

## SPONSORSHIP AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

It is the Board's desire to offer MSAD 51 students athletic programming that provides diverse, developmentally appropriate opportunities and encourages student participation. At the same time, the Board recognizes that resources may not be available to fund all of the sports in which students and the community have an interest. In order to provide students with meaningful athletic experiences while maintaining high quality, sustainable programs, the Board adopts this policy governing sponsorship and evaluation of the District's athletic programs.

Through sponsorship, the District assumes responsibility for, and control of, a particular athletic program. Sponsorship requires Board approval. The District assumes responsibility only for those interscholastic athletic programs the Board has designated as school-sponsored.

The Board will approve for sponsorship only those programs that are consistent with its philosophy and policies and with regulations established by the appropriate governing bodies, including the Maine Principals' Association (which refers to its regulations as "policies"). Sponsorship does not mean that funding will be provided in whole or in part through the District's budget. Sponsorship is required even for activities that may be funded in full by booster organizations.

Sponsorship is required before any team may represent itself using the school or District name, to be eligible for league play and tournament participation, or to be eligible for school athletic awards.

In order to assess the sustainability of athletic activities, each District-sponsored activity will be evaluated on at least a five-year cycle.

The Board establishes the following process for the approval and evaluation of athletic programs.

### A. CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for developing a process for evaluating potential athletic programs and assessing the viability of existing programs. The process shall take into consideration the following factors, which shall be applied consistently to all programs:

1. Student interest;
2. Community interest;
3. Gender equity;
4. Impact on facilities;
5. Impact on existing programs;
6. Impact on administration and staff;

7. Expenses;
8. Availability of competition;
9. Potential to field competitive teams;
10. Alignment with Board philosophy and policies; and
11. Availability of funds, consideration of extraordinary costs (e.g., rental of facilities, transportation, specialized equipment), and other relevant data.

The process should include a scale for weighting and rating these criteria and for reporting a total score that may be used for comparison purposes.

## **B. APPROVAL OF NEW ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

Sponsorship of all new interscholastic athletic programs must be approved in advance. The Superintendent shall be responsible for making and supporting recommendations to the Board at least six months prior to the proposed starting date. Recommendations are to be made based on responses to the criteria for Evaluating Athletic Programs in Section A of this policy.

The Board may impose conditions that must be met for the program to be approved.

Following initial approval, new programs will be placed on a two-year probationary status.

Six months prior to the end of the probationary period, the Superintendent or his/her designee must submit a report to the Board including recommendations and support for continued Board approval. The Board may provide for continuing approval, deny approval, or extend the probationary status for one additional year. Probationary status shall not exceed 4 years (one initial probationary period and two extensions).

## **C. EVALUATION OF EXISTING OR ONGOING SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

Every athletic program will be evaluated on a five-year cycle.

The purpose of evaluation is to ensure that all existing or previously approved programs continue to meet the standards and criteria established by the Board.

The Board may authorize a program to be reviewed out of sequence based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The evaluation of existing or ongoing approved programs will be done using the same process used to assess proposed programs.

Based upon the data, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the program should continue or be discontinued.

The Board may vote to discontinue any program that it deems no longer sustainable or in keeping with Board philosophy, standards or criteria.

**D. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

The Superintendent or his/her designee will appoint an Athletic Advisory Board to perform evaluations of proposed and existing athletic programs. The Athletic Advisory Board must have balanced representation including the Superintendent and/or Athletic Director, a high school administrator, a middle school administrator, teachers who are employed as coaches, parents, students and community members. The Athletic Advisory Board will use the process for program evaluation.

The Athletic Advisory Board shall be advisory to the Superintendent and/or his designee. While it may make recommendations to the Superintendent and/or his designee, the Board retains full authority over MSAD 51 athletic programs.

- Cross Reference:     JJJ—Philosophy of Athletics
- JJIBA—Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches
- JJIBB—Sportsmanship
- JJIBC—Relations with Booster Groups (or alternative code KJA)
- IGDJ---High School Athletic Policy
- IGDJ---Middle School Athletic Policy

Adopted:       January 8, 2007