

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy Committee Meeting

December 10, 2020 3:30 PM

SAU Conference Room

Agenda

I. Call to Order

- BHE – School Board Use of Email {Board Member Request for Revision}
- JLCJ – Concussions and Head Injuries
- GEA – Hiring of Coaches
- IMBA – Distance Education
- DGA – Authorized Signatures

Next Meeting: January 7, 2020

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: BHE <i>Previously BHEA</i>
Date of Adoption: July 20, 2011, Code Change-Adopted School Board: May 2, 2012 Recently Adopted - No Changes: October 24, 2012 School Board/Superintendent Revision: January 13, 2014 & March 31, 2015 Annual Review Policy Committee: April 19, 2017-No Change Annual Review Policy Committee: April 11, 2018-No Change Board Annual Review: May 6, 2020 - No Change <u>Policy Committee: December 10, 2020</u>	Page 1 of 1 Category: Recommended

SCHOOL BOARD USE OF EMAIL

The Right-to-Know law, specifically RSA 91-A:2-a and 91-A:1, requires that “communications outside a meeting ... shall not be used to circumvent the spirit and purpose of” the law, namely to facilitate “the greatest possible public access to the actions, discussions and records” of the Board. To that end, all communications outside of a meeting among any 2 or more Board members, with exception of Board Committees and leadership, including but not limited to electronic mail (email) shall be limited to scheduling meetings and distributing information from the Superintendent. Use of email by School Board members should conform to the same standards of judgment, propriety, and ethics as other forms of School Board related communication. School Board members shall comply with the following guidelines when using email in the conduct of School Board responsibilities:

- A. The School Board shall not use email as a substitute for discussions or deliberations at School Board meetings or for other communications or business properly confined to School Board meeting.
- B. School Board members should be aware that email and email attachments received or business are to be regarded as public records which may be inspected by any person upon request, unless otherwise made confidential by law.
- C. School Board members should avoid reference to confidential information about employees, students, or other matters in email communications because of the risk of improper disclosure. School Board members should comply with the same standards as school employees with regard to confidential information.

This policy affects public access to the Board and the public’s Right to Know. To protect that right, this policy requires a public hearing before it may be revised. Further, this policy may not be suspended except by a two-thirds vote at a public meeting. The Board must always fully comply with the letter and spirit of the Right-to-Know law that may not be suspended. This policy will be reviewed by the Board and all standing advisory committees annually before the end of April to ensure full awareness and compliance.

Legal Reference:

RSA 91-A:2-A, Communications Outside Meetings

Cross Reference:

- BHE-R- School Board Use of Email Procedure
- GBJ- Personnel Records
- JRA – Student Records & Information
- JICL – Student Computer & Internet Use
- GBEF & R- Employee Computer & Internet Use

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: JLCJ Category: Priority
Policy Committee: June 11, 2014 Back to Policy Committee: July 9, 2014/August 6, 2014 First Read School Board: August 20, 2014 Second Read/Adoption: September 3, 2014 Policy Committee Review: December 10, 2020	Page 1 of 2

Concussions and Head Injuries

The Oyster River School Board recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and other recreational activities. The Board acknowledges that the risk of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed. The Board recognizes that the majority of concussions will occur in "contact" or "collisions" sports. However, this policy applies to the safety of all District students.

Academic Issues in Concussed Students

In the event a student is concussed, regardless of whether the concussion was a result of a school-related or non-school-related activity, school District staff should be mindful that the concussion may affect the student's ability to learn. In the event a student has a concussion, that student's teachers and administrators should be notified. Teachers should report to the school nurse if the student appears to have any difficulty with academic tasks that the teacher believes may be related to the concussion. The school nurse will notify the student's parents and treating physician. Administrators and District staff will work to establish a protocol and course of action to ensure the student is able to maintain his/her academic responsibilities while recovering from the concussion.

Section 504 accommodations may be developed in accordance with applicable law and Board policies.

Consistent with the National Federation of High School (NFHS) and the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA), the District will utilize recommended guidelines, procedures and other pertinent information to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes, and parents/guardians of the nature and risk of concussions or head injuries, including the dangers associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

Annually, the district will distribute a head injury and concussion information sheet to all parents/guardians of student-athletes in competitive sport activities prior to the student-athlete's initial practice or competition.

For purposes of this policy, "student-athlete" means a student involved in any intramural or competitive sports program, sponsored by ORCSD conducted outside the regular teaching day between schools in grades [5 4](#) through 12, including all NHIAA sanctioned activities, or any other District-sponsored sports or activities as determined by the Board or administration. All coaches, including volunteers, will complete training as recommended and/or provided by NHIAA, New Hampshire Department of Education and/or other pertinent organizations. Additionally, all coaches of competitive sport activities will comply with NHIAA recommended procedures for the management of head injuries and concussions.

[For purposes of this policy, "head injury" means injuries to the scalp, skull, or brain caused by trauma, and shall include a concussion which is the most common type of sports-related brain injury.](#)

Athletic Director or Administrator in Charge of Athletic Duties

Updating: Each spring, the athletic director or designee shall review any changes that have been made in procedures required for concussion and head injury management or other serious injury by consulting with the NHIAA or the District's on-call physician, if applicable. If there are any updated procedures, they will be adopted and used for the upcoming school year.

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Concussions and Head Injuries

Identified Sports: Identified sports include all NHIAA-sanctioned activities, including cheer/dance squads, and any other district-sponsored sports or activities as determined by the district.

Coach Training: All coaches shall undergo training in head injury and concussion management at least once every two years by one of the following means: (1) through viewing the NHIAA sport-specific rules clinic; or (2) through viewing the NHIAA concussion clinic found on the MHSAA Sports Medicine page at www.mhsa.org.

Parent Information Sheet: On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be distributed to the student-athlete and the athlete's parent/guardian prior to the student-athlete's initial practice or competition. This information sheet may be incorporated into the parent permission sheet that allows students to participate in extracurricular athletics.

Coach's Responsibility: A student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury or other serious injury in a practice or game shall be immediately removed from play.

Administrative Responsibilities: The Superintendent or his/her designee will keep abreast of changes in standards regarding concussion, explore staff professional development programs relative to concussions, and will explore other areas of education, training and programs.

Removal From Play and Protocol For Return To Play

Any coach, official, licensed athletic trainer, or health care provider who suspects that a student-athlete has sustained a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall immediately remove the student-athlete from play. A student-athlete who has been removed from play shall not return to play on the same day or until he/she is evaluated by a physician, physicians' assistant in consultation with a physician, or nurse practitioner and receives medical clearance and written authorization from the aforementioned health professionals to return to play. The student-athlete shall also present written permission from a parent/guardian to return to play. The athletic director will then review and make the final decision if the athletic student can return to play. In the event of multiple concussions, the athletic trainer will speak with the medical providers to ensure family and students understand all risks for continuation.

Concussion Awareness and Education

To the extent possible, the Board encourages the administration to implement concussion awareness and education into the District's physical education and/or health education curriculum. The administrative decision will take into account all relevant considerations, including time, resources, access to materials, and other pertinent factors.

Legal References

- RSA 200:49, Head Injury Policies for Student Sports
- RSA 200:50, Removal of Student-Athlete
- RSA 205:51, School Districts; Limitation of Liability
- RSA 200:52, Definitions

HIRING OF COACHES

Selection Process

Notices of all [Oyster River Cooperative School District](#) vacancies for athletic coach positions will be posted at the school and will be advertised as necessary, to be determined by the Superintendent. ~~The School Board recognizes that provisions of the collective bargaining agreement may give qualified teachers priority in interviews and selection for vacant coaching positions.~~

All open positions will be advertised. The athletic director and/or principal will screen applications for appropriate qualifications, competencies, and experience. The athletic director and principal will conduct interviews. The athletic director and principal will check references. The Superintendent will make the recommendation for hire to the School Board for approval each year.

All persons approved by the Board for coaching positions will be subject to criminal background checks, consistent with Board Policies GBCD and IJOC. Persons who have been selected for coaching positions may be hired on a conditional basis, pending a successful completion of the criminal records check.

Coaches Eligibility

Persons selected for coaching positions must meet the "Coaches Eligibility" criteria established by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA). Coaches must also receive ongoing and continuing education and training as required or recommended by NHIAA

Additionally, persons selected for coaching positions must be at least 21 years of age, have a valid driver's license and have at least a high school diploma.

Compensation

Coaches will be compensated at the rate established in the district's operating budget and/or collective bargaining agreement, if applicable.

Continuation and Dismissal

All coaching positions will be for one season only. The athletic director and principal will make re-appointment proposals for the following season. The recommendation for re-appointment will be made by the Superintendent and forwarded to the School Board for approval.

A coach may be dismissed from his/her duties at any time for unprofessional conduct, violation of School Board policies, violation of expectations and responsibilities, and/or any unethical behavior that places students in danger or places the District in an unprofessional light.

Code of Ethical Conduct

Coaches are required to adhere to all school board policies relative to codes of conduct, behavior, and expectations. Additionally, coaches are required to adhere to all standards of sportsmanship established in School Board policies and/or by NHIAA.

Violation of any code of conduct may result in immediate termination and/or dismissal.

Legal References:

RSA 189:13-a, School Employee and Volunteer Criminal History Records Check
<http://www.nhiaa.org/PDFs/2147/coacheseligibility.pdf>

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: IMBA
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Distance Education

The Oyster River Cooperative School Board encourages students to take full advantage of distance education opportunities as a means of enhancing and supporting their education. Distance education means correspondence, video-based, internet/online-based or other similar media that provides educational courses as a means to fulfill curriculum requirements. Such opportunities will be implemented under the provisions set forth in Policy IHBH, Extended Learning Opportunities and Policy IHBI, Alternative Learning Plans.

If the course is to be taken for credit, then Policy IMBC, Alternative Credit Options, will apply. Students must have distance education courses approved by the school principal ahead of time in order to receive credit.

The written approval of the building principal is required before a district student enrolls in an online or virtual course that is intended to become part of their educational program. Students applying for permission to take an online course must complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in a distance education learning environment.

Approved distance education courses must satisfy both state and local standards; be delivered by staff licensed in the state where the course originates; and contain provisions for feedback and monitoring of student progress. The district requires that a syllabus, including prerequisites, specific learning goals/activities, student evaluation criteria, and teacher responsibilities be submitted for review before the course is approved.

Students taking approved online courses must be enrolled in the district and must take the courses during the regular school day at the school site, unless the administration has granted approval for remote access based on special circumstances. Online courses may be taken in the summer under the same conditions as during the school year.

The principal will assign a teacher to monitor student progress, grading of assignments, and testing. One teacher may supervise no more than ten students participating in distance education courses.

Approved distance education courses must comply with all federal and state statutes pertaining to student privacy and to public broadcasting of audio and video. Confidentiality of student record information will be maintained throughout the process. This includes information shared between school district representatives and the virtual school or online teacher, information shared between the school district or online teacher with students and parents, and information shared between school district representatives, the virtual school or online teacher and others.

The school district will provide safeguards for students participating in online instruction activities, and Policy IJNDB, School District Internet Access for Students, will apply.

Students earning credit for distance education courses shall participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program. Credit courses will require students to meet similar academic standards as required by the District.

Credit for the course is not recognized until an official record of the final grade has been submitted to the principal or designee with feedback from the online teacher.

Students who violate any part of the policy or engage in any other activity that school authorities consider inappropriate are subject to disciplinary action consistent with Board policies and the student handbook.

Cross Reference:

IHBI – Alternative Learning Plans

Legal References:

Ed 306.04(a)(12), Distance Education
Ed 306.22, Distance Education.

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AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES

The Superintendent is directed to create internal controls to ensure that contracts, checks and other official documents are accurate, authorized and signed by the appropriate persons and that necessary actions are taken to prevent mistakes, fraud, embezzlement and District liability, and to comply with applicable state or federal laws and regulations.

In general, the Superintendent or his/her designee may sign documents on behalf of the District or the Board. When a signature of one Board member is required, the Chair, or in his/her absence, the Vice Chair, is authorized to sign on behalf of the Board. Other District personnel and District officials (e.g., Treasurer, school nurses, etc.) are can be authorized to sign documents or instruments on behalf of the District or School Board as required by any statute, regulation, or Board policy or as directed by the Superintendent.

Execution of a document on behalf of the District or the Board is indication by the person so signing that the document is accurate, has been adequately approved by the Board or other District personnel as appropriate and necessary, and is in the best interest of the District.

Legal References:

RSA 197:23-a, Treasurer's Duties

RSA 294-E, Uniform Electronic Transfers Act