

1 **St. Regis School District**

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3 **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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5
6 School-Support Organizations

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8 The Board recognizes that parent, teacher, and student organizations are an invaluable resource
9 to District schools and supports their formation and vitality. While parent, teacher, and student
10 organizations have no administrative authority and cannot determine District policy, their
11 suggestions and assistance are always welcome.
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13 Parent organizations and booster clubs are recognized by the School Board and permitted to use the
14 District’s name, a District school’s name, or a District school’s team name, or any logo attributable
15 to the District provided they first receive the Superintendent or designee’s express written consent.
16 Consent to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the
17 organization or club has by-laws containing the following:

- 18 1. The organization’s or club’s name and purpose, such as, to enhance students’ educational
19 experiences, to help meet educational needs of students, to provide extra athletic benefits to
20 students, to assist specific sports teams or academic clubs through financial support, or to
21 enrich extracurricular activities.
- 22 2. The rules and procedures under which it operates.
- 23 3. An agreement to adhere to all Board policies and administrative procedures.
- 24 4. A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, meaning that membership is open to
25 parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school, District staff, and community
26 members.¹
- 27 5. A statement that the District is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization’s or
28 club’s business or the conduct of its members.
- 29 6. An agreement to maintain and protect its own finances.
- 30 7. A recognition that money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense.
31 Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be
32 given to the District to use at its discretion. The School Board’s legal obligation to comply
33 with Title IX by providing equal athletic opportunity for members of both genders will
34 supersede an organization or club’s recommendation.²

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1 An alternative follows:
An agreement not to engage in discrimination based on someone’s innate characteristics or membership in a suspect classification.

2 Booster clubs are understandably selective in their support. However, by accepting booster club assistance that creates vast gender differences, a school board may face claims that it has violated Title IX. Title IX’s focus is on equal funding opportunities, equal facility availability, similar travel and transportation treatment, comparable coaching, and comparable publicity (34 C.F.R. Part 106).

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3 Permission to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos may be rescinded at any time and does
4 not constitute permission to act as the District's representative. At no time does the District accept
5 responsibility for the actions of any parent organization or booster club regardless of whether it was
6 recognized and/or permitted to use any of the above-mentioned names or logos. 3 The
7 Superintendent shall designate an administrative staff member to serve as the liaison to parent
8 organizations or booster clubs. The liaison will serve as a resource person and provide
9 information about school programs, resources, policies, problems, concerns, and emerging
10 issues. Building staff will be encouraged to participate in the organizations.

11 12 Fund-Raising by School Support Groups

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14 Fund-raising by school support groups is considered a usual and desirable part of the function of
15 such groups. Specific fund-raising activities must be approved in advance by the principal.
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17 The principal must be consulted before any expenditure of such funds. All such funds raised by
18 school adjunct groups are to be used for direct or indirect support of school programs.
19 Equipment purchased by support groups and donated to the schools becomes the property of the
20 District and may be used or disposed of in accordance with District policy and state law.
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24 Policy History:

25 Adopted on: March 8th, 2006

26 Revised on: April 9th, 2008

3 Booster clubs present potential liabilities to a school district beyond loss of funds because they seldom are properly organized (they generally are not incorporated or otherwise legally recognized), carry no insurance, raise and handle large sums, and club members hold themselves out as agents of the school (after all, no funds could be raised but for the school connection). A disclaimer, such as the one presented here, may not be sufficient. A district may take several actions, after discussion with its attorney, to minimize liability, such as adding a requirement to item 6 above that the club: (1) operate under the school's authority (activity accounts); or (2) be properly organized and demonstrate fiscal responsibility by being a 501(c)(3) organization, obtaining a bond, and/or arranging regular audits. Ultimately, the best way to minimize liability is to be sure that the district's errors and omissions insurance covers parent organizations and booster clubs.