

RELATIONS WITH PARENTS-SCHOOLS SUPPORT/BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education (the Board) recognizes that parent-support groups (such as Parent-Teacher Association/Organization (PTA/PTO), the Bethlehem Music Association (BMA), etc.) or “booster” organizations provide important support to Bethlehem Central School District (the District) schools, and can be a valuable means of stimulating community interest in the aims and activities of the District. Booster organizations may be defined in three ways:

1. an organization that is created to foster community support and raise funds for a specific curricular activity (e.g., athletics, speech and debate, and/or musical groups); or
2. an organization that is created to foster community support and raise funds for the school’s general curricular program; or
3. an organization that otherwise supports school-related activities and/or scholarships.

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

1. be voluntary and support a school activity;
2. submit an activity schedule, in advance, to the superintendent or his/her designee for prior approval (any time the support organization uses the name of the District, or any language suggesting that the District has endorsed, sponsored, or otherwise approved of the club’s activities, there must be prior approval by the superintendent or his/her designee);
3. seek advance approval from the superintendent or his/her designee for any use of school facilities and/or equipment, following procedures outlined in administrative regulation 1500-R, “Public Use of School Facilities Regulation”;
4. avoid interference with the decision-making of any student group;
5. understand and respect the authority of District employees in the administration of their duties; and
6. assume all financial responsibility for their organization including, but not limited to, the provision of adequate insurance coverage, as appropriate.

If a **parent-school support/booster organization** wishes to make a contribution of money, service time, or tangible property (e.g., equipment or supplies), a representative of the organization should first meet with the superintendent or his/her designee. The superintendent or his/her designee must identify the District’s terms and conditions of accepting such gifts, and seek the Board’s official approval, in a timely manner.

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