

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy Committee Meeting

September 8, 2022 3:30 PM

SAU - Conference Room

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review of suggested policies and procedures.
 - JLDBB – Suicide Prevention and Response
 - BBAA – School Board Member Authority
 - NHSBA Version of BBAA
 - BBAB – Roles and Duties of the School Board Chairperson
 - NHSBA Version of BBAB
 - BDB – Board Officers
 - NHSBA Version of BDB
 - BDB-R – Duties of the Chairperson

Review of School District Involvement in election information

Next Regular Meeting: October 13, 2022

OYSTER RIVER COOPERTIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: JLDBB
Review Policy Committee September 9, 2022	Page 1 of Category: Priority

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The Oyster River School Board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and school community. This policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; to establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt (“postvention”); and to promote access to suicide awareness, prevention and postvention resources.

A. District Suicide Prevention Plan and Biennial Review. No later than May 31, 2020, the Superintendent shall develop and provide to the Board for approval, a coordinated written District Suicide Prevention Plan (the “Plan”) to include guidelines, protocols and procedures with the objectives of prevention, risk assessment, intervention and response to youth suicides and suicide attempts.

1. Specific Requirements for Plan Terms: The District Suicide Prevention Plan shall include terms relating to:
 - a) Suicide prevention (risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, referrals);
 - b) Response to in-or-out-of-school student suicides or suicide attempts (postvention, suicide contagion);
 - c) Student education regarding safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, recognition of risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide; and help seeking strategies;
 - d) Training of staff, designated volunteers, and contracted personnel on the issues of youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, post-intervention and resources available within the school and community;
 - e) Confidentiality considerations;
 - f) Designation of any personnel, in addition to the {see adoption note (d) above, and B.1 & B.2, below} _____ District Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, to act as points of contact when students are believed to be at an elevated risk of suicide;
 - g) Information regarding state and community resources for referral, crisis intervention, and other related information;
 - h) Dissemination of the Plan or information about the Plan to students, parents, faculty, staff, and school volunteers;
 - i) Promotion of cooperative efforts between the District and its schools and community suicide prevention program personnel;
 - j) Such include such other provisions deemed appropriate to meet the objectives of this Policy (e.g., student handbook language, reporting processes, “postvention” strategies, memorial parameters, etc.).

2. Biennial Review: No less than once every two years, the Superintendent, in consultation [*with the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons_____ and*] with input and evidence from community health or suicide prevention organizations, and District health and guidance personnel, shall update the District Suicide Prevention Plan, and present the same to the Board for review. Such Plan updates shall be submitted to the Board in time for appropriate budget consideration.

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B. Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Liaisons.

1. District Suicide Prevention Coordinator. [{The Superintendent shall appoint a} OR {the ___ is designated as the}] District Suicide Prevention Coordinator, who, under the direction of the Superintendent shall be responsible for:

- a) developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with and coordination efforts between the District and community suicide prevention programs and personnel;
- b) annual updating of (i) State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention information, and (ii) names and contact information of Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, for inclusion in student handbooks and on the District's website;
- c) developing - or assisting individual teachers with the development - of age appropriate student educational programing, such that all students receive information in the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, and providing help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help;
- d) developing or assisting in the development of the annual staff training required under section C of this policy;
- e) Such other duties as referenced in this Policy or as assigned by the Superintendent.

2. Building Suicide Prevention Liaison. The [*name position _____*], or, in his/her absence, the building principal, shall be designated as the Building Suicide Prevention Liaison, and shall serve as the in building point-of-contact person when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide. Employees who have reason to believe a student is at risk of suicide, or is exhibiting risk factors for suicide, shall report that information to the Building Liaison, who shall, immediately or as soon as possible, establish and implement a response plan with the District Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

C. Annual Staff Training. The Superintendent shall assure that beginning with the 2020-21 school year, all school building faculty and staff, designated volunteers, and any other personnel who have regular contact with students, including contracted personnel or third-party employees, receive at least two hours of training in suicide awareness and prevention. Such training may include such matters as youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, intervention, response procedures, referrals, and postvention and local resources.

D. Dissemination. Student handbooks and the District's website will be updated each year with the contact information for the Building Suicide Prevention Liaisons, State and community crisis or intervention referral intervention resources. The District Suicide Prevention Plan will be made available on the District's, and each school's respective websites.

Legal References:

RSA 193-J: Suicide Prevention Education

Other Resources:

- The New Hampshire Department of Education's Bureau of Student Wellness, Office of Social and Emotional Wellness (OSEW), provides resources and technical assistance to school districts to work collaboratively with their community to respond to the needs of students through a multi-tiered system of support for behavioral health and wellness. For further information see: www.nhstudentwellness.org
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) - <https://www.afsp.org>
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center - <http://www.sprc.org>
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - <https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>
- The Trevor Project - <https://www.thetrevorproject.org>

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: BBAA
School Board First Read: May 20, 2015 School Board June 17, 2015 - Request for Public Hearing School Board (Public Hearing): August 19, 2015 School Board Second Read/Adoption: October 7, 2015 Policy Committee Reviewed: 4/13/16, 4/19/17, 4/11/18, 5/6/20 – No Change Policy Committee Review: April 2, 2021 School Board First Read/2 nd Read/Adoption: 4/7/21 & 4/21/21 School Board Annual Review: April 6, 2022 Policy Committee Review: September 8, 2022	Page 1 of 2 Category: Recommended

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

The authority of individual Oyster River Cooperative School Board members is limited to participating in actions taken by the School Board as a whole when legally in session. School Board members shall not assume responsibilities of administrators or other staff members. The School Board or staff shall not be bound in any way by any action taken or statement made by any individual School Board member or group of School Board members except when such statement or action is pursuant to specific instructions and official action taken by the School Board consistent with policies BDB and BDF.

Delegation

A Board member may be delegated authority by the Board to take action outside a proper Board meeting only as one of the following: 1) an officer of the Board, 2) a member of a Board subcommittee, 3) a member of an advisory committee. 4) a Board Liaison to another committee or organization, or 5) for a specific task. Except for officers, all other delegations shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board and approved by proper vote of the Board.

Subcommittees:

The Board may form subcommittees from its own membership to facilitate the work of the Board. Subcommittees may be standing committees that serve continuously for a specific topic, or they may be special or ad hoc committees that serve for a specific task and are then dissolved. Such subcommittees will be comprised of up to three Board members. All Board subcommittees are subservient to the Board as a whole and will have study and review functions as assigned to them by proper motion of the Board. Subcommittees will report their findings and recommendations to the full Board which will take action as a whole. Subcommittees may also take action that have been previously authorized by the full Board or are inherent in their Board approved charge. It is not the intent of any sub-committee to ever have the authority to work outside or instead of the authority of the full Board. The Board retains the right to dissolve a subcommittee at any time.

The standing committees of the ORCSD School Board are Negotiations, Policy and Finance.

All Board subcommittees are themselves public bodies under the Right-to-Know law and must comply fully with that law and all related policies equally as the Board itself.

Liaison

Board members may occasionally serve as Board liaison to other committees or organizations, both school and community based, for the purpose of reciprocal communication and reporting back to the Board. No more than two Board members may be delegated as liaison to the same committee or organization. Public access to the meetings and records of such committees or organizations is determined by how the Right-to-Know law applies to that committee or organization. Communications and reports involving the liaison with the Board shall be consistent with the Right-to-Know law and all related policies.

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: BBAA
School Board First Read: May 20, 2015 School Board June 17, 2015 Request for Public Hearing School Board (Public Hearing): August 19, 2015 School Board Second Read/Adoption: October 7, 2015 Policy Committee Reviewed: 4/13/16, 4/19/17, 4/11/18, 5/6/20 – No Change Policy Committee Review: April 2, 2021 School Board First Read/2nd Read/Adoption: 4/7/21 & 4/21/21 School Board Annual Review: April 6, 2022 Policy Committee Review: September 8, 2022	Page 2 of 2 Category: Recommended

Specific Task

An individual Board member may occasionally be delegated by the Board to perform a specific task. The motion to delegate a task to a Board member must include detailed instructions and be for a specific and limited time so that administrators, staff, other Board members and the public are fully aware of when a Board member is performing a task. If an original timeline is not met no new motion will be required but the Board member so tasked must keep the Board informed. All communications or actions related to the delegated task involving any other Board member must be at a proper Board meeting. A delegated task must not be used to circumvent the spirit of the Right-to-Know law.

This policy affects public access to the Board and the public’s Right to Know. To protect that right, this policy requires a public hearing before it may be revised. Further, this policy may not be suspended except by a two-thirds vote at a public meeting. The Board must always fully comply with the letter and spirit of the Right-to-Know law that may not be suspended. This policy will be reviewed by the Board annually.

Legal references:

- RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public
- RSA 91-A:2-a, Communication Outside Meetings
- N.H. Code of Administrative Rules-Section Ed. 303.01, Substantive Duties of School Boards

BBA - SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

(Download policy)

Category: Recommended

The authority of individual Board members is limited to participating in actions taken by the Board as a whole when legally in session. Board members shall not assume responsibilities of administrators or other staff members. The Board or staff shall not be bound in any way by any action taken or statement made by any individual Board member except when such statement or action is pursuant to specific instructions and official action taken by the Board.

Each Board member shall review the agenda and any study materials distributed prior to the meeting and be prepared to participate in the discussion and decision-making for each agenda item. Each agenda will provide an opportunity for Board members to comment on District activities and/or educational issues. These comments may become topics for future Board discussions.

Board members may occasionally serve on committees or organizations for the purpose of reciprocal communication and reporting back to the Board. Committee assignments will be made by the Chairperson with Board approval.

Each member is obligated to attend Board meetings regularly. Whenever possible, each Board member shall give advance notice to the Chairperson or Superintendent of his/her inability to attend a Board meeting.

Legal references:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public

RSA 91-A:2-a, Communication Outside Meetings

N.H. Code of Administrative Rules-Section Ed. 303.01, Substantive Duties of School Boards

Appendix: BBA-R

Revised: April 2011

Revised: July 1998, November 1999, February 2004

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OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: BBAB
Draft to Policy Committee: March 8, 2017 School Board First Read: April 5, 2017 School Board Second Read/Adoption: April 19, 2017 Board Reviewed: May 6, 2020 – No Change Policy Committee Review: September 8, 2022	Page 1 of 1 Category: Optional

ROLES AND DUTIES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Duties of the Chairperson

The Oyster River Cooperative School Board Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall perform other duties as directed by law, New Hampshire Department of Education rules, and by this Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairperson shall:

1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board;
2. Consult with the Superintendent and Vice-Chair in the planning of the Board meeting agendas;
3. Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters that may occur between Board meetings;
4. Appoint members to serve on specific committees, subject to full Board approval;
5. Call emergency meetings of the Board as necessary;
6. Be the public spokesperson for the Board at all times except as this responsibility is specifically delegated to others; and
7. Preside at and be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings.

As presiding officer at all meetings of the Board, the Chairperson shall:

1. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time;
2. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order;
3. Enforce the Board's policies relating to the order of business and the conduct of meetings;
4. Put motions to a vote and announce the vote result.

The Chairperson shall have the right, as other Board members have, to offer motions, discuss questions, and vote.

Duties of the Vice-Chairperson

The Vice-Chair will have the powers and duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence or for the duration of the disability, and such powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

Cross Reference: BDB – Board Officers

BBAB -ROLES AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

(Download policy)

Category: Optional

Duties of the Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall perform other duties as directed by law, New Hampshire Department of Education rules, and by this Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairperson shall:

1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board;
2. Consult with the Superintendent in the planning of the Board meeting agendas;
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The Chairperson shall have the right, as other Board members have, to offer motions, discuss questions, and vote.

Duties of the Vice-Chairperson

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform all the duties of the Chair.

New Sample Policy: April 2011

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OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: BDB
Second Read/Adoption School Board: October 3, 2012 School Board/Superintendent Revisions: January 13, 2014 School Board Review: March 31, 2015 Policy Committee Review: April 13, 2016 School Board Public Hearing/First Read: April 20, 2016 School Board Second Read/Adoption: May 4, 2016 Policy Committee Annual Review: April 19, 2017 – No Change Policy Committee Annual Review: April 11, 2018 – No Change School Board Review: May 6, 2020, May 5, 2021 – No Change School Board Annual Review: April 6, 2022 Policy Committee Review: September 8, 2022	Page 1 of 1 Category: Recommended

BOARD OFFICERS

Board officers will include a chairperson, vice-chairperson. Officers will be elected at the board's re-organizational meeting following the school district annual meeting. Board officers will serve a one-year term, concluding at the re-organizational meeting the following year, at which time a new election of officers will occur.

If the chairperson resigns from the school Board or resigns from the office of chair, the vice-chairperson will become chair of the Board. If the vice-chairperson resigns from the School Board or from the respective office, the Board will hold new elections for those offices.

The Superintendent is the chief executive officer and an ex-officio member of the Board and shall be the Executive Secretary ex-officio, and non-voting member of the Board.

Chairperson:

The chairperson shall preside at all meetings. The chairperson will have the right to vote on all matters before the Board. The chairperson will consult with the Superintendent on the preparation of the agenda for each meeting, shall have authority to sign contracts and other instruments as approved by the Board in its name and on its behalf, and shall have such other powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

Additionally, roles and duties of the chairperson are found in Board Policy BBAB.

Vice-chairperson:

The Vice-Chairperson will have the powers and duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence or for the duration of the disability, and such other powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

This policy affects public access to the Board and the public's Right to Know. To protect that right, this policy requires a public hearing before it may be revised. Further, this policy may not be suspended except by a two-thirds vote at a public meeting. The Board must always fully comply with the letter and spirit of the Right to Know law, that may not be suspended. This policy will be reviewed by the Board and all standing advisory committees annually before the end of April to ensure full awareness and compliance.

Cross Reference: BBAA – School Board Member Authority
 BDF – Advisory Committees to the Board
 BDB & R – District Clerk/District Treasurer Job Descriptions

Legal Reference: RSA 91A:2 – Public Records and Meetings: Meetings Open to the Public

NHSBA VERSION

BDB - BOARD OFFICERS

(Download policy)

Category: Recommended

Board officers will include a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary. Officers will be elected at the board's re-organizational meeting following the school district annual meeting. Board officers will serve a one-year term, concluding at the re-organizational meeting the following year, at which time a new election of officers will occur. Officers will remain in their respective offices until new successors are elected.

If the chairperson resigns from the school board or resigns from the office of chair, the vice-chairperson will become chair of the board. If the chairperson loses his/her election or does not run for re-election, the vice-chair shall serve as chair during the organizational meeting. If the vice-chairperson or secretary resigns from the school board or from the respective office, the board will hold new elections for those offices.

The Superintendent is an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board.

Chairperson:

The chairperson shall preside at all meetings. The chairperson will have the right to vote on all matters before the Board. The chairperson will consult with the Superintendent on the preparation of the agenda for each meeting, shall have authority to sign contracts and other instruments as approved by the Board in its name and on its behalf, and shall have such other powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

Additionally roles and duties of the chairperson are found in Board Policy BBAB.

Vice-chairperson:

The Vice-Chairperson will have the powers and duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence or for the duration of the disability, and such other powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

Secretary:

The Secretary shall be responsible for Board correspondence when directed by the Chairperson.

NHSBA Note, April 2016: New sentence added to first paragraph to clarify that board officers remain in their respective office until new officers are elected. This clarifies situations in which the election of a new officer ends in a tie vote. New sentence added in second paragraph to clarify who serves as chair at the organization meeting in the event the past chair was either defeated or did not run for re-election.

Revised: April 2016

Revised: July 1998, June 2013

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OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: BDB-R
Policy Committee Review: April 13, 2016 School Board Review: 04/20/16 & 05/04/16 Policy Committee Review: September 8, 2022	Page 1 of 1

ROLES AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Duties of the Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall perform other duties as directed by law, New Hampshire Department of Education rules, and by this Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairperson shall:

1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board;
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4. Put motions to a vote and announce the vote result.

The Chairperson shall have the right, as other Board members have, to offer motions, discuss questions, and vote.

Duties of the Vice-Chairperson

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform all the duties of the Chair.

Cross Reference:

BDB: Board Officers

School District Involvement in School Election Candidate Information

For School Board discussion 15 June 2022

Shall the School Board create a policy to define the School District's role in disseminating information related to school district elections?

Presently, the community looks to the district to facilitate candidate forums and distribute candidate information. The School Board should either affirm that expectation and set standards for providing candidate information, or clearly state that the School District will not provide that information well ahead of the next election so groups and candidates can plan accordingly.

We operate in 3 towns that have different approaches, from providing expansive candidate information and forums to providing only what is required by law.

Any action the School District takes must be impartial to all candidates and viewpoints. If the District has a practice of providing services and publicity to candidates, it cannot withhold that service or resources if there are controversial candidates or topics.

We should clarify the role of the district in:

- Use of district facilities (building space, technology, staff, internet resources) to host or distribute candidate forums
- posting candidate profiles on the ORCSD website, school email lists, or social media
- posting candidate links on the ORCSD website, school email lists, or social media
- clarifying what information the district must distribute by law (i.e. sample ballots, lists of candidates, basic candidate information collected on candidacy forms)
- if any of these resources are provided by the district, who among ORCSD staff is expected to ensure they happen (i.e. Clerk, Moderator, Superintendent, existing Board, IT dept, etc).

Recommendation: Discuss what this policy should include and refer it to the Policy Committee for development, with a target of receiving draft policy in October so it can be adopted well before the 2023 district election process.