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SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, AND HOME RELATIONS GOALS

The School Board recognizes the importance of having a strong partnership between the school system and the parents of our students as well as the community at large. It is therefore the policy of the Board to define standards for involvement between the schools, the community, and the parents of all students enrolled in district schools. An effective school-community relations program is a combination of these beliefs and the following ideas and practices:

1. District schools are a welcoming place, clearly accessible to parents and the community.
2. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
3. Parents are full partners in the educational decisions that affect children and families.
4. Parents will be encouraged to visit their schools for beginning of the year events such as "Open House" and new student orientations. These events will be used to disseminate information on school policies, discipline procedures, assessment tools, and school goals.
5. Opportunities are provided to guide parents on ways to assist with homework, give feedback to teachers, and how parents can help their children improve skills and perform well on assessments. Parents are encouraged to attend school-sponsored parent workshops to learn about parenting skills, health, safety, nutrition, home environments that support education, and other topics of child and adolescent development throughout the year.
6. Reasonable effort will be made to communicate with parents in their primary language or in the language in which they feel comfortable.
7. For the purposes of this policy, the term "parent" refers to any adult – mother, father, older sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent, guardian, mentor – who plays a significant role in the care of a student or students enrolled in district schools.

The ultimate goal of school public relations is to improve the quality of education for all children in a democratic society. In order to achieve this goal and to evaluate progress toward it, the School Board sets itself the following objectives:

1. To develop public understanding of all aspects of school operation; to ascertain public attitudes toward issues in education; and to discover the public's aspirations for the education of their children.
2. The support of area businesses and agencies will be sought through financial, goods and services, and volunteer contributions.
3. Partnerships will be developed with local organizations, local city, and county governments, natural resources, and talented individuals to strengthen the school programs, family practices, and student learning.

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4. Student participation in community service will be encouraged.
5. Business partnerships will also be developed to assist students in the successful transition to employment or further education.
6. To secure adequate financial support for a sound educational program.
7. To help citizens feel a more direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools.
8. To earn the good will, respect, and confidence of the public with regard to the schools' staff and services.
9. To foster public understanding of the need for constructive change and solicit public advice on how we can achieve our educational goals.
10. To involve citizens in the work of the school and the solving of educational problems.
11. To promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community and to set up channels for sharing the leadership in improving community life.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administration Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(a)(11), Policy Development
NH Code of Administration Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(k), Policy Development