

## MEMORIALS AND FUNERALS

1. The Board of Education recognizes that when a school community experiences the sudden death of a student, staff, or community member with particular ties to the school community over a period of many years, it is important to the school community and to those who are personally affected by the death to acknowledge the event. Use of school district property for memorial services is generally not permitted; however, requests from students, staff, parents, or others for remembering or memorializing a person may be approved by the District Administrator or designee, subject to the provisions of this policy.
2. In the immediate aftermath of a death, at the discretion of the principal, the school building may be opened with counselors available to address student needs, and temporary memorials may be permitted. They will consult with the family of the deceased, as appropriate. The display of all remembrances will be temporary in nature, removed in a timely manner, and offered to the family.
3. Requests may be made to memorialize an individual in school yearbooks or at school events. Activities that will not detract from scheduled classroom or school activities, or the celebration of student accomplishments may, with proper building principal approval, be authorized. Activities or events may be rescheduled or cancelled with prior District Administrator or designee approval only. In considering memorial activity requests, the administration will balance memorializing or commemorating the individual or event on the one hand, while not creating an atmosphere that glamorizes a traumatic event or self-destructive behavior on the other. Major school ceremonies such a graduation, awards and scholarship events or the like, are not appropriate for significant memorial activities.
4. Schools may observe a moment of silence in memory of the individual as deemed appropriate by the District Administrator or designee. Additional district counseling services may be made available to provide support. Student, staff, or community deaths will not be announced or memorialized over the intercom or on reader boards. School will not be dismissed early or cancelled on the day of a memorial or funeral service. Flags may be lowered only in accordance with state and federal law. District property (e.g. buildings, rooms, fields, gymnasiums, etc.) may be named or renamed to memorialize an individual with Board of Education approval only.

Legal Ref:

Cross Ref: 830 Use of School Facilities; 830 Rule Use of School Facilities Regulations

Adopted: 11/10/08

Revised: 08/14/23