

COMMUNITY RELATIONS GOALS POLICY

The Board of Education strives to conduct District affairs by way of a continuing, open dialogue between and among members of the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools learning community. Given District residents' commitment to and interest in the education of children and in the development of the extended community, the Board wishes to maintain its sensitivity to the needs and desires of the community and to act expeditiously to meet changing needs and conditions.

To this end, the Board establishes the following goals for community involvement:

1. to provide a variety of means whereby residents of the school district may have the opportunity to contribute their best thinking to the orderly planning of education for children in the district;
2. to keep the community accurately informed about its schools;
3. to understand community attitudes and aspirations for the schools;
4. to encourage contributions from the parent-teacher associations of the district so that school personnel and parents cooperate to advance the educational welfare of the children;
5. to address all complaints from the public first by the appropriate District staff member, followed, if necessary, by the administrator of the building/unit that is the focus of the complaint. Such complaints may then be carried to the Superintendent of Schools, or her/his designee, and may be reviewed by the Board if the problem cannot be resolved at the Superintendent level;
6. to promote a spirit of cooperation among the Board, the schools, and the community;
7. to develop and maintain the confidence of the community in the Board and the school District staff;
8. to expand the public understanding of every aspect of the school system, and stimulate public interest in the school;
9. to facilitate dissemination of information to the community concerning issues and activities in the school using not only traditional modes of communication, but also current modes of communication such as the District's website and social networking sites;
10. to ascertain the community's opinions and desires with respect to the operations of the school system, and to incorporate that knowledge into its actions;
11. to develop arrangements among civic and community organizations for sharing of resources, especially in the creation of programs designed to benefit students; and
12. to develop and maintain an effective plan to guide communications with the community.

Notwithstanding the above, the final decisions in these areas will rest with the Board.

Adoption date: January 16, 2013