

Bethel Board of Education School Safety Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, January 24, 2013 6:00 PM

Board of Education Conf. Room E Central Office, 1 School Street, PO Box 253,
Bethel, CT 06801

- 1. Review school safety/security procedures and current policies**
- 2. Audience Participation**

Community Relations

Visits to the Schools

The Board of Education welcomes interested community members to the programs and activities within the school district and welcomes the observation of classes by parents and other interested members of the community. The Board also recognizes its responsibility to ensure that students learn in an educational environment free of unnecessary disruption and distractions. The school administration is to provide a school environment that is safe for students and staff. Any person suspected of loitering on school grounds shall be reported to the police immediately. To minimize disruptions to the learning process and to maintain order and security on school premises, the following guidelines shall direct the administration:

1. Encourage school visitations. However, under normal circumstances, school-aged children are not allowed to visit a school unless accompanied by a parent or with special permission from the principal, or designee.
2. Provide for appropriate hospitality for visitors.
3. Channel expressions of approval and constructive criticism to the Superintendent of Schools.
4. Ensure that public visits will not hinder the educational program.
5. Ensure that the school receives ample advance notice of an intended visit or observation. All visits must have the approval of the principal. All visitors must register in the principal's office upon arrival at the school.
6. School personnel are to provide all visitors with identification. Any such badge or tag is to be worn by all visitors in a clearly visible place. A visitor may be asked to present a valid form of identification.

Although Board of Education members are encouraged to visit schools, they have authority only in meetings of the Board of Education, or when delegated specific tasks by specific Board of Education action.

(cf. 3516.4 – Sex Offender Notification)

Policy Adopted: July 22, 1991
 Policy Revised: 3/8/99, 4/4/02
 Policy Revised: 9/9/04, 9/9/10

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, CT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Visits to the Schools

The Board of Education and the Staff of the school district welcomes visits by community members to all of our school buildings. In order to assure that each visitor is given assistance during their visit and that there is minimal disruption to the educational program, the following regulations shall apply:

1. All visitors are required to register at the principal's office upon arrival. A clearly marked sign must be displayed at all entrances stating this requirement. All visitors shall wear nametags indicating their status in the schools.
2. Community members wishing to visit a school for the purpose of observing a classroom must notify the principal of their intent no later than 12 noon of the previous school day.
3. The principal or building designee has the authority and responsibility for determining if an observer will be welcomed or have access to the school or its grounds. The primary consideration in making these decisions shall be the safety of the school population and the Board's desire to avoid any disruption of instruction.
4. Because instructional continuity is often difficult to achieve and maintain, while visiting a classroom, an observer may not interrupt the class in any way. Should an observer be disruptive to the educational process, the appropriate personnel will escort them from the building.
5. Unauthorized visitors should be courteously asked by any school personnel to identify themselves and to state the purpose of the visit. Such visitors must be escorted to the office for proper visitor registration.
6. If a visitor refuses to be identified, state the purpose of the visit, or leave the area after such a request, school personnel shall notify the Police Department immediately.
7. Audio taping, video taping, or photographing of classes by any visitor without the expressed, written consent of the principal shall be deemed to be disruptive to the educational process and an invasion of the privacy rights of students and is therefore forbidden.
8. School age children who wish to visit another school for the purpose of seeing previous teachers may do so after school hours while school is not in session and must sign in and notify the appropriate school personnel that they are in the building before proceeding to their destination.

These regulations are to be implemented with courtesy and tact. The safety and security of children and staff are the primary concerns of the school administration.

Regulation Adopted: 7/22/91
Regulation Revised: 4/4/02, 11/7/02, 9/9/10

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, CT

Community Relations

Relations Between Public and School Personnel

Conduct on School Property

The Board of Education expects mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among all individuals on school property or at school events. District staff will treat parents and other members of the public with respect and expect the same in return. The Board is committed to maintaining orderly educational and administrative processes in keeping schools and administrative offices free from disruptions and preventing unauthorized persons from entering school/district grounds.

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among Board members, district employees, parents and the public. It is not intended to deprive any individual of his/her right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free environment for students and staff.

In the interest of presenting Board members and district employees as positive role models to the students as well as to the community, the Board encourages positive communication and discourages volatile, hostile or aggressive actions. The Board seeks public cooperation with this endeavor.

Based upon the above, the Board expects that no person on school property or at a school event shall:

1. Injure, threaten, harass or intimidate a staff member, Board member or any other person;
2. Damage or threaten to damage another's property;
3. Damage or deface district property;
4. Violate any Connecticut law or town/city ordinance;
5. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products;
6. Consume, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, or possess dangerous instruments or weapons;
7. Impede, delay, or otherwise interfere with the orderly conduct of the district's educational program or any other activity occurring on school property;
8. Enter upon any portion of the school premises at any time for purposes other than those which are lawful and authorized by the Board;

Community Relations

Relations Between Public and School Personnel

Conduct on School Property (continued)

9. Operate a motor vehicle in a risky manner or in violation of an authorized district employee's directive; or
10. Violate other district policies or regulations or an authorized district employee's directive.

Any individual who disrupts or threatens to disrupt normal school or office operations; threatens the health and safety of students or staff; willfully causes property damage; uses loud or offensive language which could provoke a violent reaction; or who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on district property, will be directed to leave the premises by a member of the administrative staff or his/her designee.

If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting and/or demeaning manner, the staff member to whom the remarks are directed will calmly and politely admonish the speaker to communicate civilly. If the abusing party does not take corrective action, the district employee will terminate the meeting or conversation.

(cf. 1120 - Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings)

(cf. 1250 - Visits to Schools)

(cf. 1251 - Loitering or Causing Disturbances)

(cf. 1312 - Public Complaints)

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-225 Meetings of the government agents to be public.

1-232 Conduct of the meeting

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rule(s), policies, and procedures.

10-238 Petition for hearing by board of education.

10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes.

53a-185 Loitering in or about school grounds: Class C misdemeanor.

Policy adopted: May 21, 2001

Policy revised: 9/9/10

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

Community Relations

Law Enforcement Agencies

Because of the many support services which local law enforcement agencies provide to the schools, staff and students, the Board of Education shall maintain close relationships with those agencies consistent with protecting legal rights of staff and students. The Board supports the presence of a School Resource Officer and a Youth Officer at various schools.

The Superintendent shall establish lines of communication with local law enforcement agencies for the security of school facilities, safety of students, and staff, and for better education of students concerning law enforcement agencies.

(cf. 3526.4 – Sex Offender Notification)

Policy Adopted: July 22, 1991
Policy Revised: March 8, 1999
Policy Revised: 9/9/2004, 9/9/10

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, CT

Non-Instructional Operations

Safety Inspections

Safe buildings, grounds, and equipment shall be maintained in order to prevent accident or injury to students, employees, and other citizens from fire, malfunction and avoidable hazards.

Buildings shall be planned, equipped, and maintained in accordance with appropriate local and state safety regulations.

Proper supervision of students and other citizens using the building shall be required at all times.

Policy adopted: July 20, 1992
Policy Reviewed: 11/4/04, 9/9/10

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut

Non-Instructional Operations

Safety Inspections

Principals shall schedule regular inspections to insure that buildings, grounds and equipment are safe for students, employees and all other citizens. If defects or malfunctions are found, principals are to arrange for the correction of same by building custodians or by the submission of Maintenance Request Forms.

The Custodial Department shall address safety issues as they engage in their daily tasks. Problems beyond their expertise are to be referred to Town Maintenance or a private contractor for remediation.

Employees should promptly report to principals and assistant principals any defects in buildings, grounds or equipment, which might prove injurious to the safety of others.

Incidents of illegal entry, theft of school property, vandalism or damage to school property from other causes will be reported by phone to the office of the Superintendent, as soon after discovery as possible. A written report of the incident will be made within 24 hours of discovery.

Keys

All keys used in a school shall be the responsibility of the principal. Requests for permanent issuance of keys shall be made only in those instances where the employee regularly needs a key in order to carry out normal activities necessitated by the position, which the employee holds. When the need for a particular key is of a temporary nature, a key shall be issued on that basis and shall be returned immediately following termination of the need for its use.

All keys shall be issued through the office of each principal. Each principal shall set up a key control system with a record of the number of each key filed.

The person issued a key shall be responsible for its safekeeping and shall pay for a duplicate key if lost. Duplicate keys are obtained only through the district business office. The Board of Education prohibits the duplication of school keys by other methods.

Keys shall be used only by authorized employees and shall never be loaned to students.

The greatest care shall be given to master and sub-master keys. Master keys shall never be loaned.

Regulation approved: July 20, 1992
Regulation Revised: 11/4/04, 9/9/10

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut

Non-Instructional Operations

Accident Prevention and Reporting

The practice of safety shall also be considered a facet of the instructional plan of the district schools by virtue of educational programs in traffic and pedestrian safety, driver education, fire prevention, emergency procedures, etc., appropriately geared to students at different grade levels.

Each building administrator shall be responsible for the supervision of a safety program for his/her school and the Supervisor of Facility Operations shall have overall responsibility for the safety program of the district.

A districtwide Safety Committee will meet in accordance with insurance company guidelines during each school year.

Reporting Accidents

Any employee must report to the building principal any accident or injury, no matter how slight, which occurs while the employee is on duty or on the premises.

The school nurse shall keep a record of all such reports and shall have a preliminary accident form completed in duplicate and filed in the central office.

The school nurse will report student accidents as they occur. It is important for insurance purposes to have every accident reported. This practice is to apply to all school employees as well as to students and visitors. The reports shall be made in duplicate with a copy filed with the Central Office.

Policy adopted: July 20, 1992
Policy Revised: 11/4/04, 9/9/10

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut

Non-Instructional Operations

Safety and Security

Buildings constitute one of the greatest investments of the school district and the community. It is in the best interest of students and taxpayers to protect that investment adequately.

The Superintendent of Schools is directed to establish such rules and regulations as may be needed to provide for security.

It shall be the responsibility of all school personnel to be alert to any hazard within or outside school buildings, which may jeopardize the safety of school children, school employees, or the public. It shall be the responsibility of all school personnel to report promptly to the nearest school authority any condition, incident or suspicion, which in their judgment warrants investigation. Nothing stated herein is intended to conflict with the jurisdiction of teachers in supervision of students or the authority of principals in implementing policies of the Bethel Board of Education.

Precautionary measures to prevent fire, explosion or other hazards shall be established together with appropriate instructions and drills for students and other school personnel in procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-231 Fire drills.

29-389 Stairways and fire escapes on certain buildings.

Policy adopted: July 20, 1992
 Revised: March 4, 1999
 Revised: 11/4/04, 9/9/10

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut

4112.5
4212.5

Personnel -- Certified/Non-Certified

Security Check/Fingerprinting

In order to create a safe and orderly environment for students, all offers of employment will be conditional upon the successful outcome of a criminal record check.

District employees after they are hired shall submit to state and national criminal checks as outlined in Regulation 4112.5. District students employed by the school system are exempted from this requirement.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221d Criminal history records checks of school personnel. Fingerprinting. Termination or dismissal (as amended by PA 01-173).

Policy adopted: October 4, 2001
Policy Revised: January 27, 2005

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified

Security Check/Fingerprinting

Each applicant for a position within the public school system shall be asked whether he/she has ever been convicted of a crime and whether there are any criminal charges pending against him/her at the time of application. Each person hired by the school system shall be required to submit to state and national criminal record checks. In order to process such record checks, the following procedure will be followed:

1. No later than ten calendar days after the Superintendent or his/her designee has notified a job applicant of a decision to hire the applicant, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the Superintendent or his/her designee will supply the applicant with a packet containing all documents and materials necessary for the applicant to be fingerprinted by the Regional Service Center. This packet shall also contain all documents and materials necessary for the Regional Service Center to submit the completed fingerprints to the State Police Bureau of Identification for the processing of state and national criminal record checks.
2. No later than ten calendar days after the Superintendent or his/her designee has provided the successful job applicant with the fingerprinting packet, the applicant must arrange to be fingerprinted. Failure of the applicant to have his/her fingerprints taken within such ten-day period, without good cause, will be grounds for the withdrawal of the offer of employment.
3. Any person for whom criminal records checks are required to be performed pursuant to this policy must pay all fees and costs associated with the fingerprinting process and/or the submission or processing of the requests for criminal record checks.
4. Upon receipt of a criminal record check indicating a previously undisclosed conviction, the Superintendent or his/her designee will notify the affected applicant/employee of the results of the record check and will provide an opportunity for the affected applicant/ employee to respond to the results of the criminal record check.
5. Decisions regarding the effect of a conviction upon an applicant/employee, whether disclosed or undisclosed by the applicant/employee, will be made on a case-by-case basis. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the falsification or omission of any information on a job application or in a job interview, including, but not limited to information concerning criminal convictions or pending criminal charges, shall be grounds for disqualification from consideration for employment or discharge from employment.

Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified

Security Check/Fingerprinting (continued)

6. Adult education teachers and substitute teachers, if they are continuously employed by the district, do not have to be re-fingerprinted after fulfilling the initial requirement.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221d Criminal history records checks of school personnel. Fingerprinting. Termination or dismissed. (as amended by PA 01-173 and PA 04-181)

29-17a Criminal history checks. Procedure. Fees.

Regulation approved: January 27, 2005

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, CT

Personnel — Certified/Non-Certified

Employee Protection

An employee may use reasonable force as is necessary to protect himself/herself from immediate physical injury, to obtain possession of a dangerous instrument or controlled substance, to obtain control of the student, to protect property from physical damage, or to restrain or remove the student to another area to maintain order.

Physical force may not be used as a disciplinary measure.

Employees shall immediately report cases of assault suffered by them in connection with their employment to their principal or other immediate superior, and to local law enforcement agencies. Such notification shall be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent who shall comply with any reasonable request from the employee for information in the possession of the Superintendent relating to incident or the persons involved. The Superintendent or designee shall act as liaison between the employee, the police and the courts.

No school administrator shall interfere with the right of a teacher or other school employee to file a complaint with the local police authority in case of threats of physical violence or actual physical violence against such teacher or employee.

If criminal or civil proceedings are brought against an employee alleging that the employee committed an assault in connection with his/her employment, such employee may request the Board of Education to furnish legal counsel to defend the employee in any civil action or proceeding brought against the employee, within the limits set by law.

The Board of Education through Workmen's Compensation shall reimburse an employee for the cost of medical, surgical or hospital services (less the amount of any insurance reimbursement) incurred as the result of any injury sustained in the course of his/her employment.

Section 52-557b of the General Statutes grants immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance to a person in need of it when the assistance is given by a teacher or other school personnel on the school grounds, in a school building, or at a school function, provided that the teacher or other staff member has completed a course in first aid offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the State Department of Health Services, or any municipal health department, as certified by that agency. Such immunity extends to civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by the person giving the emergency care or first aid, which might constitute ordinary negligence. Such immunity does not apply to acts omissions constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence.

Personnel — Certified/Non-Certified

Employee Protection (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-235 Indemnification of teachers, board and commission members and employees in damage suits; expenses of litigation.

10-233b Removal of pupils from class.

10-233c Suspension of pupils.

10-233g Reports of principals to police authority.

10-236 Liability insurance.

10-236a Indemnification of educational personnel assaulted in the line of duty.

52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render.

53a-18 Use of reasonable physical force or deadly physical force generally.

53a-19 Use of physical force in defense of person.

Policy adopted: September 28, 1992
Policy Revised: April 4, 1994
Policy Revised: 5/12/2005

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut

Students

Conduct

Video Surveillance

The Board of Education recognizes the District's responsibility to maintain safety and discipline on school property, within school buildings, in parking lots, and on transportation vehicles. Therefore, the Board authorizes the use of video surveillance cameras on District property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all students, employees, and visitors, and to protect District facilities and equipment from vandalism and theft.

In order to safeguard the privacy rights of students and employees, the District will notify students, staff, parents, and the public that video surveillance may occur on school property, within school buildings, in parking lots, and on transportation vehicles. The District will place this notice in the parent/student handbook, staff handbook, and on the District website.

The Superintendent will ensure that signs are posted at conspicuous locations in the school buildings and on school grounds informing all parties that video surveillance may occur. Cameras will not be placed in areas where students, staff, and visitors have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Audio recordings will not be part of any video surveillance except on transportation vehicles.

The use of video surveillance equipment on transportation vehicles will be supervised by the building principals and Transportation Supervisor. The use of video surveillance equipment on school grounds and on other District property will be supervised by the building principals and the Supervisor of Facilities Operations.

District video surveillance will be monitored only on an "as-needed" basis. To the extent that any images from the District's video surveillance system create a student or personnel record, the Superintendent will ensure that the images are accessed, retained, and disclosed in accordance with law, board policy, and administrative regulation.

Video records will be maintained routinely for 30 days and then recycled, unless the District receives a formal, written request for review or investigation of the video record by law enforcement officials for evidentiary or investigative purposes, or by parents and students directly involved in an incident under investigation.

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6 – Personnel Records)

(cf. 5125 – Student Records)

(cf. 5131.1 – Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5131.11 – Video Cameras on School Buses)

(cf. 5131.5 – Vandalism)

(cf. 5145.12 – Search and Seizure)

Legal Reference: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, sec. 438, 20 U.S.C. sec. 1232g (1988).

Policy adopted: June 7, 2007

Revised: October 15, 2009

Students

Conduct

Video Surveillance

Video Surveillance System Operation

1. The Board or its administrators may use video surveillance: a) to monitor and protect District property from vandalism or theft; b) to foster the safety and security of students, staff, and visitors during or after school and/or while participating in school functions; c) in response to specific law enforcement inquiries and proceedings; and d) when warranted, for specific student discipline. Video records may not be used for any other purposes.
2. Video cameras will be utilized in areas recommended by the building administration and approved by the Superintendent. The District will notify students, employees, and the public that video surveillance may occur on school property. Such notification will occur through the inclusion the Board's policy in the school parent/student handbooks, the District website, and through clearly written signs displayed conspicuously in the school.
3. Video recording equipment will be installed prominently. Equipment will not be placed in areas where the students, employees, and public have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Video recording equipment may be in operation 24 hours per day.
4. Video records will only be monitored on an "as needed" basis, either because an incident has been reported or is suspected to have occurred. Examples of such include, *but are not limited to*, incidents of property damage, theft, trespassing, injury, or student altercations.
5. Building principals, other administrators, and the School Resource Officer working with the video surveillance system will be required to review and apply these regulations in performing their duties and functions related to operation of the system.
6. It will be the responsibility of the Superintendent and school administration to review and update the video surveillance policy and its regulations periodically.

Students

Conduct

Video Surveillance

Video Surveillance System Operation (continued)

7. Audio recordings will not be a part of the video surveillance system except on transportation vehicles.
8. Staff and students are prohibited from unauthorized use, tampering with, or otherwise interfering with video records and/or video camera equipment, and they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action will be consistent with District policies.
9. The District will provide reasonable safeguards including, but not limited to password protection and controlled physical access to protect the surveillance system from hackers, unauthorized users, and unauthorized use.
10. Video monitors will be located in the administrative offices at the school.
11. Video surveillance equipment will be used in accordance with all Board of Education policies.

Storage/Security

1. Video records will be stored for 30 days after initial recording. If the building principal and/or designee find no reason for continued storage, such records will be erased.
2. Video records held for review of property or student incidents will be maintained in their original form pending resolution. Records will then be erased, copied for authorized law enforcement agencies, or retained as necessary as part of the student's record in accordance with established procedures and applicable law.

Requests to View Video Surveillance

Requests to review video records will comply with all applicable state and federal laws and with Board Policy. All requests for review of video recordings that are considered an educational record will be as follows:

Students

Conduct

Video Surveillance

Requests to View Video Surveillance (continued)

1. All viewing requests must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent within five school days of the date of the recording. Requests for viewing will be limited to those parents/guardians, students, and/or law enforcement officials with a direct interest in the proceedings, and only the portion of the video record concerning the related specific incident will be made available for viewing.
2. Approval/denial for viewing will be made within five school days of receipt of the request and so communicated to the requesting individual by the Superintendent.
3. All viewing will include the building principal or his/her designee, and will take place in the school's administrative offices.
4. A written log will be maintained of any persons viewing video records including the date of viewing, reasons for viewing, date the recording was made, and signature of the viewer.
5. Video records will remain the property of the District and may be reproduced only in accordance with the law, including applicable Board policy and regulations.
6. Time lines may be altered for requests for viewing which arise at the end of a school year or prior to vacation periods.

Student Records

1. Video surveillance records may become a part of a student's educational record. The District will comply with all applicable state and federal laws and District Board policies related to record maintenance and retention.
2. Parents/students and the public will not be specifically notified when a video camera is in use.

Students

Student Driving/Parking

The Bethel Board of Education has the responsibility for protecting school property and for assuring the safety of all persons on school grounds. Thus it has the authority to set up controls that relate to driving and parking on school property, as well as the use of school grounds and facilities by the public.

Bethel High School students may park their cars on school property during school hours or activities in compliance with administrative regulations.

Policy adopted: September 28, 1992
Policy revised: August 25, 2005

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut

Students

Student Driving/Parking

Students may park only in an assigned area. The parking lot in front of Bethel High School is reserved for seniors except for spaces reserved for school staff, the handicapped, and visitors. All other students may park their cars in the lot across the street from the football field.

No student may go to any parked car without the expressed permission from an administrator. Parking a car illegally or improperly will result in disciplinary action and may result in the Bethel Police Department ticketing the car.

Parking on school grounds is a privilege granted by the school administration. The privilege will be withdrawn if it is abused.

Regulation approved: April 26, 1993
Regulation revised: August 25, 2005

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel Connecticut

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

Possession, transmittal or use of firearms, other weapons or dangerous instruments, martial arts weapons, firecrackers and other explosive or incendiary devices is prohibited in school buildings, on school grounds, on school transportation and at any school-sponsored activity away from school facilities unless written permission is given by the Superintendent or designee. This rule applies to students, employees, and visitors on school grounds.

The only exceptions to the above policy are as follows:

1. Persons possessing weapons, with a permit, for use in accordance with an agreement entered into by the Superintendent.
2. By law enforcement officers while engaged in performance of official duties.

Policy Adopted: 9/4/03

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, CT

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

Possession of firearms or dangerous weapons on school grounds is a violation of criminal law. Therefore, any violation of this regulation shall be reported to the local law enforcement agency and, where students are involved, parents or guardians will be notified.

For the purpose of this regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. "Dangerous instrument" means any instrument, article or substance, which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a "vehicle" or a dog that has been commanded to attack.
- b. "Deadly weapon" means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon or metal knuckles.
- c. "Electronic defense weapon" means a weapon, which by electronic impulse or current is capable of immobilizing a person temporarily, but is not capable of inflicting death or serious physical injury.
- d. A "firearm" as defined in 18 U.S.C § 921 means (a) any weapon that will, is designed to, or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon, (c) a firearm muffler or silencer, or (d) any destructive device.
As used in this definition, a "destructive device" includes any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas device, including a bomb, a grenade, a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, or a similar device; or any weapon (other than a shotgun or shotgun shell particularly suited for sporting purposes) that will or may be converted to expel a projectile by explosive or other propellant having a barrel with a bore of more than ½" in diameter. The term "destructive device" also includes any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device or any device from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. A "destructive device" does not include: an antique firearm; a rifle intended to be used by

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

the owner solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes; or any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon.

- e. "Martial arts weapon" means a nunchaku, Kama, kasari-fundo, octagon sai, tonfa or Chinese star.
- f. When considering whether conduct off school grounds is seriously disruptive to the educational process, the term "weapon" means any BB. gun, any blackjack, any metal or brass knuckles, any police baton or nightstick, any dirk knife or switch knife, any knife having an automatic spring release devise by which a blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one-half inches in length, any stiletto, any knife the edged portion of the blade of which is four inches and over in length, any martial arts weapon or electronic defense weapon as defined above or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument, unless permitted by law under section 29-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Students found to have violated this policy shall be expelled from school in accordance with Policy 5114.

Others possessing firearms will be subject to immediate police arrest.

If any of the aforementioned weapons are in a student's possession off school grounds without a permit to carry them or if they are used in committing a crime, the Board shall consider this as grounds for expulsion.

Procedures for Dealing with Violations of Weapons Policy

1. Any school employee who observes a student in possession of a weapon is authorized to confiscate the weapon under the power granted to the Board of Education to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety of students, staff and public.

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

2. Confiscated weapons are to be turned over to the principal or designee, with an immediate written report of the individuals involved, witnesses if any, location and circumstances of the seizure.
3. Any employee who knows or suspects that a student has a weapon, but has not confiscated the weapon, should report the matter immediately to the principal or designee who shall take action as appropriate.
4. In all of the above circumstances, the principal or designee shall take such disciplinary action as is appropriate according to the discipline policy of the Board of Education and the procedures of school. Due process rights of the student are to be protected. The principal or designee shall report the incident to local law enforcement, the student's parents or guardian, in person or by telephone, followed up by a written report.
5. The principal or designee shall immediately report all violations of this regulation to the Superintendent or designee.
6. A student who is acting in an aggressive, threatening or belligerent manner with an article designed for another purpose, but which can be used to inflict bodily harm or intimidate, will be administratively judged to be "in possession of a weapon" and disciplinary action will be taken accordingly. Examples of such articles include, but are not limited to: belts, combs, pencils, files, compasses, scissors, etc.
7. Special Education students found to have violated this policy shall be referred to a P.P.T. meeting for modification of his/her I.E.P. in order to prevent reoccurrence of such behavior and to ensure the safety of other children in the school.

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

(Cf. 5114 – Suspension/Expulsion; Due Process)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Board of Education to prescribe rules
10-233a through 10-233f Suspension/Expulsion of Pupils as amended by PA-95-304 and PA 96-244
10-233g Reports of principals to police authority
10-235 Indemnification of educational personnel assaulted in the line of duty
53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons
53a-217b Possession of a firearm on school grounds
GOALS 2000; Educate America Act
18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions
USCA 7151 – No Child Left Behind Act

Regulation Approved: 9/8/92
Regulation Revised: 4/4/94; 10/17/94;
11/18/96; 10/5/98
Regulation Revised: 9/4/03, 3/18/04

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, CT

Students

Out of School Misconduct

Students are subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion for misconduct, which is seriously disruptive of the educational process and is a violation of a publicized Board policy, even if such misconduct occurs off-school property and during non-school time.

In compliance with judicial decisions, the Board considers conduct which is "severely disruptive of the educational process" to mean conduct that "markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operations of a school" in addition to such conduct also being violative of publicized school policy. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, phoning in or using any electronic means to communicate a threat, or making a threat, off school grounds, to kill or hurt a teacher or student.

In addition, in making the determination as to whether conduct is "seriously disruptive of the educational process," the administration may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (2) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in Section 29-38 and whether any injuries occurred; and (4) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol. The Board of Education or impartial hearing board, in matters of expulsion for out of school misconduct, in making a determination as to whether conduct is "seriously disruptive of the educational process," may consider, but consideration is not limited to the same items listed previously.

Such discipline may result whether: 1) the incident was initiated in the school or on school grounds, or 2) even if the incident occurred or was initiated off-school grounds and non-school time; if after the occurrence there was a reasonable likelihood that return of the student would contribute to a disruptive effect on the school education or its process, markedly interrupting or severely impeding the day-to day operation of a school, by threatening:

1. The school's orderly operations;
2. The safety of the school property;
3. The welfare of the persons who work or study there.

Examples of the type of such off-school misconduct that may result in such discipline include but are not limited to:

1. Use, possession, sale, or distribution of dangerous weapons; (as defined C.G.S. 53a-3, 53-206, and 29-35)
2. Use, possession, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs; or
3. Violent conduct,
4. Making of a bomb threat,
5. Threatening to harm or kill another student or member of the staff.

where any such activity has the reasonable likelihood of threatening the health, safety or welfare of school property, individuals thereon, and/or the educational process.

Students

Out of School Misconduct (continued)

For example, if it is determined that a student's use, possession, or sale of drugs in the community has a strong likelihood of endangering the safety of students or employees because of the possibility of such sales in the school; or if violent conduct in the community presents a reasonable likelihood of repeating itself in the school environment; or if any similar type of misconduct in the community has a reasonable likelihood of being continued or repeated in school or of bringing retaliation or revenge into the school for such off-school misconduct, the Board may impose discipline up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. The rationale to be applied in considering disciplinary action is whether the off-school grounds conduct will markedly interrupt or severely impede the day-to-day operation of a school.

A student found to be in possession of a firearm or deadly weapon shall be expelled for one calendar year unless said expulsion is modified on an individual case basis.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
4- 176e through 4- 185 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.
10-233a through 10-233f re in-school suspension, suspension, expulsion. (as amended by PA 98-139)
29-35 Carrying of pistol or revolver without permit prohibited.
29-38 Weapons in vehicles.
53a-3 Firearms and deadly weapons.
53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons.
53a-217b Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds.
PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Safety.
18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.
PL 103-382 Elementary and Secondary Education Act. (Sec. 14601 - Gun Free Requirements: Gun Free School Act of 1994)
PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety.
PA 96-244 An Act Concerning Revisions to the Education Statutes.
Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.
(SC 15862)

Policy adopted: Sept. 8, 1992
Policy revised; 11/ 11/96; 10/5/98; 6/7/01
5131.8P-P&P5-04

Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT

Students

Safety

School Resource Officer

It is understood and agreed that the Board of Education and the Police Department officials share the following goals and objectives with regard to the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program in the schools:

1. To foster educational programs and activities that will increase student's knowledge of and respect for the law and the function of law enforcement agencies;
2. To encourage SROs to attend extra-curricular activities held at schools, when possible;
3. To act swiftly and cooperatively when responding to major disruptions and flagrant criminal offenses at school, such as: disorderly conduct by trespassers, the possession and/or use of weapons on campus, the sale and/or distribution of controlled substances, and riots;
4. To report serious crimes that occur on campus and to cooperate with the School Resource Officer in his/her investigation of crimes that occur at school; and
5. To cooperate with the School Resource Officer in his/her investigation of criminal offenses, which occur off campus.

The Board will work in cooperation with the police department in the placement of a school resource officer in the high school. The police department will determine the qualifications of resource officers.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension/Expulsion; Student Due Process)

(cf. 5131 – Student Conduct)

(cf. 5131.5 – Vandalism)

(cf. 5131.6 – Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol)

(cf. 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5142 – Safety)

(cf. 5144 – Discipline & Punishment)

(cf. 5145.12 – Search and Seizure)

(cf. 5145.121 – Vehicle Searches on School Grounds)

Instruction

Safety

School Resource Officer

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

4-176e through 4-180a. Contested Cases. Notice. Record.

10-233a through 10-233f. Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, and PA 98-139.

53a-3 Definitions.

53a-217b Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.

PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.

18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.

Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence)

Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.

P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendment of 1997.

Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.

Policy adopted: 4/4/02

**Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT**

STUDENTS

Safety

School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer (SRO) provides a visible presence in the Bethel Public Schools, allowing students to develop a trust in law enforcement while linking district and community safety concerns and making District property inhospitable to criminals.

The duties of the SRO shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The control of access to the school premises;
2. The prevention, investigation, and policing of activities associated with any unlawful act;
3. Assistance in identifying, intervening and communicating with at-risk students;
4. Promotion of a positive student attitude towards law enforcement;
5. Operating as a liaison between the Police Department and the District.

Chain of Command:

As employees of the Police Department, the SRO shall follow the chain of command as set forth in the Police Department's policies and procedure manual.

In the performance of their duties, the SRO shall coordinate and communicate with the Principal or his/her designee of the school to which they are assigned.

Transporting Students:

The SRO shall not transport students in their vehicles except:

- When the students are victims of a crime, under arrest, or some other emergency circumstance exists; and
- When students are suspended and sent home from school pursuant to school disciplinary actions, if the student's parent or guardian has refused or is unable to pick up the child within a reasonable time period and the student is disruptive/disorderly and his/her continued presence on campus is a threat to the safety and welfare of other students and school personnel.

The SRO shall notify the school Principal before removing a student from campus.

STUDENTS

Safety

School Resource Officer (continued)

Investigation, Interrogation, Search and Arrest Procedures:

The standard operating procedures for the investigation of crimes, interrogation, search and arrest of students are as follows:

1. Interrogation Procedures: In the event that a serious crime is committed at school or at a school activity, the SRO, in cooperation with the Principal or Assistant Principal, may:
 - Question any student or witness at school that may have information about criminal misconduct or a violation of the policies of the Board of Education. As a general rule, the purpose of the investigation should be stated. When immediate action is necessary or in an emergency situation, the SRO may interrogate a student without the presence of a school official.
 - Question the person suspected of committing the crime. The suspect shall be given an opportunity to present his/her knowledge of the facts.
2. If a student is detained, placed in custody or arrested, the student shall be advised prior to further questioning by the SRO of his/her legal rights.

Search Procedures:

If the Principal or his/her designee has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a search of a student or a student's possessions will uncover evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school, the Principal or his/her designee may search the student's pockets, pocket book, book bag, desk, locker, vehicle or any similar location within the student's control. When requested by school officials, the SRO shall assist with the search in order to protect the safety of all persons involved in the search. If the search uncovers evidence of criminal misconduct, the evidence shall be turned over to the SRO.

School officials shall not conduct a "strip search". A strip search is defined as a search of a student's person, which requires the student to remove his/her clothing in order to determine if any evidence is concealed within the student's undergarments or on the body. The term does not include the removal of outer garments such as coats, hat, shoes etc. If there is probable cause to believe that a student is concealing evidence of criminal misconduct within his/her undergarments, the SRO shall take appropriate police action.

STUDENTS

Safety

School Resource Officer (continued)

Reporting of Serious Crimes:

If the investigation uncovers evidence of a crime as defined in statute, the school official shall notify the SRO, the student's parent/guardian and the Superintendent's office.

Bomb Threats:

School officials, the SRO and fire safety officials shall cooperate in the implementation of procedures in the event of a bomb threat. In all cases, such incidents shall be reported by the Principal to the Superintendent's office and to the SRO.

Controlled Substances:

School officials shall notify the SRO in all cases involving the possession, sale or distribution of controlled substances at school or school activities.

Any controlled substances or suspected controlled substances confiscated by school officials shall be turned over to the SRO for proper identification and eventual disposition.

In the event a riot or civil disorder occurs on a school campus, the Principal and the SRO shall coordinate a response to the situation.

Riots and Civil Disorders:

If, in the opinion of the Principal and SRO, additional law enforcement personnel are needed to restore and/or maintain order, the SRO will contact the appropriate law enforcement agency and request that assistance. The Principal or his/her designee also shall notify the Superintendent.

The Principal or his/her designee shall be prepared to respond to questions from the news media, parents and other members of the public when order is restored.

If deemed necessary by school and law enforcement officials, the media and the public may be restricted to an area off campus away from the disturbance until order is restored.

STUDENTS

Safety

School Resource Officer (continued)

The SRO or officer in charge shall consult with the Principal about the decision to arrest and/or remove students and other persons from the campus. However, law enforcement officials shall have the authority to arrest and remove any person who commits a crime in their presence.

The names of any students arrested and removed from campus should not be released to the news media until their parents have been notified and in no event shall the names of juvenile students who have been removed from campus be released to the news media.

Education Records:

In an emergency situation, school officials shall allow the SRO to inspect and copy any public records maintained by the school including student directory information.

If some information in a student's cumulative record is needed in an emergency to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, school officials may disclose to the SRO that information which is needed to respond to the emergency situation based on the seriousness of the threat to someone's health or safety; the need of the information to meet the emergency situation and the extent to which time is of the essence.

If confidential student records information is needed, but no emergency situation exists, the information may be released only upon the issuance of a search warrant or subpoena to produce the records.

Regulation approved: 4/4/02

**Bethel Public Schools
Bethel, CT**

Students

Student Safety

Student safety shall be a priority of all school district personnel through supervision in all school buildings and grounds and through special attention to:

1. Maintenance of school environments.
2. Practices by school personnel and students -- particularly in instructional areas or in extracurricular activities presenting special hazards.
3. Development of school programs and activities consistent with appropriate abilities and limitations of students at each age level.
4. Offering safety education to students germane to particular subjects, such as laboratory courses, industrial arts, and health and physical education.
5. Appropriate first aid care for students in case of accident or sudden illness.
6. Adequacy of emergency response procedures at each school in the district.

(cf. 5131.6 Drugs/Alcohol and Tobacco)
 (cf 5141.1 Child Abuse and Neglect)
 (cf 5141.5 Suicide Prevention)
 (cf. 5141.3 Student Health Assessments and Immunizations)
 (cf. 5141.21 Administering Medications)
 (cf. 5141.22 Communicable and Infectious Diseases)
 (cf. 6146 Family Life)
 (cf. 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness)
 (cf. 6114.7 Bus Safety)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 PA 98-252 An Act Concerning Revisions
 Education Statutes.

Policy Adopted: October 5, 1998
 Policy Reviewed: 9/22/2005

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut

Students

Search and Seizure

School administrators have the authority to conduct reasonable searches and seize materials in accordance with this policy for the purpose of maintaining a safe, orderly environment and for upholding standards of conduct established by the Board of Education or school. This policy does not apply to investigations conducted by law enforcement officials or to investigations conducted exclusively for the purpose of criminal prosecution. School officials carrying out a search and seizure are expected to be knowledgeable about the constitutional rights of students and appropriate procedures for conducting the search or seizure.

Reasonable suspicion that a student has unauthorized or illegal materials is generally required before an individual may be singled out for a search. Reasonable suspicion is not required if a student freely, voluntarily and knowingly consents and agrees to the search of his/her person or personal effects.

1. Search of a Student and His/Her Effects

The Fourth Amendment rights that pertain to unreasonable searches and seizures apply to searches conducted by public school officials. A student and his/her effects may be searched if there are “reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.” The way the search is conducted should be “reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.” Under no circumstances is a school official authorized to conduct a strip search of a student.

2. Search of a Locker, Desk and Other Storage Area

A. Lockers, desks and other storage areas provided by the school system for use by students are the property of the school system. Such storage areas are provided for the temporary convenience of students only. The Board of Education authorizes the administration and/or law enforcement officials to search lockers and other school property available for use by students for the presence of weapons, contraband or the fruits of a crime if there are reasonable grounds at the inception of the search for suspecting that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Moreover, the scope of the search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and shall not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Students

Search and Seizure (continued)

Search of a Locker, Desk and Other Storage Area (continued)

- B. If the school administration reasonably suspects that a student is not maintaining a locker or other storage area assigned to him/her in a sanitary condition, or that the storage area contains items the possession of which is illegal or in violation of school regulations or that endangers the health, safety or welfare of the student or others, it has the right to open and examine the storage area and to seize any such items that are found.
- C. When required by law and otherwise at the option of the principal, items that have been seized shall be submitted to the police department for proper disposition. Items not submitted to the police department shall be disposed of as directed by the Principal.
- D. The decision to search shall be made by the Principal or the Principal's designee. The search shall be made in the presence of at least one witness. Should a student refuse to cooperate, the administration may contact the police to assist with the search. Discovery of illegal or dangerous materials shall be reported to the Office of the Superintendent.

3. Searches of Student Motor Vehicles

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to patrol student parking lots at any time, without notice or consent. The interiors of vehicles on school property may be searched if a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized or contraband items, other evidence of a crime or violation of district policy, or items which may be a threat to safety or security are contained inside.

(cf. 5145.121 – Search of Vehicles on School Grounds)

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
Section 10-221 Boards of Education to prescribe rules
Section 54-33n Searches
New Jersey v. T.L.O.; 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

Policy Adopted: September 28, 1992
Policy Revised: 9/22/05, 6/7/2007

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, CT

Students

Search and Seizure

Justification for Student Searches

Students possess the right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures under the fourth amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Balanced against this right is the school official's responsibility to create and maintain an environment consistent with school's educational mission. School officials have a duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students under their authority.

Prohibited Items

Students are requested not to bring to school items or substances which would disrupt the educational function of the school or which are prohibited by school board regulations or by law. Examples of items or substances in this category are weapons, clubs, explosives, firecrackers, alcoholic beverages and nonprescription drugs or drug paraphernalia.

Lockers and Other School Property

Designated officials may have access to student lockers when evidence suggests that the welfare of students and other personnel may be threatened.

The decision to search shall be made by the Principal or the Principal's designee. The search shall be made in the presence of at least one witness. After the search, each participant in the search shall sign a dated register attesting to what each found. Discovery of illegal or dangerous materials shall be reported to the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

Emergencies

Circumstances which put the safety of students or school staff at risk or could result in substantial property damage also will constitute sufficient reasons for school or police officials to conduct a thorough search of all school property.

Student Searches

School authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students or their property when reasonable suspicion indicates that a particular student is in possession of an item or a substance that represents a material threat to school routine or is prohibited by school board regulations or by law. Student property shall include, but not be limited to, purses, book bags and cars. School authorities in cooperation with the local police department reserve the right to conduct sniff searches with dogs of school property and student-driven cars.

Students

Search and Seizure

Police Notification

With regard to possession of items that constitute a violation of law, school authorities are to cooperate with the appropriate law enforcement agencies in the interest of preserving the integrity of the school's educational mission.

Lockers and Other School Property (Desks)

1. The Principal or his/her designee shall maintain an accurate list of all locker assignments and either a master key or combinations to all lockers.
2. At the time a student is assigned a locker or other storage space, he or she shall be informed that school authorities are empowered to conduct random periodic inspections of school lockers. Notices of this inspection policy also shall be posted in appropriate locations throughout the school.
3. Students also will be informed of the following locker regulations:
 - A. Students are responsible for the contents of the locker assigned to them.
 - B. Students are to keep their lockers locked.
 - C. Students are not to give other students access to their locker.
4. The exercise of that right to inspect also requires protection of each student's personal privacy and protection from coercion. An authorized school administrator may search a student's desk or locker under the following conditions:
 - A. There is reason to believe that the students' desk or locker contains contraband material and the presence of said material poses a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety or health in the school.
 - B. The search of a group of students' desks or a group of students' lockers where no particular student within the group is suspected may be conducted only if there is a reasonable suspicion of conduct immediately harmful to students, staff or school property.

Students

Search and Seizure

Prescription Drugs

Students who have a legitimate need to bring prescription drugs to school are to register this information in the nurse's office. (cf. 5141.21 - Administration of Medication)

Lost or Abandoned Items

Lost or abandoned items will be inspected by school authorities.

Student Searches

1. All searches of students shall be conducted or authorized by the Principal or designee, in the presence of a witness.
2. When the need to search a student arises, the student may be asked to give his or her consent to the search, but in no event shall the student be threatened with harsher punishment for refusing to consent, nor shall he or she be coerced or induced to give consent in any other manner. The consent, if given, shall be put in writing. If the student is unwilling to give free and voluntary consent, the school administrator may order the student to submit to a search. If the student refuses to obey the order, the school administrator may bring insubordination charges against the student as stipulated in applicable school regulations.
3. Searches should be no more intrusive than necessary to discover that for which the search was instigated.
4. A search of a student's handbag, gym bag or similar personal property carried by a student may be conducted if there is "reasonable grounds" for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.
5. Locker searches shall be conducted in the presence of another staff member and in the presence of the student responsible for the contents of the locker, if possible.
6. Searches may include, if school authorities think necessary, a frisk or pat down of student clothing. Frisk or pat down searches shall be conducted by a member of the same sex as the student and in the presence of another staff member.

Students

Search and Seizure

Student Searches (continued)

7. A search of a student's person, or a search of a group of students where no particular student within the group is suspected, may be conducted only if there is a reasonable suspicion of conduct immediately harmful to students, staff or school property. "Strip searches" of students are prohibited by employees of this school district.
8. Student searches which disclose evidence of school misconduct, but not criminal misconduct, should be treated according to applicable policies and/or regulations.
9. In the event that a student search discloses evidence of criminal wrongdoing, the school Principal or his/her designee shall determine whether or not police officials should be notified of the results of the search. If police officials are notified the student's parents should be advised of this fact as soon as possible.

Student Notification

Students shall be informed annually that Board policy allows student search and school desk/locker search.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

New Jersey v T.L.O., 53 U.S.L.W. 4083 (1985)

PA 94-115 An Act Concerning School Searches.

Regulation approved: September 28, 1992

Regulation revised: 9/22/2005, 6/7/2007

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BETHEL, CT

Search and Seizure

Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests

1. What factors cause you to have a reasonable suspicion that the search of this student or his or her effects, locker or automobile will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or the rules of the school?

A. Eyewitness account:

1. By whom: _____
 2. Date/time: _____
 3. Place: _____
 4. What was seen: _____
- _____
- _____

B. Information from a reliable source.

1. From whom: _____
 2. Time received: _____
 3. How information was received: _____
 4. Who received the information: _____
 5. Describe information: _____
- _____
- _____

C. Suspicious behavior. Explain: _____

D. Time of search: _____

E. Location of search: _____

F. Student told purpose of search: _____

G. Consent requested: _____

Search and Seizure

Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests (continued)

2. Was the search you conducted reasonable in terms of scope and intrusiveness?

- A. What are you searching for: _____
- B. Sex of the student: _____
- C. Age of the student: _____
- D. Exigency of the situation: _____
- E. What type of search is being conducted: _____
- F. Who is conducting the search: _____
Position: _____
Sex: _____
- G. Witness(es): _____

3. Explanation of Search.

- A. Describe the time and location of the search: _____
- B. Describe exactly what was searched: _____
- C. What did the search yield: _____
- D. What was seized: _____
- E. Were any materials turned over to the police: _____
- F. Were parents notified of the search, including the reason for it and the scope:

Instruction

Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

The Bethel Board of Education believes that all employees of the school system are responsible for doing everything in their power to ensure the safety of all of the students at all times.

The Board directs the administration and building Principals to maintain procedures for fire, civil defense, bomb scares, emergency closings and other emergencies, and to insure the maintenance of the fire alarm system and regular and emergency exits of all buildings.

First Aid and CPR

At least one person at each school site should hold current first aid and/or CPR certification.

Emergency Closing of Schools

The Superintendent or in the Superintendent's absence, his/her designee, is empowered by the Bethel Board of Education to close the schools or to dismiss students early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the safety or health of students and employees.

Information covering emergency closings for inclement weather and school bus operations shall be issued to parents, students, and staff members as immediately as possible.

(cf. 6114.6 - Inclement Weather)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-231 Fire drills.

Bethel Civil Preparedness Plan

Policy adopted: December 7, 1992

Policy revised: November 6, 1995, March 6, 2007

Policy revised: 5/10/07

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut

Bylaws of the Board

Public and Executive Sessions

Public Meetings

All meetings of the Bethel Board of Education shall be open to the public with the exception of executive sessions. A chance or social meeting, a caucus, or a discussion of strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, are not defined as "meetings" under the Freedom of Information Act.

Executive Sessions

The public is excluded from meetings of the Board of Education which are declared to be executive sessions. Executive sessions may be held upon a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting taken at a public meeting for only one or more of the following reasons, and may not be held for any other reason:

1. Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of an employee, provided that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open meeting.
2. Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation.
3. Matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting public security.
4. Discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate by a political subdivision of the state when publicity regarding such site, lease, sale, purchase or construction would cause a likelihood of increased price until such time as all of the property has been acquired or all proceedings or transactions concerning same have been terminated or abandoned.
5. Discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b) of section 1-19 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Attendance at an executive session shall be limited to members of the Board and persons invited by the Board to present testimony or opinion pertinent to matters before the Board provided that such person's attendance shall be limited to the period for which their presence is necessary. The minutes of the executive sessions shall indicate all persons who are in attendance.

Any vote taken on an issue addressed in executive session must be reduced to writing and made available for public inspection within 48 hours (excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays). The votes must also be recorded in the minutes, which shall be available for public inspection along with the other minutes and public records of the Board of Education.

Bylaws of the Board

Public and Executive Sessions (continued)

(cf. 1331 - Smoking in School Facilities)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 1-200 Definitions as amended by PA 02-130
- 1-206 Denial of access to public records or meetings.
- 1-210 Access to public records
- 1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public
- 1-226 Recording, broadcasting or photographing meetings.
- 1-231 Executive sessions
- 19a-342 Smoking prohibited in certain places

Bylaw adopted by the Board: December 7, 1992
Bylaw Revised: 11/7/02, 3/10/11
Reviewed: 3/10/05, 8/23/07

BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bethel, Connecticut



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Board of Education Goal: *The appearance, maintenance, and safety of our school buildings will mirror our educational values and the aspirations we hold for our children.*

Board of Education Action: Create Ad Hoc Special Advisory Committee on School Safety

Mission of School Safety Sub Committee: **To ensure safe and secure learning environments for Bethel's public school children and employees.**

Committee Responsibilities: Provide oversight and propose policy supporting the Bethel Public Schools' Emergency Preparedness Plan and Crisis Management Guidelines to ensure the following components are thoroughly addressed: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery.

Specifically, the sub-committee will examine:

1. School Building and Grounds Security
2. Staff and Student Safety and Security Education and Training
3. Crisis Prevention and Mitigation
4. Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Plan Maintenance

Proposed Meeting Date: January 24, 2013, 6pm

"Our Primary Purpose is to Improve Student Achievement."