

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: March 8, 2024

NUMBER: 24-109

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions to BP 6020
Parent Involvement; First
Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Track 1: Operational Improvements
Initiative: Optimize Business Practices

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6020 Parent Involvement and open for public comments.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when the law changes or specific needs occur. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board.

This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6020 Parent Involvement within the Instruction series.

AASB developed and distributed BP 6020 Parent Involvement to member school districts in 2016 in response to AS 14.03.016, *A parent's right to direct the education of a parent's child*. AS 14.03.016 requires school districts to have policies promoting the involvement of parents in schools. Among other provisions it sets forth parental notification requirements for any activity, class, or program that includes content involving human reproduction or sexual matters.

The model policy was vetted by legal counsel and is a complete response to the provisions of AS 14.03.016. Adopting the model policy BP 6020 will help guide district operations appropriately and will help ensure your board policies align with state law.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open it for public comments.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6020 Parent Involvement as presented and open it for public comments;
2. Do not approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6020 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6020 Parent Involvement as presented and open it for public comments.

BP 6020 PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Note: The following policy implements AS 14.03.016 which requires school districts to have policies promoting the involvement of parents in the education program. For those districts receiving Title I funds, a policy on parental involvement is also mandatory. (See BP/AR 6171)

The School Board recognizes that parents/guardians are their children's first and most influential teachers and that continued parental involvement in the education of children contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct. Parents/guardians can directly affect academic success by reinforcing their children's motivation and commitment to education. The district shall include parent/guardian involvement strategies as a component of instructional planning.

In exercising their roles in the education of their students, parents/guardians have the following specific rights:

- A. The right to object to and withdraw their student from a standards-based assessment or test required by the State of Alaska.
- B. The right to object to and withdraw their student from an activity, class or program.
- C. The right to be notified at least two weeks before any activity, class, or program is provided to their student that includes content involving human reproduction or sexual matters, except this right does not extend to training provided to students on awareness and prevention of sexual abuse, sexual assault, and dating violence and abuse.
- D. The right to withdraw their student from an activity, class, program, or standards-based assessment or test required by the State of Alaska for a religious holiday, as defined by the parent/guardian.
- E. The right to review the content of an activity, class, performance standard or program.

In exercising the rights above, parents/guardians must object each time the parent/guardian wishes to withdraw their student from an activity, class, program, or standards-based assessment or test required by the State of Alaska. Categorical objections and withdrawals from all activities, classes, programs, or assessments are not permitted.

Students will not be penalized when withdrawn by parents/guardians from an activity, class, program, or standards-based assessment or test. Absences based on parent objection and withdrawal will be excused and, as appropriate, alternative work assigned.

(cf. 5141.41 - Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault and Dating Violence and Prevention)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6142.1 - Family Life/Sex Education)

(cf. 6142.2 - AIDS Instruction)

(cf. 6162.5 - Standardized Testing)

Teachers and parents/guardians can better understand and meet student needs if they work together. All of our schools have a duty to communicate frequently with the home and to help parents/guardians develop skills and family management techniques which support classroom learning. Administrators and teachers shall keep parents/guardians well informed about school expectations and tell them when and how they can assist their children in support of classroom learning activities. The Board encourages staff training in effective communication with the home.

The Board encourages parents/guardians to serve as volunteers in the schools and to attend student performances and school meetings.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 1250 - Visits to the Schools)

(cf. 5124 - Reporting to Parents)

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Make-Up Work)

(cf. 6171 - Title 1 Programs)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.016 A parent's right to direct the education of the parent's child

14.30.361 Sex education, human reproductive education, and human sexuality education

14.30.355 Sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention

14.30.356 Dating violence and abuse policy, training, awareness, prevention, and notices

Adopted: April 28, 2004

Revised:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District