

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Ledyard Board of Education recognizes the valuable contributions that parent and community organizations make to improve the quality of the academic and extracurricular programs for students in Ledyard Public Schools. This policy applies to all support groups, whether they are formed for the purpose of supporting a particular school, school program, sport or other extracurricular program. The term “booster club” will be used to refer to those groups that are formed in support of a particular school program, sport or other extracurricular program.

While parent organizations and booster clubs have no administrative authority and cannot determine District or school policy, the Board welcomes their suggestions and advice.

All donations of funds, goods and/or services to Ledyard Public Schools, or to any program or activity that is part of a school's educational or extracurricular program, by parent and community organizations must be pre-approved in compliance with Board Policy 3280, *Donations and Bequests*.

Parent organizations and booster clubs are recognized by the Board and permitted to use the District's name, the name of a particular school, the name of a school team, or any logo attributable to Ledyard Public Schools provided that the organization first receive the Superintendent's express written consent. Recognition of the support organization and consent to use one or more of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the organization or club has bylaws containing the following:

1. The organization's or club's name and purpose (e.g., to enhance students' educational experiences, to help meet educational needs of students, to provide extra athletic benefits to students, to assist specific sports teams or academic clubs through financial support, or to enrich extracurricular activities).
2. The rules and procedures under which it operates.
3. An agreement to adhere to all Board policies and administrative procedures.
4. A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, meaning that membership is open to both parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school and District staff, or an agreement not to engage in discrimination based on someone's innate characteristics or membership in a suspect classification.
5. A statement that the District is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization's or club's business or the conduct of its members.
6. An agreement to maintain and protect its own finances. The group must maintain its own bank accounts and financial records separate from the school and District and must obtain its own tax-exempt status. The organization will provide to the Board annually no later than August 15 or upon request a complete set of financial records or a detailed treasurer's report.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the organization not being permitted to operate on school property or use the district's name.

Parents and other interested community members who wish to form a parent organization or booster club for the purpose of supporting a specific school program or activity are encouraged to do so as long as the activities of such organizations do not interfere unduly with the total educational program or disrupt District operations in any way. To this end, organizations must follow these guidelines:

1. Be voluntary.
2. Submit an activity schedule in advance to the Superintendent, or his/her designee, for prior approval. Any time a booster club uses the name of a school or the District or any language suggesting that the school or District has endorsed, sponsored or otherwise approved of the

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club's activities, the booster club must have obtained prior approval to do so from the Superintendent, or his/her designee.

3. Seek advance approval for any use of school facilities and/or equipment; such use will comply with all Board policies and District/school administrative regulations and procedures.
4. Avoid interference with any previously approved student activity.
5. Seek approval in advance from the Superintendent, or his/her designee, for all fundraising activities to be conducted on school grounds or at school-sponsored events.
6. Understand and respect the authority of District employees in the administration of their duties.
7. Assume all financial responsibility for the booster club, including, but not limited to, the provision of adequate insurance coverage, as appropriate.

Proposed plans, projects and other activities by parent organizations and booster clubs must be evaluated and promoted in light of their stated contribution to the academic as well as the extracurricular school programs. Careful consideration should be given to the total value of the contribution to all students and not just to specific student groups.

Furthermore, the Board recognizes its responsibility to ensure that equivalent benefits and services are provided to members of both sexes and to students in each school within the District. Therefore, if parent organizations or booster clubs provide benefits, services or tangible property that assist only teams or programs of one gender or significantly benefit the educational program of only one elementary school, the Board shall ensure that teams or programs of the other gender or the educational programs of the other elementary schools receive equivalent benefits, services or tangible property.

The Board encourages the Superintendent and Principals to work with parent organizations, booster clubs and other such groups to identify how they might best contribute to improving the educational and extracurricular program in each school and across the District.

The Board retains final responsibility and authority on all activities that have an impact on students, school programs and/or school facilities and property.

The Board reserves the right to revoke approval of any parent organization or booster group if it is found that the group's operations and purposes are inconsistent with Board policies.

Legal References:

Title 20 United States Code, Chapter 38 – *Discrimination Based on Sex or Blindness*

34 CFR 100 – *Non-Discrimination Under Programs Receiving Federal Assistance Through the Department of Education, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*

34 CFR 106 – *Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance*

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