

RSU #16 SCHOOL BOARD	CODE: JJIB Page: 1
SUBJECT: Sponsorship and Evaluation of Athletic Programs	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: November 2009 REVISION DATE:	
JURISDICTION: RSU #16	

POLICY:

It is the RSU #16 School Board’s desire to offer RSU #16 students athletic programming that provides diverse, developmentally appropriate opportunities and encourages student participation. At the same time, the RSU #16 School Board recognizes that resources may not be available to fund all of the sports in which students and the community have an interest. In order to provide students with meaningful athletic experiences while maintaining high quality, sustainable programs, the RSU #16 School Board adopts this policy governing sponsorship and evaluation of the RSU #16’s athletic programs.

Through sponsorship, the school unit assumes responsibility for, and control of, a particular athletic program. Sponsorship requires RSU #16 School Board approval. The Elm Street School, Minot Consolidated School, Poland Community School, Bruce M. Whittier Middle and Poland Regional High School assumes responsibility only for those interscholastic athletic programs the RSU #16 School Board has designated as school-sponsored.

The RSU #16 School Board will approve for sponsorship only those programs that are consistent with its philosophy and policies and with regulations established by the appropriate governing bodies, including the Maine Principals’ Association (which refers to its regulations as “policies”). Sponsorship does not mean that funding will be provided in whole or in part through the Elm Street School, Minot Consolidated School, Poland Community School, Bruce M. Whittier Middle and Poland Regional High School’s budget. Sponsorship is required even for activities that may be funded in full by booster organizations.

Sponsorship is required before any team may represent itself using the school name, to be eligible for league play and tournament participation, or to be eligible for school athletic awards. In order to assess the sustainability of athletic activities, each ongoing activity will be evaluated on at least a five-year cycle.

The RSU #16 School Board establishes the following process for the approval and evaluation of athletic programs.

A. **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL AND EVALUATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

The superintendent/designee shall be responsible for developing a process for evaluating potential athletic programs and assessing the viability of existing programs. The process shall take into consideration the following factors, which shall be applied consistently to all programs:

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1. Student body interest;
2. Community interest;
3. Gender equity;
4. Impact on facilities;
5. Impact on existing programs;
6. Impact on administration and staff;
7. Expenses;
8. Availability of competition;
9. Potential to field competitive teams;
10. Alignment with RSU #16 School Board's philosophy and policies; and
11. Availability of funds, consideration of extraordinary costs (e.g., rental of facilities, transportation, specialized equipment), and other relevant data.

The process should include a scale for weighting and rating these criteria and for reporting a total score that may be used for comparison purposes.

B. APPROVAL OF NEW ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Sponsorship of all new interscholastic athletic programs must be approved in advance. The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for making and supporting recommendations to the RSU #16 School Board at least six (6) months prior to the proposed starting date. Recommendations are to be made based on data from the evaluation process.

The RSU #16 School Board may impose conditions that must be met for the program to be approved.

Following initial approval, new programs will be placed on a one-year probationary status.

Six (6) months prior to the end of the probationary period, the Superintendent/designee must submit a report to the RSU #16 School Board including recommendations and support for continued RSU #16 School Board approval. The RSU #16 School Board may provide for continuing approval, deny approval, or extend the probationary status for one additional year. Probationary status shall not exceed three (3) years.

C. EVALUATION OF EXISTING OR ONGOING SCHOOL-SANCTIONED ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Every athletic program will be reviewed on a five-year cycle. The purpose of evaluation is to ensure that all existing or previously approved programs continue to meet the standards and criteria established by the RSU #16 School Board.

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The RSU #16 School Board may authorize a program to be reviewed out of sequence based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent/designee. The evaluation of existing or ongoing approved programs will be done using the same process used to assess proposed programs. Based upon the data, the Superintendent/designee shall make a recommendation to the RSU #16 School Board as to whether the program should continue or be deleted. The RSU #16 School Board may vote to delete any program that it deems no longer sustainable or in keeping with RSU #16 School Board philosophy, standards or criteria.

D. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Superintendent/designee may appoint a program evaluation or review committee to perform evaluations of proposed and existing athletic programs. Any such committee must have balanced representation including the Superintendent and/or Athletic Director, a high school administrator, a middle school administrator, teachers who are employed as coaches, and community. Any such committee will use the process for program evaluation. The committee shall be advisory to the RSU #16 School Board. While it may make recommendations to the RSU #16 School Board, the RSU #16 School Board retains full authority over the Elm Street School, Minot Consolidated School, Bruce M. Whittier Middle and Poland Regional High School's athletic programs.

Cross Reference: JJI—Philosophy of Athletics
JJIBA—Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches
JJIBB—Sportsmanship

SIGNATURE BLOCK:

RSU #16 School Board

_____ Dave Griffith, Chair	_____ DATE
_____ Yvette Murray, Vice Chair	_____ DATE
_____ Annette Annance	_____ DATE
_____ Carlton Beckett	_____ DATE
_____ Yvon Gilbert	_____ DATE
_____ Susan Callahan	_____ DATE

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Norm Davis

DATE

Melissa Hodgkins

DATE

Steve Holbrook

DATE

Mary Ella Jones

DATE

Jeanne Manley

DATE

Scott Sawyer

DATE

Martha Stone

DATE

Jack Wiseman

DATE

Chris Woodford

DATE