of inventories will be filed in the Business Manager's office.

All equipment must be identified with school district identification. Purchased Capital Assets greater than \$500.00 will be included in the Fixed Asset Management System of the District.

The Superintendent will assure an annual update of the property record and inventory control report.

Revised: 4/8/02

3516 TELEPHONES

It is the policy of the Union City Area School District to provide adequate telephone service for business purposes in each of its schools in the most economical manner possible in terms of cost, personnel and time.

It is also the policy of the Union City Area School District to request the local telephone service to install pay stations in each of its schools for the convenience of pupils, teachers and patrons provided such service is cost free to the school system.

3532 INSURANCE - LIABILITY

The Board of Education will purchase with district funds the type and amount of insurance necessary to protect itself as a corporate body, its individual members, its appointed officers, and its employees from financial loss arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of alleged negligence or other act resulting in accidental injury to any person or in property damage within or without the school buildings while the above named insured are acting in the discharge of their duties within the scope of their employment and/or under the direction of the Board.

3545 TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will generally be provided only for those pupils who live one or more miles away from the school they attend.

Elementary pupils will be transported directly from the bus stops nearest their homes to the school they attend, while secondary pupils may be required to make transfers en route.

A schedule of school bus routes is available for public inspection at the Business Manager's Office.

It is the policy of the Union City Area School Board to furnish students of the District transportation of the quality which would remain equal or above the standards mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3546 TRANSPORTATION POLICY

The Union City Area School Board of School Directors maintains that the following school bus regulations will be in force during all school-related activities for which a school district owned or contracted vehicle is used:

1. The bus driver is considered to be the disciplinarian on his/her bus, and will enforce all the regulations and rules having a bearing upon the safety of all his/her passengers and his/her vehicle.
2. The Administration retains the right to use a just punishment for violations, depending upon the severity of the violation, up to temporary suspension of riding privileges, pending a Board hearing.
3. Any change in scheduled stops would require permission of the respective bus driver, who must first have signed note by the parent or guardian, condoning this change.
4. Students may be assigned seats at the discretion of the driver.
5. The bus driver may contact the student's respective principal for information or suggestions as to how to correct a discipline problem.
6. The students will maintain a type of conduct while aboard, boarding and departing from a school bus that would be acceptable in the classrooms of this district. Any misconduct aboard, boarding or departing from the bus will be considered hazardous and a violation of these regulations.

Students are expected to:

- A. Be at the bus stop on time
 - B. Board the bus in an orderly manner
 - C. Refrain from loud talking
 - D. Refrain from smoking
 - E. Find a seat and remain seated
 - F. Refrain from the use of vulgar and abusive language
 - G. Refrain from throwing anything inside or outside the bus
 - H. Refrain from the illegal use of the emergency door
 - I. Keep the bus clean
 - J. Refrain from fighting
 - K. Obey the bus driver
 - L. Refrain from all other obvious discourtesies
7. Older students are expected to help look after the safety of younger students and to be good examples for the younger students to follow.
 8. The bus driver has the authority to discipline disruptive students by temporarily suspending their riding privileges. [Suspension records of students will be kept annually and purged at the start of the next school year]. The following procedure is to be followed:

First Offense: The bus driver will issue a misconduct report. The misconduct report must be signed by parent or guardian and returned to the bus driver before the student will be allowed to ride the bus again.

Second Offense: The bus driver will issue a misconduct report. The contractor will set up a meeting with the parents, student(s) and bus driver to review the actions of the student to assure responsible behavior of the student in the future report of this meeting will be made to the Business Manager or the Superintendent.

Third Offense: The bus driver will issue a misconduct report notifying the parent or guardian that the student(s) will be required to appear at the next regular scheduled Board meeting, at which time a hearing will be held and the privilege of riding the bus may be withdrawn.

2. Flagrant violations can result in immediate suspension of riding privileges by the driver and subsequent permanent suspension at the next regular School Board meeting, at which time the student(s) and parents, guardians would be expected to be present for the hearing.

It is the policy of the Union City Area School District to be responsible, in conjunction with our contracted carrier, for all aspects of pupil transportation including the following:

- 1) Maintain rosters of pupils to be transported on each school bus run and trip.
- 2) Maintain records of mileage logs and identification of pupil distances from home to pertinent bus loading zones.
- 3) The Union City Area School Board will permit video equipment to be used on transportation vehicles from disciplinary/safety purposes contracted by the District at contractor's cost.

3547

DRUG TESTING - SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

(Per State Requirements -See Appendix)

3548 NOTIFICATION OF CRIMINAL OFFENSE BY SCHOOL
TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS

1. School transportation drivers must notify their employer (the independent contractor for school transportation services to the Union City Area School District) within five (5) days of receipt of being charged with, convicted of, a criminal offense, including, but not limited to violations involving a motor vehicle.
2. Within five (5) days of receipt of this information, a representative of the independent contractor shall provide the information furnished by the school transportation driver to the Superintendent of the School District. Upon receipt of this information, the Superintendent will determine whether the school transportation driver will continue to remain in contact with children.
3. The independent contractor, who provides school transportation services to the School District, will agree to incorporate the provisions of this policy in the Contract for Transportation of School Pupils with the School District. In addition, the independent contractor agrees to develop a written procedure for its employees in order to implement this Board Policy.

Adopted: 10/9/06

3800

PRIVACY OF EMPLOYEE and STUDENT PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

1. The District is committed to the privacy of protected health information ("PHI") pertaining to its students and employees. The District shall comply with all federal and state laws and regulations concerning the privacy of PHI, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA"). The District shall develop and implement policies and procedures for each component of its operations that deal with the PHI of its employees or students, including the health plan it sponsors for its employees and any health care it provides to its students.
2. The District shall keep the PHI of all employees and students in strict confidence and will only use or disclose such information in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.
3. The District shall comply with all administrative requirements under relevant federal and state laws and regulations and will uphold the rights of students and employees with respect to their PHI.
4. Any employee of the District who violates any federal or state law or regulation or any policy or procedure adopted by the Board or the District's Administration regarding the PHI of an employee or student shall be subject to discipline including possible termination of employment. Any business associate of the District that creates or receives PHI for or on behalf of the District that does not provide reasonable assurances that such PHI will be safeguarded, or breaches such assurances, shall be subject to having its agreement with the District terminated.

Adopted 4/14/03

4000**PERSONNEL**

4201

Volunteers

4202

Independent Contractors

4446

Smoking/Tobacco Use

4600

Federal Programs Policy – Conflict of Interest

4201 **VOLUNTEERS**

1. The Board encourages the use of volunteers for the benefit of the School District and its students. The Board also recognizes its responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of students of the School District, and as a result of that obligation, it develops this Policy.

2. Definitions.

Adult – an individual who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Child – an individual who is under eighteen (18) years of age.

Parent – a biological parent, adoptive parent or legal guardian.

Perpetrator – an individual who has committed child abuse as defined in the Child Protective Services Law.

Volunteer – an adult serving in an unpaid position who is responsible for the welfare of one or more children or has direct contact with one or more children.

Direct contact with children –the care, supervision, guidance or control of one or more children or routine interaction with one or more children.

Responsible for the welfare of one or more children –an adult providing permanent or temporary care, supervision, training, or control of a child in lieu of parental care, supervision or control, including direct or regular contact with a child or children through any program, activity or service sponsored by the School District or one of its schools.

Visitor - an individual whose actions do not rise to the level of a volunteer. A visitor is an individual who poses no real threat to the safety of children because steps are taken within the school setting to ensure that a visitor has no direct contact with one or more children without supervision by an employee of the School District at all times and who is not responsible for the welfare of one or more children. The Board directs the Superintendent to institute procedures to ensure that visitors will have no direct contact with children without a school employee being present at all times.

New Volunteers

1. All new volunteers must complete a new volunteer application and be approved by the Board prior to providing volunteer services to the School District.
2. All new volunteers must submit the following background check and related documents and information to the Office of the Superintendent prior to providing volunteer services:
 - a. Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Report dated no more than five years prior to the date of the application.
 - b. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Child Abuse Report dated no more than five years prior to the date of the application.
 - c. Federal Criminal History Report. A Federal Criminal History Report is not required for a volunteer applicant who provides an affidavit that he/she has been a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the entirety of the previous ten-year period.
 - 1) If the volunteer applicant has not been a resident of this Commonwealth during the entirety of the previous ten-year period, and has received certification pursuant to Section 6344(b)(3) of the Child Protective Services Law at any time since establishing residency in this Commonwealth, is not disqualified from service pursuant to the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law, and has not been convicted of an offense either the same or similar in nature to those crimes listed in the Child Protective Services Law, the volunteer applicant shall provide a copy of the certification to the School District employee responsible for the selection of volunteers.
 - 2) If the volunteer applicant has not been a resident of Pennsylvania during the entirety of the previous ten-year period and has not received certification pursuant to Section 6344(b)(3) of the Child Protective Services Law at any time since establishing residency in this Commonwealth, the applicant is required to obtain a Federal Criminal History Report and he/she is responsible to pay the required fee for this report and provide a copy of that certification to the School District employee responsible for the selection of volunteers.

- d. PDE-6004 Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification Form dated as of the date of the application. This form provides written reporting of any arrest or conviction for an offense enumerated under 24 P.S. §1-111 (e) and (f.1) and provides notification of whether the applicant has been named as a perpetrator of a founded report of child abuse within the past five (5) years as defined by the Child Protective Services Law. The volunteer will also use this form to provide written notice to the School District within seventy-two (72) hours after a subsequent arrest or conviction for an offense enumerated under 24 P.S. §1-111 (e) and (f.1) or being named in a report of child abuse.
 - e. A dated and signed user's signature sheet regarding receipt of School Board policies #7800 "Acceptable Use of Instruments of Technology," #7900 "Use of Social Media" and #4201 "Volunteers."
 - f. The volunteer applicant has obtained a written statement, which sets forth that a Tuberculin skin test has been administered and indicates no evidence of active infectious tuberculosis dated no more than twelve months prior to the date the School District receives the statement. (See Regulations from the Pennsylvania Advisory Health Board and the Public School Code of 1949, as amended for exceptions and further requirements.)
3. No new volunteer applicant shall begin service as a volunteer until:
- a. The volunteer applicant has complied with the above mandatory background check requirements and completed and submitted all required documents;
 - b. The School District has evaluated the results; and
 - c. The Board has formally approved the volunteer applicant to serve as a volunteer by appropriate Board Resolution.

Returning Volunteers

- A. Individuals who were approved by the Board as volunteers during the prior school year shall not begin service as a volunteer in a new school year until:
- a. The returning volunteer completes and submits a current "Returning Volunteer Application,"
 - b. The School District has evaluated the mandatory background checks on file to ascertain that they remain current. Background checks that are more than five years (60 mos.) old are no longer valid. New background checks must be obtained and submitted to the School District employee responsible for the selection of volunteers.

- c. The Board has formally approved the individual to serve once again as a volunteer by appropriate Board Resolution.

All Volunteers

1. Volunteer applicants are not required to pay the fees for the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Report.
2. Volunteer applicants are not required to pay the fees for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Child Abuse Report.
3. If a volunteer applicant's background check reports (certifications) are current and the volunteer applicant completes and signs the Affidavit or provides a Federal Criminal History Report, then the individual may use his/her existing certifications to apply as a volunteer. Existing volunteers and volunteer applicants, who have the required certifications, must obtain new certifications every sixty (60) months from the date of the most recent certification.
4. All volunteers are required to provide written notice to the School District of arrests, convictions or being named in a report of child abuse, which notice will be on the PDE-6004 Form. A volunteer's failure to accurately report such arrests, convictions or being named in a report of child abuse within seventy-two (72) hours may subject the volunteer to criminal prosecution and removal as a volunteer.
5. Prior to commencing his/her service as a volunteer, the volunteer must be informed by the appropriate School District official that he/she is required by law to report any reasonable belief that a child is a victim of child abuse.
6. Each volunteer shall keep strictly confidential all information the volunteer may receive about students during the course of performing volunteer services and shall follow all of the requirements of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). No volunteer shall be permitted to access, review, disclose, or use confidential student information, or participate in conversations in which confidential student information is discussed unless knowledge of that student information is necessary for the volunteer to fulfill his/her responsibilities.
7. A volunteer is not an employee of the School District and shall not receive any compensation or benefits, statutory or otherwise, for services rendered. The position of a volunteer is not a right, but a privilege conferred upon the volunteer by the Board. The School District reserves the right to suspend or terminate the privilege to serve as a volunteer at any time with or without cause.

Adopted: 10/23/00

Revised: 9/8/03, 8/13/07, 6/11/15, 6/9/16

4202 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

1. The School District uses the services of independent contractors for a variety of purposes. The Board recognizes its responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of students of the School District, and as a result of that obligation, it develops this Policy.

2. Definitions.

Independent contractor - any organization or individual who provides a program, activity or service to the School District. The term does not include an individual or organization who has no direct contact with children.

Employee of independent contractor - an individual who is employed by an independent contractor that provides a program, activity or service to the School District. The term does not include an individual who has no direct contact with children.

Direct contact with children - the care, supervision, guidance or control of one or more children, the routine interaction with one or more children, or the possibility of routine interaction with one or more children.

3. Prior to an independent contractor offering employment to an applicant who will have or may have direct contact with children in the School District's buildings and/or its grounds, the independent contractor must require the applicant to complete, date, and sign the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Sexual Misconduct/Abuse Disclosure Release form. The applicant's completion of this form must be done pursuant to the instructions provided with the form and in accordance with the provisions of Section 111.1 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended. A copy of this form is attached to this Policy.

- a. The employment history review required to be conducted by independent contractors shall be performed either prior to the time of the initial hiring of the employee, who will perform work for the School District in a position involving direct contact with children or prior to the assignment of an existing employee to perform work for the School District in a position involving direct contact with children. The employment history review by the independent contractor shall remain valid as long as the employee remains employed by the same independent contractor even if assigned to perform work for other school entities.

An independent contractor shall maintain records documenting employment history reviews for all employees who will or may have direct contact with one or more children and shall provide the School District for whom an employee is assigned to perform work access to the records pertaining to that employee if he or she will or may have direct contact with one or more children.

- b. Prior to assigning an employee to perform work for the School District in a position that will or may have direct contact with one or more children, the independent contractor must inform the School District of any instance pertaining to any aspect of child abuse as set forth in Section 111.1 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.
- 4. Independent contractors and their employees shall not commence work for the School District in positions involving direct contact with one or more children until the following background check and related documents and information are submitted to the Office of the Superintendent:
 - a. Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Report.
 - b. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Child Abuse Report.
 - c. Federal Criminal History Report.
 - d. PDE-6004 Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification form. This form is a written statement, which sets forth that the independent contractor or an employee of the independent contractor has never been arrested or convicted of certain crimes specified in Section 111 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended. The independent contractor or an employee of the independent contractor must also set forth in this form whether he/she has been named as a perpetrator in a founded or indicated report of child abuse. Furthermore, if in the future the independent contractor or an employee of the independent contractor is arrested or convicted for any such offense or is named as a perpetrator in a founded or indicated report of child abuse, then the independent contractor will provide written notice to the School District within seventy-two (72) hours of such event, which will be set forth in the PDE-6004 form, or an employee of the independent contractor will provide immediate written notice to his or her employer who will notify the School District within seventy-two (72) hours of such event, which notice will be set forth in PDE-6004 form.
- 5. No independent contractor or an employee of an independent contractor shall begin work for the School District in positions involving direct contact with one or more children until the independent contractor or employee of the independent contractor has complied with the above mandatory background check requirements and the School District has evaluated the results.

6. The independent contractors will pay the required fees for background check reports. Independent contractors and their employees who may or will have direct contact with one or more children of the School District must also provide new background check reports as set forth in this Policy within thirty-six (36) months from the date of the most recent background check report of the same type.
7. Prior to commencing work for the School District as an independent contractor, the independent contractor must be informed by the appropriate School District official that the independent contractor or an employee of an independent contractor is required to report any reasonable belief that a child is a victim of child abuse.
8. Independent contractors and employees of independent contractors who have direct contact with one or more children must undergo mandatory training on child abuse recognition and reporting. The training shall comply with the provisions set forth in Section 1205.6 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended. Independent contractors and employees of independent contractors who have direct contact with one or more children must complete a minimum of three (3) hours of training every five (5) years. This training may be provided through the Internet or other distance communications systems.

Adopted: 6/11/15

4446 SMOKING/TOBACCO USE

Union City Area School District recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, employees, school volunteers and school visitors.

For purposes of this policy, **tobacco use** shall be defined as use and/or possession of a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other lighted smoking product and smokeless tobacco in any form.

No student, employee, school volunteer or school visitor is permitted to use any tobacco product at any time, including non-school hours, in any school building; on any school property, including vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school; or at any school-sponsored event.

The School/School District may initiate prosecution of a student who possesses or uses tobacco in violation of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians, employees, school volunteers, and school visitors about the School/School District's tobacco use policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, parent newsletters, posted notices, Code of Student Conduct and Discipline Plan and other efficient methods.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy.

Incidents of possession, use and sale of tobacco in violation of this policy by any person on school property shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.

Revised/re-titled: 5/12/03

Revised: 1/12/12

4600**FEDERAL PROGRAMS POLICY – CONFLICT OF INTEREST****Standards of Conduct**

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1), the District maintains the following standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award, and, administration of contracts.

No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

The employees, officers, and agents of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts unless the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. A gift that is of nominal value is one whose value is \$25.00 or less.

The definitions of the terms set forth in the Standards of Conduct are the same definitions as set forth in the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act (see 65 Pa.C.S. Sections 1101 et seq.).

Reports of conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest are to be made to the Superintendent of the District. If the Superintendent is involved in a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest, then the report is to be made to the District's Board President.

If there is a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest, then the District employee must recuse himself or herself from the transaction in question and note this recusal by providing a written memorandum to the District's Board Secretary, which sets forth the nature of the conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest.

Training will be provided on an annual basis to all employees, officers, and agents of the District, who are subject to this Policy by the Superintendent of the District or his or her designee. Employees, officers, and agents of the District, who are subject to this Policy, will sign a certification that they have received and reviewed this Policy.

Organizational Conflicts

All affiliates of the District must ensure that they and their members review and comply with the provisions of this Policy in order to protect the integrity of the District with respect to its obligations under this Policy.

Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary actions to be taken against an employee or officer of the District, who violates the Standards of Conduct set forth above, range from a written reprimand to termination of employment by the District depending on the nature of the violation. With respect to agents of the District, the disciplinary actions will range from a written warning to termination of the District's relationship with the agent depending on the nature of the violation.

Adopted: 6/9/16

5000**STUDENTS**

5137	Pledge of Allegiance
5143	Insurance
5145	Free and Reduced Price Breakfast/Lunch
5146	Nutrition
5156.2	Use of Narcan
5160	Security
5162	Infectious Diseases – Policy for Management of Infectious Diseases
5163	Vandalism
5300	Suicide Awareness and Prevention
5800	Prevention of Child Abuse
5900	Antihazing
5901	Audio Interception on School Buses and School Vehicles

5137 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

It is the responsibility of every citizen to show proper respect for his country and its flag. Students may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and may refrain from saluting the Flag on the basis of personal belief or religious convictions. Students who choose to refrain from such participation shall respect the rights and interests of classmates who do wish to participate.

Adopted: 4/29/08

5143 INSURANCE

A group personal accident insurance plan may be made available to pupils at the start of each school year. Pupils enrolling in such a plan will do so at their own expense.

All students involved in extracurricular activities including athletics, marching band, and groups involved beyond the regular school day must present evidence of medical insurance coverage by parents or purchase the approved student insurance as approved by the School Board.

5145 FREE AND REDUCED PRICED BREAKFAST/LUNCH

Free and reduced price breakfast/lunch policy will be revised each year in accordance with the State and Federal regulations.

5146

NUTRITION

To encourage good nutrition, proper diet and eating habits, the Board will continue the policies established by the Department of Education-National School Lunch Program or mandated by the state legislature in this area.

Revised: 10/9/06

5156.2 USE OF NARCAN

Purpose

Since there is a risk of overdose from opioids by secondary school students of the School District, the Board adopts this Policy in order to deal with this risk.

Guidelines

1. Naloxone is a medication that can treat and reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug. Narcan Nasal Spray (Narcan) is a brand name for Naloxone. The Board authorizes the administration of Narcan by the school nurse to students exhibiting signs of an opioid overdose on School District property.
2. The School District may be entitled to a free, two-dose carton of Narcan for its Middle School/High School from a statewide partnership with Adapt Pharma. As a prerequisite to receiving a free, two-dose carton of Narcan, the School District must submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Health which provides the following information:
 2. A copy of the standing order from the School District's physician;
 3. A copy of this Policy as well as a statement from the Middle School/High School Principal, which sets forth that Narcan is a medication that can be administered to students on School District property; and
 4. Verification that the school nurse has completed a Narcan training program approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
1. The school nurse shall be responsible for the administration of Narcan on School District property.
2. The school nurse shall develop a plan for informing students, staff, and parents/guardians pertaining to the availability of Narcan to treat an opioid drug overdose.
3. The school nurse must complete a Narcan training program approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

4. Narcan will be stored in a secure location in the school nurse's office. It shall be the responsibility of the school nurse to maintain records pertaining to the Narcan received by the School District in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the storage and maintenance of Narcan.
5. The contents of this Policy shall be set forth in the Student Handbook of the Union City Area Middle School/High School. The contents of this Policy shall also be posted on the School District's website.
6. In the event that any provisions of this Policy are in conflict with any provisions set forth in Board Policy 5156, the provisions of this Policy will control.

Protocol for an Opioid Overdose.

1. When confronted with a student who may be experiencing an opioid overdose, an employee or student of the School District must immediately seek medical help by contacting the school nurse and by dialing 911.
2. The school nurse should immediately check for signs of an opioid overdose. The school nurse should administer Narcan as instructed in the training received from the Pennsylvania Department of Health if she/he believes that a student is exhibiting signs of an opioid overdose.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of a student who experienced an opioid overdose as soon as possible.
4. The Superintendent or designee shall report any incident involving any opioid overdose by a student to the Police Department of the Borough of Union City. The Superintendent shall also report any incident involving an opioid overdose by a student to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office for Safe Schools.
5. Any student who experiences an opioid overdose shall be referred to the School District's Student Assistance Program.
6. Any student who experiences an opioid overdose on School District property, at school-sponsored events, which includes attending and/or participating at athletic events in other school districts and on school buses or other vehicles, which transport students to and from school or a school-sponsored event, will be subject to the Student Discipline Code of Conduct as set forth in the Student Handbook of the Union City Area Middle School/High School.

Adopted: 6/9/16

5160**SECURITY**

The Superintendent will develop and implement procedures to ensure the security of students while on school property. As the district is legally responsible for the safety of the students during the time they are in attendance, including the time spent going to and from their homes, these procedures shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Protection of students from *unauthorized release* from school property.

Unauthorized release is defined as the taking of a student from school property without the consent of the responsible parent or guardian. In the event of a parental separation, the student's domiciled parent is the only responsible one unless there are court orders or child welfare orders to the contrary.

2. Limiting entry of all school buildings to those who follow proper procedures for entering and visiting the school building.

5162

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES – POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES****Purpose**

The Union City Area School District has a responsibility to safeguard the health of all students and employees of the School District. The School District must also respect an individual's right of confidentiality to the extent the right does not interfere with the need to prevent an individual from placing others at risk. In light of the spread of infectious disease, the Union City Area School District has promulgated this policy to establish procedures which will attempt to balance the responsibilities of the School District in providing education, safeguarding the health of students, and preserving the confidentiality and right of privacy of said students and employees.

Definitions

"Infected Student" and "Infected Employee" means persons who have been diagnosed as having an infectious disease and persons who are symptomatic carriers, i.e., those who have been infected by an infectious disease and may be capable of transmitting it but who have not developed any symptoms of the infectious disease.

Notification

It shall be the responsibility of the parent(s) of an infected student and the individual responsibility of an affected employee to notify the School District's Superintendent that their son or daughter or the employee has been diagnosed with an infectious disease.

If a School District has a reasonable cause to believe that a student or an employee is infected with an infectious disease, the School District may require said individual to submit to an appropriate medical examination in accordance with Pennsylvania Public School Code, The Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information ACT, 35 P.S. et seq. and the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, 35 P.S. 521.1 et seq.

Adopted: 7/7/98

5163**VANDALISM**

The board has the responsibility for the protection, maintenance, upkeep and judicious use of the properties of the district, which include the land, buildings, equipment and materials that make up the physical assets of the Union City Area school District.

A serious concern of the Board, Administration, and community is the prevention of willful and malicious destruction of school property.

It will be the policy of the Board to hold responsible and/or prosecute any person(s) who will willfully and maliciously break into, enter, deface, write, mark or place any obscene or improper matter upon, any public school building, or other building used for school purposes, or other purposes approved by the Board; or will deface, injure, damage or destroy any school furniture, books, paper, maps, charts, equipment, apparatus or other property contained in any district owned building; or will injure, damage or destroy any shade trees, shrubbery, lawns, fences or any other property of an kind upon district-owned grounds. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to offer reasonable rewards in accordance with the School Code to any person(s) who provides information which aids in the apprehension and/or conviction of any person(s) who violates any of the provisions of the preceding paragraph. The Superintendent is further authorized to protect the identity of the person(s) to whom the reward is granted. Legal Reference: Pennsylvania School Code, Section 777, Amended August 24, 1977, P.L. No. 59.

5300**SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**

1. The School District recognizes the prevalence of youth suicide on a national level. The School District supports efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to staff and students; methods of prevention of suicide; methods of intervention for individuals identified as being at risk for committing suicide; methods of responding to a student or staff suicide or suicide attempt; reporting procedures and recommended resources on youth suicide awareness and prevention programs.

2. Definition.

Professional Educator – an individual who holds a Pennsylvania teacher, educational specialist or administrative certification or letter of eligibility.

3. Protocols for administering youth suicide awareness and prevention education to staff and students.

1. The School District will develop an age-appropriate curriculum, which discusses youth suicide awareness and prevention. The School District may incorporate curriculum developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education pertaining to youth suicide awareness and prevention into its existing instructional program.
2. All employees of the School District, including but not limited to, administrators, teachers, secretaries, coaches, school nurses, bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers shall receive information pertaining to risk factors, warning signs, response procedures, referral resources, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention. Furthermore, all bus and van drivers employed by independent contractors to transport students of the School District and all student teachers shall receive information regarding risk factors, warning signs, response procedures, referral resources, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention.
3. The School District shall include in its professional development plan four (4) hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention every five (5) years for all professional educators in school buildings serving students in grades 6 through 12.

4. Methods of prevention of suicide.

A. All employees of the School District are required to report any student at risk of committing suicide to a building principal, a guidance counselor, or a school nurse. The Superintendent of the School District, in consultation with the School District's Student Support Team, will designate a Suicide Prevention Coordinator. This Coordinator will assist the building principals pertaining to issues regarding suicide prevention. All employees of the School District must, whenever they learn that a student is planning to commit suicide or is making an overt attempt to commit suicide, immediately report and/or escort the student in question to the guidance office, the building principal's office, or to the school nurse's office.

B. Seriousness of suicidal threats.

Students who either verbally communicate an intention to commit suicide or demonstrate an intent to commit suicide must be viewed with the utmost seriousness. When such behavior is reported, the guidance counselor, the school nurse, or the building principal will assess the student's level of risk with the School District's Suicide Prevention Coordinator. In compliance with the State Board of Education Regulations set forth at 22 Pa. Code Section 12.12.(b), information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student's parents or guardians, the principal or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student or other persons is clearly in jeopardy.

C. Identification of risk factors for suicide:

- 1) Feelings of hopelessness,
- 2) A detailed suicide plan,
- 3) Written statements discussing suicide,
- 4) History of a previous suicide attempt,
- 5) Self-destructive lifestyle, such as drug or alcohol abuse or dependence,
- 6) Low self-esteem,
- 7) Impulsive behavior,
- 8) Loneliness,
- 9) Depression,
- 10) Disruption of a family relationship, such as death of a family member or divorce, and

11) Mental health issues.

5. Methods of intervention.

- A. Parents/guardians of a student, who may be at risk for committing suicide, shall be notified by the School District as soon as possible. If the School District suspects that the student's risk of suicide is due to abuse or neglect by a parent/guardian, the School District must immediately notify the Office of Children and Youth.
- B. The School District shall document observations, recommendations and actions conducted throughout the intervention and assessment process, including verbal and written communications with students, parents/guardians, and mental health service providers.
- C. The School District's Suicide Prevention Coordinator will develop procedures that address an emotional or mental health safety plan for students identified as being at increased risk of suicide.
- D. The School District will provide students and/or their parents/guardians with contact information for mental health service organizations, which may provide additional assistance to the student and/or his or her family.

6. Methods of responding to a student or employee suicide or suicide attempt.

Development of a plan by the Superintendent to notify students, employees and parents/guardians of students enrolled in the School District of the suicide or suicide attempt. The plan will also involve the Superintendent's response to the media, if necessary. The Superintendent will develop administrative regulations with recommended guidelines for responding to a suicide or an attempt to commit suicide on property of the School District, on a school transportation vehicle, or during a school-sponsored activity or event.

7. Reporting procedures.

Effective documentation is necessary in ensuring the safety of the student and also ensuring communication among school staff, parents/guardians and mental health service providers. All School District employees are responsible for effective documentation of incidents involving suicide prevention, intervention and response. The School District's Suicide Prevention Coordinator will provide the Superintendent with a copy of all reports and documentation regarding the at-risk student. Also, information and reports shall be provided, as appropriate, to guidance counselors and school nurses. All employees of the School District must respect the confidentiality rights of students, but should not permit the issue of confidentiality to interfere in the case of a life-threatening situation involving a student or an employee of the School District.

8. Recommended resources on youth suicide awareness and prevention programs.

The School District shall post suicide prevention resources, which includes current contact information for such resources, on the School District's publicly accessible Internet website.

5800 PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

1. The Board recognizes its responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of students of the School District, and as a result of that obligation, it develops this policy.

2. Definitions.

Adult – an individual who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Child – an individual who is under eighteen (18) years of age.

Child Abuse – intentionally, knowingly or recklessly doing any of the following:

1. Causing bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
2. Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to a child through any recent act.
3. Causing or substantially contributing to serious mental injury to a child through any act or failure to act or a series of such acts or failures to act.
4. Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any act or failure to act.
5. Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
6. Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any recent act or failure to act.
7. Causing serious physical neglect of a child.
8. Engaging in any of the following recent acts:
 1. Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing or cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child.
 2. Unreasonably restraining or confining a child, based on consideration of the method, location or duration of the restraint or confinement.

3. Forcibly shaking a child under one (1) year of age.
4. Forcibly slapping or otherwise striking a child under one (1) year of age.
5. Interfering with the breathing of a child.
6. Causing a child to be present at a location while a methamphetamine laboratory is in operation provided that the violation is being investigated by law enforcement.
7. Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the actor knows or reasonably should have known:
 - a. is required to register as a tier ii or tier iii sexual offender where the victim of the sexual offense was under eighteen (18) years of age when the crime was committed.
 - b. has been determined to be a sexually violent predator.
 - c. has been determined to be a sexually violent delinquent child.
9. Causing the death of a child through any act or failure to act.

Direct Contact with Children - the care, supervision, guidance or control of one or more children or routine interaction with one or more children.

Responsible for the Welfare of One or More Children - an adult providing permanent or temporary care, supervision, training, or control of a child in lieu of parental care, supervision or control, including direct or regular contact with a child or children through any program, activity or service sponsored by the School District or one of its schools.

Perpetrator – a person who has committed child abuse as defined in the Child Protective Services Law.

School Employee – an individual who is employed by the School District. The term excludes an individual who has no direct contact with children.

Sexual Abuse or Exploitation

1. The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement or coercion of a child to engage in or assist another individual to engage in sexually explicit conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Looking at the sexual or other intimate parts of a child or another individual for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire in any individual.
 - b. Participating in sexually explicit conversation either in person, by telephone, by computer or by a computer-aided device for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification of any individual.
 - c. Actual or simulated sexual activity or nudity for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification of any individual.
 - d. Actual or simulated sexual activity for the purpose of producing visual depiction, including photographing, videotaping, computer depicting or filming.
2. Any of the following offenses committed against a child:
- a. Rape
 - b. Statutory sexual assault
 - c. Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse
 - d. Sexual assault
 - e. Institutional sexual assault
 - f. Aggravated indecent assault
 - g. Indecent assault
 - h. Indecent exposure
 - i. Incest
 - j. Prostitution
 - k. Sexual abuse
 - l. Unlawful contact with a minor
 - m. Sexual exploitation

Student – an individual enrolled in the School District who is under eighteen (18) years of age.

3. Prior to the School District offering employment to an applicant who will have direct contact with children, the applicant must complete, date, and sign the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Sexual Misconduct/Abuse Disclosure Release form. The applicant's completion of this form must be done in accordance with the instructions provided with the form and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 111.1 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended. The School District may not hire an applicant who does not provide the information required on the form for any position involving direct contact with children.

The School District may hire an applicant on a provisional basis for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days pending the School District's review of information and records received provided that all of the following requirements are satisfied:

- a. The applicant has provided all of the information and supporting documentation required by Section 111.1 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.
 - b. The School District has no knowledge of information pertaining to the applicant, which would disqualify him/her from employment.
 - c. The applicant swears or affirms that he/she is not disqualified from employment.
 - d. The applicant is not permitted by the School District to work alone with children and is required to work in the immediate vicinity of a permanent employee of the School District.
4. Applicants shall not be employed by the School District in positions involving direct contact with children until the following background check and related documents are submitted to the Office of the Superintendent:
 - a. Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Report.
 - b. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Child Abuse Report.
 - c. Federal Criminal History Report.
 - d. Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification form (PDE-6004). This form is a written statement that the applicant has never been arrested or convicted of certain crimes specified in Section 111 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.

No applicant shall begin work for the School District until he/she has complied with the above mandatory background check requirements and the School District has evaluated the results.

5. If in the future the employee is arrested or convicted for any offense specified in Section 111 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended or is named as a perpetrator in a founded or indicated report of child abuse, then the employee will provide written notice to the School District within seventy-two (72) hours of such event, which notice will be set forth in the PDE-6004 form.
6. School employees and volunteers shall submit new background checks and clearances every sixty (60) months in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 6344.4 of the Child Protective Services Law.
7. Employees of the School District and employees of independent contractors of the School District, who have direct contact with children, must undergo or have their employees undergo mandatory training on child abuse recognition and reporting in compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 1205.6 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.
8. Employees of the School District and independent contractors and their employees shall make a report of suspected child abuse if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse in accordance with the provisions set forth in Sections 6311, 6313, and 6305 of the Child Protective Services Law.
9. The School District must cooperate with the Department of Human Services and/or county agencies pertaining to issues involving child abuse or suspected child abuse in compliance with the provisions set forth in Section 6346 of the Child Protective Services Law.

Adopted: 6/11/15
Revised: 3/10/16

5900 ANTIHAZING

Authority

The Board adopts this Policy pursuant to the provisions set forth in the Antihazing Law as amended (24 P.S. Section 5351 et seq. as amended).

Definitions

1. Hazing is any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student or causes willful destruction or removal of public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any student group, organization or activity sponsored or recognized by the Board or within the School District, including, but not limited to all athletic teams. Students are placed on notice that hazing activities may occur off School District property and/or outside of student-sponsored events. When hazing activities occur that have a direct nexus to initiation or membership in or affiliation with any student group, organization or activity sponsored or recognized by the Board or School District, regardless of when or where, those students involved are subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in this Policy.

2. Endanger the mental health shall include, but not be limited to any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, regardless of the individual's willingness to participate.

3. Endanger the physical health shall include, but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics or exercise; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, drug, or other substance; or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual, regardless of the individual's willingness to participate.

Guidelines

1. Pursuant to this Policy, the Superintendent shall adopt rules and procedures, which prohibit students or other individuals subject to this Policy from engaging in any activity, which can be described as hazing.

2. The Board does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school-sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or School District employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity.

3. The Board directs that no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer or School District employee shall permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing.

4. The School District will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this Policy.

5. The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal.

6. Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity even if the student willingly participates. Additionally, any student who knowingly witnesses an incident of hazing or fails to report information pertaining to an incident of hazing may be considered to be a participant in the hazing.

Recommended Complaint Procedure

1. When a student believes that he/she has been subjected to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal.

2. The building principal must conduct a prompt, impartial, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing.

3. The building principal shall prepare a written report, which summarizes the investigation and if appropriate, recommends the discipline to be imposed.

4. Students, School District employees, coaches, sponsors and volunteers shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal.

Enforcement and Penalties

1. If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the building principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action to the Superintendent. Following a review of the building principal's report, the Superintendent may impose appropriate discipline, which may include expulsion from the School District. Additionally, the student or students responsible for the hazing incident may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, which may include removal from the sport or the activity.

2. If the investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach or sponsor affiliated with the activity planned, directed, encouraged, assisted, condoned or ignored any form of hazing, he/she will be disciplined appropriately. Discipline could include dismissal from the position as coach or sponsor.

3. The penalties imposed shall apply to acts conducted on or off School District property whenever such acts are deemed to constitute hazing.

Notice

1. The School District shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, School District employees, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and members of the public that hazing of School District students is prohibited by means of posting this Policy on the School District's publicly accessible Internet website, distribution of this Policy, publication of this Policy in handbooks, and by verbal instructions from coaches and sponsors at the beginning of any season or program.

2. A copy of this Policy plus written rules, penalties and program of enforcement shall be provided by the Superintendent to all sponsors and coaches involved in organizations and teams within the School District.

Adopted: 9/8/16

5901 AUDIO INTERCEPTION ON SCHOOL BUSES AND SCHOOL VEHICLES

1. The Board recognizes the need to maintain discipline on school buses and school vehicles. The Board also recognizes the security issues associated with the operation of school buses and school vehicles. In pursuit of these objectives, the Board adopts this Policy, which authorizes audio interception of conversations of students on school buses and school vehicles for disciplinary or security purposes in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act as amended (18 Pa.C.S.A. Section 5704(18) as amended).
2. The Board directs the Superintendent for the 2016-2017 school year and for each school year thereafter to include this Policy in both the School District's Elementary Student Handbook and Middle School/High School Student Handbook and to post a notice of this Policy on the School District's publicly accessible Internet website.
3. The Board directs the Superintendent to ensure that a notice, which informs students that they may be audiotaped, is posted and clearly visible on each school bus or school vehicle that is furnished with audio-recording equipment.
4. When a school bus or school vehicle is being used for a purpose that is not school related, then audio interception is not permitted.

Adopted: 10/13/16

6000**INSTRUCTION**

6120	School Calendar
6136	Channels of Communication
6136.1	Citizens Complaints
6140	Transportation for Field Trips/Activity Trips
6160	Community Partnerships
6220	Copy Machines/Fax Machines
6255	Allanigue Community Scholarship Fund

6120 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Prior to the end of each school year, the Union City Area School Board will adopt the calendar for the ensuing year. The superintendent will submit a proposed calendar to the Union City Area School Board in advance of the meeting. In setting up the proposed calendar, the superintendent will confer with the building principals so as to minimize any possible conflict between school programs.

The calendar will be formulated in conjunction with any regional school program in which students may be involved.

Revised: 5/12/03

6136**CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION**

Constructive criticism of the schools is welcomed whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to help the school do their job more effectively. Complaints and grievances are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. The Board of Education should only be involved when a problem cannot be resolved through consultation with the teacher, principal or other staff members.

Subject: Instruction, Discipline, Extra-curricular Activities, or Learning Materials

1. Teacher
2. Principal
3. Assistant Superintendent-Instruction
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

Subject: School Personnel

1. School Employees
2. Employee's Immediate Supervisor
3. Principal, where applicable
4. Assistant Superintendent-Instruction
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

Subject: Athletics

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. High School Principal
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

Subject: Transportation

1. Principal or Assistant Principal
2. Assistant Superintendent-Business
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

Subject: Board Operations and Policies

1. Superintendent
2. Board of Education

Every effort will be made to promptly reply to complaints, questions and comments. Matters referred to the superintendent and the Board of Education should be in writing and should state the nature of the complaint and the desired outcome.

6136.1 CITIZENS COMPLAINTS

Citizens who have complaints about the handling of subject matter in the classroom should follow these procedures:

1. Confer with the teacher and/or the building principal.
2. If the matter is not resolved, a written complaint should be filed with the office of the Superintendent.
3. If the matter remains unresolved, a request should be made to place the item on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. The decision of the Board will be rendered, in writing, to the interested parties.

6140**TRANSPORTATION FOR FIELD TRIPS/ACTIVITY TRIPS**

All pupils attending field or activity trips will be transported in school district-owned vehicles, if available, or on contracted buses from the approved transportation contractor. The only exception to this policy will be when very small groups are involved in an educational mission within or beyond the boundaries of the school system and the use of a school bus is not warranted. In such cases the teacher sponsoring the group must first receive the principal's permission for the use of private vehicles, and the driver or owner of the vehicle must register with the school business manager indicating that sufficient insurance coverage is maintained by the owner of the vehicle.

Mileage compensation for use of private vehicles will be approved only for prior approved trips at the rate established in the contract.

6160 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In that it is most beneficial to relate instruction to "real life" our staff will make every effort to develop partnerships between the community and the classroom.

6220**COPY MACHINES/FAX MACHINES**

Copy machines and fax machines are for school district and school district related use only. The superintendent will establish procedures for proper use of this equipment. While the Union City Area School District encourages its staff to enrich learning programs by making proper use of instructional materials, it is the responsibility of district personnel to abide by the district's copying procedures and obey the requirements of the law. Under no circumstances will employees of the district violate copyright requirements. The Board will not be responsible for or provide legal support for any violations of the copyright law by its employees. The Board does not sanction nor condone illegal duplication in any form, and any employee violating the school district's copyright position does so at his/her own risk and assumes all liability and responsibilities.

6255 ALLANIGUE COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

I. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Verify enrollment in "Advanced Education Programs"
- B. Minimum of 2.5 QPA as Union City Area High School Senior.
- C. Written essay of future plans and purpose of applying for scholarship:
 - 1. Type written
 - 2. Two (2) pages
 - 3. Double spaced
 - 4. Must be submitted to High School Guidance Counselor by May 15.

II. FUND REQUIREMENTS

- A. Selection Committee:
 - Community person - 1
 - Board Member – 1
 - High School Guidance Counselor [Chairperson], Business Manager
- 1. Criteria for Selection:
 - a. How essay is composed and presented
ex: grammar, spelling, neatness and creativity
 - b. Assessment of needs according to essay
- B. Minimum Scholarship granted/student: \$500 Plus Interest accrued
- C. District managed fund in separate checking account

7000**BUILDING, GROUNDS, and OPERATIONS**

7100	Organization and Responsibilities
7200	Organization of Work
7300	Facilities Planning
7400	Community/Work Involvement
7500	Vandalism, Break-ins. Etc.
7600	Integrated Pest Management
7700	Service Animals in Schools
7800	Acceptable Use of Instruments of Technology
7900	Use of Social Media

7100 ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board, working through the Superintendent, will assure the district's buildings and grounds are safe and meet legal standards.

The Superintendent will work with an architect, engineer and other professionals and craftsmen when needed in addition to the district's building and grounds staff to assure the district's building and grounds is kept hazard free and conform to life safety, handicapped and other required codes and regulations.

The Board recognizes the need for four (4) separate classes of building and grounds personnel:

- Custodian - to see to the cleanliness of the buildings
- Maintenance worker - to see to the maintenance of all school facilities
- Laborer - to assist where needed in either custodial or maintenance work
- Facilities Manager - to supervise the staff of the building & grounds department

The Superintendent will be responsible for procedures, job descriptions, etc. for these employees.

7200 ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The Board recognizes the need for accountability and record keeping regarding facilities, equipment and other buildings and grounds assets, therefore, will require that any and all work done by the building and grounds staff meets all laws, regulations and codes.

The Superintendent will establish a procedure to see that building & grounds work is completed in a safe, legal and efficient manner.

7300**FACILITIES PLANNING**

The Board recognizes its responsibility to provide appropriate facilities for the education of the students of the district. The Board will cause to be developed a five- (5) year plan to be updated annually.

The Superintendent will prepare and present an annual report to the Board regarding the status of the district facilities and an estimate of the ability of said facilities to meet the schools programmatic needs for up to five (5) years in the future.

7400**COMMUNITY/WORK INVOLVEMENT**

When any buildings & grounds work needed to be done and requiring non-staff assistance, due consideration will be given to having the work done by local business/contractors.

7500 VANDALISM, BREAK-INS, ETC.

All school vandalism and breeches of security will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, or as determined by the Superintendent if circumstances dictate otherwise.

7600 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

1. The Board recognizes that structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems in a school environment. Pests can be disruptive to the learning process, transmit diseases, and cause allergic reactions.
2. The Board recognizes that pesticides pose risks to students and employees of the District as well as pose risks to the environment. The objective of this policy is to establish guidelines to provide necessary pest control while minimizing the use of pesticides. It is the further objective of this policy to establish guidelines so that when pesticides are used, they are used with the least possible risk to students, employees of the District and the environment.
3. Pursuant to Act 35 of 2002 (Section 772.1 of the Public School Code), the term "pesticide" includes "a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating a pest and a substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant."
4. Pursuant to Act 35 of 2002 (Section 772.1 of the Public School Code), an integrated pest management plan is defined as "a plan which establishes a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way which minimizes economic, health and environmental risks." The provisions of the District's Integrated Pest Management Plan are hereby incorporated into this Policy.
5. The Facility Manager shall be responsible for implementing the integrated pest management procedures set forth in the District's Integrated Pest Management Plan. The Facility Manager will be designated as the District's Integrated Pest Management Coordinator. The Coordinator's responsibilities will include:
 - (a) Record all pest sightings.
 - (b) Record all pesticide use.
 - (c) Meet with pest control companies to discuss the nature of pest problems that may be present in the District's buildings or on the grounds of the District.
 - (d) Ensure that recommendations on maintenance and sanitation, which are made by pest control companies, are implemented if feasible.

- (e) Ensure that the application of pesticides is done in strict compliance with the provisions set forth in Act 36 of 2002 (Section 772.2 of the Public School Code).
 - (f) Evaluate the District's progress in implementing its Integrated Pest Management Plan.
 - (g) Maintain Material Safety Data Sheets for each pesticide used in the District's buildings or on the grounds of the District. These Material Safety Data Sheets will be placed in each building of the District so that they may be reviewed by employees of the District, students, their parents or guardians, and members of the public.
 - (h) Maintain detailed records of all chemical pest control treatments for a period of at least three years. These records must be maintained in the Administration Office of the District. Records regarding the application of any pesticide in the District's buildings or on the grounds of the District must be completed on the day that the pesticide is used. These records must also be maintained for a period of at least three years in the Administration Office of the District. The Coordinator must maintain pest surveillance records, which will verify the need for the use of pesticides. These pest surveillance records must also be maintained for a period of at least three years in the Administration Office of the District.
6. All individuals, who apply pesticides in the District's buildings or on the grounds of the District must be trained and knowledgeable in the principles and practices of integrated pest management. The Coordinator must approve any use of pesticides before they are applied either in the District's buildings or on the grounds of the District. Individuals, who apply pesticides, must comply with all Federal and Pennsylvania statutes and regulations when applying pesticides in the District's buildings or on the grounds of the District. Also, any individual applying pesticides must comply with precautions set forth on the label of the pesticide being used. Furthermore, any individual applying pesticides must comply with the District's Integrated Pest Management Plan.
7. The Superintendent will be responsible to implement notification procedures to employees of the District, students, and their parents or guardians at the beginning of each school year regarding the District's potential use of pesticides. This notification must include a statement that pesticides may be used both indoors and outdoors as required to control pests.
8. The Superintendent will be responsible to ensure that the District is in compliance with the provisions of Act 36 of 2002 (Section 772.2 of the Public School Code) regarding the notification of pesticide treatments in the District's buildings or on the grounds of the District.

9. The Superintendent shall be responsible for incorporating integrated pest management into the District's curriculum in accordance with relevant academic standards.

Adopted 2/10/03

7700 SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

The Union City Area School District ("District") acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a "service animal" in its school buildings, in classrooms, and at school functions as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR Part 35, subject to the following:

1. All requests for an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal must be addressed in writing to the Superintendent of the Union City Area School District at 107 Concord St. Union City, PA 16438, and must contain required documentation of vaccinations. This written request must be delivered to the Superintendent's office at least 10 business days prior to bringing the service animal to school or a school function.
2. Owners of a service dog must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations: DHLPPC (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Coronavirus), Bordetella, and Rabies.
3. Owners of a service miniature horse must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations: Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test), Rabies, Tetanus, Encephelomyelitis, Rhinoneumonitis, Influenza, West Nile and Strangles.
4. All service dogs must be spayed or neutered.
5. All service animals must be treated for, and kept free of, fleas and ticks.
6. All service animals must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.
7. Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, staff, visitors, and/or property.
8. The animal must be a dog or, in specific circumstances, a miniature horse. No other species of animal, whether wild or domestic, will be permitted in schools as a "service animal" within the meaning of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR Part 35.
9. The animal must be "required" for the individual with a disability "because of" the disability.
10. The animal must be "individually trained" to do work or perform tasks for the individual with a disability. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

11. Special Provisions/Miniature Horses: Requests to permit a miniature horse to accompany a student or adult with a disability in school buildings, in classroom, or at school functions, will be handled on a case-by-case basis, considering:

- a. The type, size and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features.
- b. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse.
- c. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken.
- d. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

12. Removal of a Service Animal: A school administrator may ask an individual with a disability or his/her parents to remove a service animal from a school building, a classroom, or from a school function if any one of the following circumstances occurs:

- a. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it.
- b. The animal is not housebroken.
- c. The animal's presence would "fundamentally alter" the nature of the service, program, or activity.

13. A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks. In either case, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.

14. The school system is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, including walking the animal or responding to the animal's need to relieve itself.

- a. The school district is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the service animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
- b. Students with service animals are expected to care and supervise their animal. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise his service animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal. Issues related to the care and supervision of service animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in the discretion of the building administrator.

Reference: ADA Regulations, 28 CFR Part 35 (as amended, 2010).

Adopted: 8/9/10

Revised: 6/15/11

7800**ACCEPTABLE USE OF INSTRUMENTS OF TECHNOLOGY****Purpose:**

Instruments of technology, including, but not limited to Internet access, electronic mail ("email"), computers and other network resources are available to employees, students, and authorized individuals in the District for educational and instructional purposes and other purposes consistent with the educational mission of the District. Use of instruments of technology is a privilege. This Acceptable Use Policy establishes guidelines for such use.

With instruments of technology use, such as the Internet and email, comes the availability of material that may not be considered appropriate in a school setting. The District cannot regulate and monitor all the information received or sent by persons who use the Internet or email, and the District cannot ensure that individuals who use the Internet or email will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials or sending or receiving objectionable communications. The District believes, however, that the availability and value of the Internet and email far outweigh the possibility that users may procure inappropriate or offensive material.

Procedures:

- A. Monitoring. The District reserves the right to log, monitor, and review computers, the Internet, email and other network use of each user. This logging, monitoring, and reviewing may be conducted without cause and without notice. Each user of the District's instruments of technology by the use thereof agrees and consents to such logging, monitoring, and reviewing and acknowledges that he/she has no right or expectation of confidentiality or privacy with respect to Internet, email or other network usage. Administrators may review user files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system only for appropriate purposes. Users should expect that files stored on District servers or computers will not be private. The District may archive and preserve any data files, emails, log files or any other electronic media as deemed necessary by the District. Personal instruments of technology may be used on District premises with written permission only. The user acknowledges he/she has no expectation of confidentiality, and personal devices may be confiscated at the discretion of the District.
- B. Filter. The District will employ the use of an Internet filter (the "Filter") as a technology protection measure pursuant to the Children's Internet Protection Act. The Filter may be disabled by the System Administrator at the workstation level for use by an administrator or teacher for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The Filter may not be disabled for use by other employees, students, other minors or authorized individuals for any reason.

- C. Access Agreement. All users of the District's instruments of technology must agree to and abide by all conditions of this Policy.

Acceptable Use Policy:

- A. Prohibitions. Use of the Internet, email and other instruments of technology must be in support of the educational mission and instructional programs of the District. With respect to all users, the following are expressly prohibited:
- Use for inappropriate or illegal purposes.
 - Use in an illegal manner or to facilitate illegal activity.
 - Use for commercial, private advertisement, or for-profit purposes.
 - Use for lobbying or political purposes.
 - Use to infiltrate or interfere with a computer system and/or damage the data, files, operations, software, or hardware components of a computer or system
 - The distribution of hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, threatening statements and other antisocial communications on the network.
 - The illegal installation, distribution, reproduction, or use of copyrighted software.
 - Use to access, view, or obtain material that is pornographic in nature.
 - Use to transmit material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients.
 - Use to obtain, copy, or modify files, passwords, data, or information belonging to other users.
 - Use to misrepresent other users on the network.
 - Use of another person's email address, user account or password for purposes other than system maintenance, account management, and administrative purposes by District administrative personnel.
 - Use or loading of unauthorized games, programs, files, music, or other electronic media.
 - Use to disrupt the work of other persons (the hardware or software or work product of other persons shall not be destroyed, modified or abused in any way).
 - Use to upload, create, or attempt to create a computer virus.
 - The unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information regarding employees, students and non-student minors.
 - Use for purposes of accessing, sending, creating, or posting materials or communications that are: damaging to another's reputation, abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, illegal or contrary to the District's Policy on harassment.
 - Use which involves any copyright violation or for the copying, downloading or distributing copyrighted material without the owner's permission, unless permitted in accordance with Fair Use Guidelines.
 - Use to invade the privacy of other persons.
 - Posting anonymous messages or the creation or participation in "chain letters" or similar forms of broadcast mail.

- Use to read, delete, copy or modify the email or files of other users or deliberately interfering with the ability of other users to send or receive email.
- Use while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
- Any attempt to circumvent or disable the Filter or any other security measure.

B. Users:

Shall not provide system password(s) to others.

Shall report reasonable suspicion of inappropriate actions or misuse of District resources, including instruments of technology.

Shall not change any configurations or download any information onto the computer without permission by a District administrator.

Shall not use the system to access inappropriate materials or materials that may be harmful to others.

Shall not disclose, use or disseminate any personal identification information.

Shall not engage in or access chat rooms or instant messaging without the permission of a District administrator.

C. Etiquette. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:

Do not touch the monitor screen, and hands must be clean when using any computer. No food or beverages are to be at or near any computer.

Printers and print supplies are only for educational and classroom use. Examples of misuse would include but are not limited to gaming manuals, personal photos, and web documents for entertainment purposes.

Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others. District rules and policies for behavior and communicating apply.

Use appropriate language. Do not use profanity, vulgarities or other inappropriate language.

Do not reveal the personal addresses or telephone numbers of others.

Recognize that email is not private or confidential.

Do not use the Internet or email in any way that would interfere with or disrupt its use by other users.

Respect the rights of other users to an open and hospitable technology environment, regardless of race, sexual orientation, color, religion, creed, ethnicity, age, marital status or disability status.

- D. Security. Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Each user is required to report any security problems to the System Administrator of the District. The problem is not to be demonstrated to other users.

Consequences of Inappropriate Use:

The user shall be responsible for damages to equipment, systems, or software resulting from deliberate or willful acts. In the event of an investigation of misuse, the users must respond to questions and provide information. In addition to other appropriate disciplinary procedures, failure by any user to follow the procedures and prohibitions listed in this Policy may result in the loss of access or use of the District's instruments of technology. Illegal activities or use (for example, intentional deletion or damage to files or data belonging to others; copyright violations; etc.) may be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution. The District reserves the right to remove a user account from the network to prevent unauthorized or illegal activity. Termination of employment may result from the involvement of District personnel in incidents which consist of sexually explicit materials and/or communications and other misuse of the computer, including but not limited to a breach in the firewall. The District will complete and submit the mandatory reports to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Superintendent will be responsible for drafting procedures to discipline students who violate the provisions of this Policy.

The use of the Internet and email is a privilege, not a right. The District's Superintendent, along with the System Administrator, will determine what is inappropriate use.

Other Issues:

- A. Disclaimer. The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, for the service it is providing. The District is not responsible, and will not be responsible, for any damages, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, or service interruption. Use of any information obtained through the use of the District's computers is at the user's risk. The District disclaims responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet or email.
- B. Charges. The District assumes no responsibility or liability for any charges incurred by a user. Under normal operating procedures, there will be no cost incurred.

- C. Listservs and Software. Subscriptions to listservs must be pre-approved by the District. A student may not download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks, unless he/she has the specific, prior written permission from a teacher or administrator.

Adopted: 11/13/14

7900 USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

Union City Area School District (“District”) recognizes that many of its employees, students and community members (hereinafter collectively referred to as “users”) actively participate in social media and online communications. This Policy is designed to address the personal use of social media, whether accessed by computer, smartphone, or other device.

“Social media,” such as professional networking sites, social networking sites, blogs, wikis, personal websites, or other forms of online expression, can be very useful, both personally and professionally. The District recognizes the right of individuals to interact through social media. However, individuals who choose to use social media sites, or who comment on blogs or other online media, must do so responsibly.

Guidelines for Acceptable Social Media Use

Users are expected to use common sense and good judgment when using social media by avoiding material that is detrimental to the reputation of anyone. Users should be aware of their audience when posting to social media sites. Although users of social media may intend their statements to be private, privacy often does not exist in social media. Users should consider what could happen if a post became widely known and how that may reflect on both the individual and the District. Any statements made by users could have an impact on the reputation of both the user and the District. In addition, posts to social media may be copied or forwarded or may be accessible from search engines years after they are created. Users should consider the content of their social media posts carefully. Users should be aware that postings may be viewed by the District, its employees, its students, parents/guardians, or members of the community and, if inappropriate, may subject the user to discipline. As a general guideline, users should not post anything that they would not want to appear in a newspaper or on a public billboard. The Superintendent will determine what constitutes a lack of common sense, a lack of good judgment, and what is inappropriate (or what is an inappropriate communication) on a case by case basis.

Employees are discouraged from becoming friends with students on social media sites. Inappropriate communication by an employee to a student is forbidden. Employees are reminded that they must maintain a professional relationship with students at all times and that all interactions with students must be in accordance with the District’s policies and all other applicable laws, rules or regulations. Communications or interactions with students that are deemed inappropriate shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. The Superintendent will determine what constitutes a lack of common sense, a lack of good judgment, and what is inappropriate (or what is an inappropriate communication) on a case by case basis.

Employees may not read information on social media sites or post information to social media sites during work time unless such activity is related to the performance of their employment responsibilities. Employees are not permitted to access social media sites or the Internet for personal use by use of a personal smartphone or other technology or by the use of the District's computers or other electronic equipment during work time.

Students are not permitted to access social media sites or the Internet for personal use by use of a personal smartphone or other technology during instructional time. Students are not permitted to use the District's computers or other electronic equipment for personal use during the school day.

Even if a user is not physically present at the District's facilities or is not using its technology while posting to a blog or otherwise using social media, the user is still responsible for complying with the guidelines set forth in this Policy.

Unless given express permission by the District, a user using social media websites is not authorized to speak on behalf of the District or represent that he/she does so. Users are not permitted to use the District's logos, images or trademarks on personal blogs or other social media sites without express written consent from the District. The use of images or photographs of students on social media sites is strictly prohibited.

Users must respect others in posts and discussions on social media websites. Social media and other online communication should not be used to degrade or disparage the District, its employees, its students, its vendors, or others. Under no circumstances will the District tolerate defamatory, discriminatory, obscene, libelous, threatening, bullying or harassing comments or images.

The District's personnel policies, including, but not limited to harassment and improper conduct policies, extend to all forms of communication (including social media) both inside and outside the workplace. Employees found to have violated those policies by use of social media will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Students found to have violated this Policy and/or other related Policies of the District will be subject to discipline.

Users should not disclose any confidential, proprietary, sensitive or protected information regarding the District, its employees, its students, or others. Users' posts on social media must also comply with confidentiality obligations imposed by law, including HIPAA and FERPA. If a user is uncertain whether information is meant to be confidential or internal to the District, he/she should seek the advice of his/her supervisor or an administrator if an employee, a teacher or principal if a student; or the Superintendent if a community member.

Users must recognize that individuals who declare their opinions publicly in social media forums are legally responsible for their commentary and may be held personally liable for anything they write or present online. A user can be sued by the District, its employees, its students, or any individual or company that views the users commentary, content, or images as defamatory, pornographic, proprietary, harassing, libelous or as creating a hostile work environment. The District reserves the right to monitor the user's public use of social media as it relates to the District, its employees, its students, or related parties regardless of whether the activity takes place away from the District.

Discipline

Users are expected to understand and adhere to the guidelines listed above. Failure to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action.

Adopted: 11/13/14

8000**INTERNAL BOARD OPERATIONS**

8341.1

Public Participation at Board Meetings

8341.2

Staff Participation at Board Meetings

8341.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and subjects pertaining to the operations of the District.

It is the desire of the board that citizens of the District attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools and that the Board may have the opportunity to hear the ideas and wishes of the community.

Meeting agenda will be available for the public at the meetings.

In the interest of providing citizens equal opportunity to be heard and in the interest of orderly, business-like meetings, the Board establishes the following procedures for public participation, which shall guide the presiding officer in conducting meetings:

1. An individual who wishes to address the Board may do so during the Public Comment time provided at the beginning of each board Meeting. The total allotted time for public comment will be 30 minutes unless the time is extended at the discretion of the Board.
2. All persons wishing to address the Board must be residents, taxpayers or employees of the Union City Area School District unless exceptions are made at the discretion of the Board.
3. Formal Requests: A person who wishes to address the board may notify the Board Secretary of his/her request by the last work day prior to the meeting. The request shall include a name, address, and topic and be submitted to the Board President by way of the Board Secretary or Superintendent. Formal requests will be given 5 minutes for presentation.
4. Informal Requests: Individuals may address the Board without prior notice by filling out a request form upon arrival at the meeting and presenting the completed form to the Board Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting. Informal requests will be given 3 minutes for presentation.
5. Those recognized by the presiding officer must give their name, address, group affiliation, if appropriate, and the topic they wish to discuss.
6. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question the Board Members individually.
7. Groups wishing to be heard should be prepared to have one of the group designated as a spokesperson.

8. Public participation in the Board meeting after the "Public Comment" time period has concluded, regardless of whether or not the 3-minute time limit has been reached, will only take place at the initiation of the Board.
9. The Board President, on behalf of the Board, should thank the visitor for his/her comments.
10. Board Members and administrators are discouraged from responding to visitors' comments.
11. If a response is required, the Board President will appeal to the Superintendent who may address the visitors' comments by immediate response, by telephone or letter, or schedule a meeting with the individual(s).
12. The Board President may interrupt or terminate a participant's statements when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; may request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; may request the assistance of law enforcement officials in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; and may call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

Revised: 11/9/98
4/23/01
9/8/03

8341.2 STAFF PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board recognizes the importance of staff input in the educational issues, operations and programs of the schools. It is the preference of the board that such input comes through the proper administrative channels. This does not restrict staff members from speaking at Board Meetings.

Administrative and teaching staffs are requested by the Board to be available for Board input upon the request of the Superintendent.

9000**BY-LAWS OF THE BOARD**

9200	Signing of Checks
9341	Order of Business at Regular Meetings
9342	Special Meetings
9344	Agenda Preparation
9348	Voting Procedures
9420	Conflict of Interest

9200**SIGNING OF CHECKS**

Authorization to Pay Bills

The treasurer will make payment of bills on the drawing of voucher checks signed by the Board President and the Secretary and Treasurer, either by hand or by machine. Gross payroll checks, utility checks and other like bill payments will be made by the Secretary and Treasurer and reported to the Board at the next regular meeting following.

All District employees are bonded under an Employee Blanket Bond. The Treasurer, Business Manager, Board Secretary, Elementary and Secondary Activities Funds Custodians are bonded separately. The amounts are reviewed annually by the local auditors who recommend any needed change to ensure adequate coverage.

Revised: 4/23/01
7/8/02

9341**ORDER OF BUSINESS AT REGULAR MEETINGS**

Unless changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at each regular meeting of the Board of Education, the order of business will be as follows:

- A. Opening of the meeting by the President with Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence
- B. Roll Call – Attendance
- C. Approval of Agenda*
- D. Approval of Minutes
- E. Approval of Treasurer's Report
- F. Approval of Checklist
- G. Public Comment
- H. Presentation
- I. Items for Approval by Committees
- J. Administrative Reports
- K. Financial Reports
- L. Other Business
- M. Adjournment

*Note: Although it is the intent of the Board that following "Approval of Agenda" no additions, deletions or changes to motions be made, the Board recognizes that there may be instances when it may be necessary to do so. Therefore, the Board will permit motions to be added, deleted or amended during the course of the meeting following a majority vote of the members present.

Revised: 12/1/98
4/23/01
5/12/03
9/8/03

9342 SPECIAL MEETINGS

The President will call a special meeting of the Board when requested by five (5) members of the Board to do so. The President may call a special meeting of the Board whenever he/she or the Superintendent considers such a meeting desirable.

9344 AGENDA PREPARATION

The public, the staff, and all Board members are encouraged to have input in the agenda. Anyone so desiring should have his/her request to the Board Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled meeting.

The Superintendent will be responsible for the final preparation of the agenda while working in close cooperation with the Board President and Secretary.

9348 VOTING PROCEDURES

All members including the President will vote. Roll call votes will be taken in compliance with the Pennsylvania School Code. Roll call votes will be taken in rotating alphabetical order.

A two-thirds (2/3) vote will be required in the following situations:

1. *Budgetary Transfers
2. *Dismissal of Professional Employees
3. *Hiring a professional who was a former member of the Board
4. Changing Internal Board Policy
5. *Overruling Superintendent's recommendation of textbooks

*Necessary as stated in Pennsylvania School Law.

Voting as listed in Section 508 of the School Law will require a vote of at least five (5) members for passage. All other voting shall require a majority vote of the quorum.

Legal Reference: 24 P.S.
 24 - 508
 24 - 1129
 24 - 324
 24 - 609

Revised: 12/1/98

9420 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Board members will be expected to abstain from voting in all situations where there may be a possible conflict of interest.

STATEMENT OF NON- DISCRIMINATION

All activities and courses, including industrial arts, vocational-technical education, home economics and physical education courses within the Union City Area School District are available to all students as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. All employment opportunities within the Union City Area School District are open to all applicants. Selection of District employees is based solely on ability and aptitude. If there are prerequisites, they are based on ability and aptitude, not race, color, national origin, sex, or any handicapping conditions. If physically or mentally handicapped, persons may qualify for special services, instruction, and reasonable equipment and employment modifications, so they can successfully complete the course, participate in an activity or meet employment requirements.

Any questions regarding equal educational opportunities or complaints of harassment, discrimination, please contact Dr. Sandra Myers, Superintendent, at 814-438-3804, Title IX Coordinator.