

## Missoula County Public Schools

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

4120

#### Public Relations

- (1) The District will maintain an interchange of information with the public to enable the Board and staff to assess the needs of the schools and the community. The District will provide a means for members of the public to obtain information about District activities and to provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to participate in the decisions of the Board.
- (2) The Superintendent will establish and maintain a communication program within the school system and with the public. This program will include, but not be limited to, providing for news releases at appropriate times, inviting/requesting media coverage of District programs and events, maintaining regular direct communications between schools and the citizens they serve, assisting staff and the Board in improving their skills and understanding in communicating with the public.
- (3) The Board will enhance the value of public awareness of and participation in education issues by participating in training and informational meetings in regards to the public's right to know and right of participation. The District may solicit community opinion through parent organizations, parent-teacher conferences, open houses, and other events or activities which may bring staff and citizens together.
- (4) To assist in the public's involvement, the District will solicit community opinion to ensure that the ideas, interests and concerns are considered in the decision-making processes. Community opinions may come from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to: (a) parent organizations, parent-teacher conferences, open houses; (b) advocacy, non-profit, parent or community-based organizations; (c) business, civic and non-governmental organizations; (d) other educational organizations, and (e) other events or activities which may bring the members of the Board or staff and the public together.

Legal Reference:        Art. II, Sec. 8, Montana Constitution - Right of participation  
                                  Art. II, Sec. 9, Montana Constitution - Right to know

#### Policy History:

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