

Board of Education Parent Involvement Hearing

Monday, July 8, 2024 Following Student Fees Hearing

**1. Call Meeting to Order at \_\_\_\_\_**

**1.1. Roll Call**

**1.2. Recognize Nebraska Open Meetings Act**

1.2.1. The "Open Meetings Act" has been duly posted at the front of the room. It has also been advertised in the Beacon-Observer Newspaper ahead of time.

**2. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment**

**2.1. Citizens Comments**

The purpose of public participation is not to provide an opportunity for the board to act upon matters concerning the public, but instead, it is a forum for the public to provide information and be heard by the members of the board. To acknowledge the purpose of public participation, the chair may wish to recognize the public comment received during this portion of the agenda, while emphasizing the board will not respond and/or act pertaining to matters brought before the board.

**3. Policy Review and Discussion**

**3.1. Review, Reaffirm, or Revise Parent Involvement Policy (5018)**

**3.2. Review, Reaffirm, or Revise District Title I Engagement Policy (5057)**

**4. Close Hearing and Adjourn**

Motion to close hearing and adjourn meeting at 6:05pm. This motion, made by Alicia Beavers and seconded by Morgan Fouts, Passed.

Alicia Beavers: Yea, Cole Brodine: Yea, Morgan Fouts: Yea, Hannah Hild: Yea, Lynette Mitchell: Yea, JC Ourada: Yea

**5. \*CLOSED SESSION: If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.**

**6. \*SEQUENCE OF AGENDA: The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the board.**

## 5018

### Parent and Guardian Involvement In Education Practices

The school district recognizes the importance of parental and guardian involvement in the education of their children. The school district will take the following steps to ensure that the rights of parents and guardians to participate in the education of their children are preserved.

1. Parents/Guardians will be provided access, as described in district procedures, to district-approved textbooks and other curricular materials and tests used in the district upon request.
  - a. A parental request to review specific approved textbooks and other district- or building-approved curricular materials (written, visual, and audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the textbooks and curriculum materials are used.
  - b. Parents may check out textbooks and may review curricular materials such as video and audio recordings within a time frame determined by the building principal to prevent disruption of the instructional process.
  - c. A parental request to review specific standardized and criterion- referenced tests used in the district should be made in writing to the building principal. Copies of the most recent tests used in the district will be available for parent review. Parents wishing to review statewide assessments will be provided with sample questions and a copy of a practice test, but will not be provided with copies of the actual assessment due to testing security. In the case of other secure tests such as the ACT, parents must contact the publisher to obtain copies of the test.
2. Parents/Guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities.
  - a. Parents/guardians are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes, assemblies and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental/guardian observation would not disrupt the activity. Observations that last more

than 60 minutes or occur on consecutive days are typically disruptive and will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal.

- b. Parents/guardians may contact the building principal to request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.
3. Parents/guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to ask that their children be excused from school experiences that parents find objectionable.
  - a. Building principals may excuse a student from any single school experience at the parent's written request.
  - b. When appropriate, alternative experiences will be provided for the student by the school.
4. Parents/guardians will be informed through the student handbook and district policies of the manner that the district will provide access to records of students.
5. Parents/guardians will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.
6. Parents/guardians will be informed of the circumstances under which they may opt-out of state and federal assessments.
  - a. In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of the school year, the District shall provide notice of the right to request a copy of this policy to parents/guardians of students attending schools receiving Title I funds. The District will provide a copy of this policy to a requesting parent in a timely manner.
  - b. State Assessments

State and federal law simultaneously require students to take state assessments, with few exceptions, but also permit parents or guardians to request to opt their students out of these assessments. Approval of opt out requests is

contrary to the mandatory testing laws, so the District cannot “approve” the request. Parents who do not present their child for testing will result in the child receiving the lowest score possible on the assessment.

c. National Assessment of Educational Progress

As a condition of receiving federal funds, the District participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. However, student participation in NAEP is voluntary.

The District shall provide parents/guardians of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered. Parents/guardians wishing to opt their students out of the NAEP assessment must notify the district in writing at least three days prior to the exam date to ensure that the District can coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.

7. Parents/guardians will be notified of their right to remove their children from surveys prior to district participation in surveys.
  - a. The principal must approve all surveys intended to gather information from students before they are administered to students.
  - b. Students’ participation in surveys is voluntary. Parents/guardians may restrict their child from participating in any survey.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_July 8, 2024\_\_\_\_\_

**District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

The school district will jointly develop with parents a School-Parent-Student Compact that outlines how the parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The written District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be jointly developed and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and to remove barriers to participation.

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.
2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.
3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities such as training to help parents work with their children and

improve achievement. A goal of parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.

4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.
5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.
6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.
7. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

This policy shall be reviewed annually at the annual meeting where concerned parties can have a conversation about possible changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Adopted on: December 14, 2020

Revised on:

Reviewed on: July 8, 2024

Statement 1:

There are many opportunities for parent engagement/involvement at the school such as eating lunch with your child, or volunteering in the classroom. The school is actively trying to involve parents with various opportunities. The science fair night the school put on this spring is a great example of a way the school is trying to engage not only parents, but the entire community. More activities/communication such as this will continue create an environment that is engaging and collaborative for students and families.

-Lacey Williams

Statement 2:

The parents' engagement at Elm Creek Public Schools is growing and demonstrates the commitment the parents and school have to fostering a supportive learning environment. Parents have opportunities to help students with weekly spelling words and read to their children in the evenings, which nurtures a love for literacy. Additionally, they work with their children on math facts, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, ensuring a strong foundation in mathematics. Parents also contribute to classrooms by donating essential supplies like tissues, Clorox wipes, and even seasonal items like gloves and hats throughout the school year. Their involvement extends to attending pre-spring testing hallway walks, writing encouraging notes for their children before state testing, and assisting with events like the Growth Gala. Remarkably, multiple classrooms achieve 100% attendance for parent-teacher conferences, highlighting their dedication. Positive social media posts towards the school and volunteering in classrooms further exemplify the support and engagement between the school and families.

-Jennifer Schopke

mail statements from parents in the district 2024-2025.