

SPONSORSHIP AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

It is the Board's desire to offer Regional School Unit No. 5 students athletic programming that provides diverse, developmentally appropriate opportunities and encourages student participation. At the same time, the Board recognizes that resources may not be available to fund all of the sports in which students and the community have an interest. In order to provide students with meaningful athletic experiences while maintaining high quality, sustainable programs, the Board adopts this policy governing sponsorship and evaluation of the school unit's athletic programs.

Through sponsorship, the school unit assumes responsibility for, and control of, a particular athletic program. Sponsorship requires Board approval. The school unit assumes responsibility only for those interscholastic athletic programs the Board has designated as school-sponsored.

The Board will approve for sponsorship only those programs that are consistent with its philosophy and policies and with regulations established by the appropriate governing bodies, including the Maine Principals' Association (which refers to its regulations as "policies"). Sponsorship does not mean that funding will be provided in whole or in part through the school unit's budget. Sponsorship is required even for activities that may be funded in full by booster organizations.

Sponsorship is required before any team may represent itself using the school name, to be eligible for league play and tournament participation, or to be eligible for school athletic awards.

The Board establishes the following process for the approval and evaluation of athletic programs.

A. CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The Athletic Director shall be responsible for developing a process for evaluating potential athletic programs and assessing the viability of existing programs. The process shall take into consideration the following factors, which shall be applied consistently to all programs:

1. Student body interest;
2. Community support;
3. Gender equity;
4. Impact on facilities;
5. Impact on existing programs;
6. Impact on administration and staff;
7. Expenses;
8. Availability of competition;
9. Potential to field competitive teams;
10. Alignment with Board philosophy and policies; and
11. Availability of funds, consideration of extraordinary costs (e.g., rental of facilities, transportation, specialized equipment), and other relevant data including Booster support.

The process should include a method for weighting and rating these criteria for comparison purposes.

B. APPROVAL OF NEW ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

All new athletic programs must be approved by the Board in advance through the budget approval process. The Athletic Director shall be responsible for making and supporting recommendations for all new MPA cooperative teams, individual agreement requests, and new interscholastic athletic programs during the budget development process or at such a date as required by the MPA approval process prior to the proposed starting date.

C. EVALUATION OF EXISTING OR ONGOING SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Every athletic program will be reviewed on an “as needed” basis or when directed by the Board.

The purpose of evaluation is to ensure that all existing or previously approved programs continue to meet the standards and criteria established by the Board.

The evaluation of existing or ongoing approved programs will be done using the same process used to assess proposed programs.

Based upon the data, the Athletic Director shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent as to whether a program should continue or be deleted. The Board may decide not to fund or vote to eliminate any program that it deems no longer sustainable or in keeping with Board philosophy, standards or criteria.

D. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Superintendent may appoint a program evaluation or review committee to perform evaluations of proposed and existing athletic programs. Any such committee must have balanced representation including the Superintendent and/or Athletic Director, a high school administrator, a middle school administrator, coaches, parents and students. Any such committee will use the process for program evaluation.

The committee shall be advisory to the Board. While it may make recommendations to the Board, the Board retains full authority over RSU5 athletic programs.

Adopted: March 27, 2013

Revised: April 30, 2020