

**BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL HEARING
Monday, July 11, 2022 6:00 PM**

Mission Statement

"The mission of Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future."

- I. Call Hearing to Order
- II. Review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policies of the District for the 2022-2023 school year.
- III. Hold Public Hearing to discuss, consider, and receive input on the Student Fee Policy. The public will be given the opportunity to present information and opinions on a proposed Student Fee Policy.
- IV. Hold Public Hearing to discuss, consider, and receive input on the Parental Involvement Policy. The public will be given the opportunity to present information and opinions on the Parental Involvement Policy.
- V. Hold Public Hearing to discuss, consider, and receive input on the Bullying Policy. The public will be given the opportunity to present information and opinions on the Bullying Policy.
- VI. Adjournment

NOTICE: COPY OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT: The Board of Education makes available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. The Act is posted on the wall of the Board room.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC FORUM: Getting Started: When it is your turn to speak during the public forum portion of the agenda, please come forward to the table situated immediately in front of the Board, sign your name and address on the sign-in sheet and state your name to the Board of Education. Time Limit: You may speak only one time and must limit comments to 5 minutes or less. Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at the Board meeting. General Rules: Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of

business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.

BY: BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Special Hearing on Student Fees,
Parental Involvement in the Schools and Bullying Policies
July 11, 2022**

Issues and Recommendations:

Student Fees:

The Bennington Public Schools' Student Fee Fund had a beginning balance (9-1-21) of \$26,858.99. The Student Fee Fund collected \$5,922.13 in revenue and expended \$17,533.64 in expenditures leaving a current balance of \$15,247.48. State Law §§79-2,125 – 2,135 requires the Board to hold a public hearing to discuss, consider and receive input on the District's student fees policy. The vote shall be taken at a public meeting of the Board following a special public hearing called for the purpose of receiving testimony on policy additions or amendments. The district has duly advertised the hearing notice and such hearing will be held previous to the regular Board meeting. The student fee policy shall be adopted by a majority vote of the school board and shall be published in the student handbook. Please review Policy #504.19 – Student Fees and fees that are listed in the student handbooks. The administration does not recommend any changes to the current policy.

Policy: 504.19 – Student Fees

Parental Involvement:

State law §79-533 requires school districts to hold a public hearing to discuss, consider and receive input on Parental Involvement in the Schools policy required by §79-531 before the Board of Education adoption of said policy upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board (four votes). Please review the policy and state law attachments. The vote shall be taken at a public meeting of the Board following a special public hearing called for the purpose of receiving testimony on policy additions or amendments. The district has duly advertised the hearing notice and such hearing will be held previous to the regular Board meeting. The administration does not recommend any changes to the current policy.

Policy: 1005.03 – Parental Involvement in the Schools

Bullying:

State law §79-2,137 requires school districts to develop and adopt a policy concerning bullying prevention and education for all students. This policy is subject to annual review. A public hearing is not required; however, an effective method of meeting this requirement is to conduct the "review" each year when the Board holds the public hearing on the parental involvement and student fees policy. Bullying is defined as "any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse." The administration does not recommend any changes to the proposed policy.

It is the recommendation of the administration that the Board approves the necessary motions to adopt the policies as altered, or reaffirm the policies as written in the regular Board of Education meeting following this hearing.

Policy: 504.20 – Bullying Prevention

Possible Motion:

Action will be taken during the regular meeting under New Business.