

Community Relations

SUBJECT: MEDIA/COMMUNICATION/MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS/SENIOR CITIZENS**School District Communications**

A periodic newsletter may be prepared and sent to each resident of the District or posted on its website. The information included in the newsletter may regard school activities and other items of interest to the community. The District accepts the funding obligation for the necessary staff and production costs.

As the official spokesperson, the Superintendent or designee will issue all news releases concerning the District. All statements of the Board will be released through the Office of the Superintendent and/or the District Clerk.

News conferences or media releases to announce matters of importance may be initiated by the Board President or Superintendent of Schools. Professional staff approached by the press for information are asked to contact the Superintendent prior to granting any interviews to ensure the accuracy of district information. Administrative staff wishing to provide media releases shall obtain approval by the Superintendent prior to any publication.

Whereas publicly communicated safety protocols are designed to inform students, faculty, administrators and families about District policies and processes in case of emergency, certain internal systems and information are sensitive and privileged and not intended for external dissemination, especially as it relates to our large population of legal minors, legally protected information and District threat assessments that must remain confidential unless otherwise indicated. The Red Hook Central School District requires local media to support the safety of our students, faculty and staff by respecting safety boundaries as they relate to published coverage on school-related matters.

In addition, building principals may prepare newsletters concerning activities within their building and will share them with the Superintendent prior to release.

Any newsletters, brochures, flyers, etc. to be published by the District are required to provide the necessary information to the public at large or any specific subgroup. Student and/or student/parent handbooks may be published in each school building.

The District will be frank and open in its dealings with the press, recognizing the privilege of the press to publish newsworthy information. Representatives of the media are encouraged to attend meetings of the Board of Education and seek out agendas and information from the District's website.

Municipal Governments

The Board will establish and maintain a positive working relationship with the governing bodies of the municipality. The Board will also cooperate with municipal, county, and state agencies whose work affects the welfare of the children of the District, including, but not limited to, the County Social Services Department, the Board of Health, the Recreation Department, the Public Library, and all community emergency services agencies.

Senior Citizens

The Board will consider school-related programs for senior citizens in accordance with Education Law and/or the Commissioner's regulations. These programs include special use of school buildings or school lunches and partial tax exemptions where applicable.

Education Law §§ 1501-b(1)(a), 1501-b(1)(b), and 1709(22)

Real Property Tax Law § 467

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