

## **SPONSORSHIP AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS**

It is the Board of Directors desire to offer MSAD #56 students athletic/co-curricular programming that provides diverse, developmentally appropriate opportunities and encourages student participation. At the same time, the Board of Directors recognizes that resources may not be available to fund all of the sports/activities in which students and the community have an interest. In order to provide students with meaningful athletic/co-curricular experiences while maintaining high quality, sustainable programs, the Board of Directors adopts this policy governing sponsorship and evaluation of the school unit's athletic/co-curricular programs.

Through sponsorship, MSAD #56 assumes responsibility for, and control of, a particular athletic/co-curricular program. Sponsorship requires Board of Directors' approval. MSAD #56 assumes responsibility only for those interscholastic athletic/co-curricular programs the Board of Directors has designated as school-sponsored.

The Board of Directors 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, tournament participation, events and/or competitions, or to be eligible for school athletic/co-curricular awards.

In order to assess the sustainability of athletic/co-curricular activities, each ongoing activity will be evaluated on at least a five-year cycle.

The Board of Directors establishes the following process for the approval and evaluation of athletic/co-curricular programs.

### **A. CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS**

The Superintendent and/or designee shall be responsible for developing a rubric for evaluating potential athletic/co-curricular programs and assessing the viability of existing programs. The rubric shall take into consideration the following factors, which shall be applied consistently to all programs:

1. Student body interest;
2. Community interest;
3. Gender equity;

4. Impact on facilities;
5. Impact on existing programs;
6. Impact on administration and staff;
7. Expenses;
8. Availability of competition/league play, tournaments/events;
9. Potential to field competitive teams when applicable ;
10. Alignment with Board of Directors philosophy and policies; and
11. Availability of funds, consideration of extraordinary costs (e.g., rental of facilities, transportation, specialized equipment), personnel, and other relevant data.

The rubric should include a scale for weighting and rating these criteria and for reporting a total score that may be used for comparison purposes.

#### B. APPROVAL OF NEW ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Sponsorship of all new interscholastic athletic/co-curricular programs must be approved in advance. The Superintendent and/or designee shall be responsible for making and supporting recommendations to the Board or Directors at least three months prior to the proposed starting date. Recommendations are to be made based on data from the evaluation rubric.

The Board of Directors may impose conditions that must be met for the program to be approved.

Following initial approval, new programs will be placed on a two-year probationary status.

Six months prior to the end of the probationary period, the Superintendent and/or designee must submit a report to the Board of Directors including recommendations and support for continued Board of Directors approval. The Board of Directors may provide for continuing approval, deny approval, or extend the probationary status for one additional year. Probationary status shall not exceed three years.

#### C. EVALUATION OF EXISTING OR ONGOING SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Every athletic/co-curricular program will be reviewed on a five-year cycle.

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 of Directors.

The Board of Directors may authorize a program to be reviewed out of sequence based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and/or designee.

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

Based upon the data, the Superintendent and/or designee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors as to whether the program should continue or be deleted. The Board of Directors may vote to delete any program that it deems no longer sustainable or in keeping with Board of Directors philosophy, standards or criteria.

D. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Superintendent and/or designee may appoint a program evaluation or review committee to perform evaluations of proposed and existing athletic/co-curricular programs. Any such committee must have balanced representation including the Superintendent and/or designee and the various stakeholders (i.e., a high school administrator, a middle school administrator, teachers who are employed as coaches, parents, students and community). Any such committee will use the rubric for program evaluation.

The committee shall be advisory to the Board of Directors. While it may make recommendations to the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors retains full authority over district athletic/co-curricular programs.

CROSS REFERENCE:        JJI, Interscholastic Athletic Philosophy  
                                 JJIBA, Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches  
                                 JJIBB, Sportsmanship  
                                 JJIBC, Relations with Booster Groups

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