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STUDENT ANTI-HARASSMENT

Prohibited Harassment

It is the policy of the Board to maintain an educational environment that is free from all forms of harassment. This commitment applies to all District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate actions to eliminate it, including suspension or expulsion of students and disciplinary action against any other individual in the School District community. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our students.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against harassment based on the traits of sex (including sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, or gender identity), race, color, national origin, religion, creed, ancestry, marital or parental status, pregnancy or related conditions, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected by Federal or State civil rights laws ("Protected Classes), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. Additionally, harassment means behavior toward a student or group of students that substantially interferes with the student's school or academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment.

The Board will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps designed to end the harassment, prevent reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy

The Board will also take prompt steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of unlawful harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment complaints comprises part of one's duties.

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Sex-based harassment covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities.

Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on anti-harassment in the educational environment and the identity of the District's Compliance Officers will be posted throughout the District and published in any District statement regarding the availability of employment, staff handbooks, and general information publications of the District as required by Federal and State law and this policy.

Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to harassment, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

Day(s) means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the District office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays) unless expressly stated otherwise herein.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in harassment, regardless of whether the Reporting Party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

School District Community means individuals, students, administrators, teachers, and staff, as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Harassment

Harassment means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student based on one or more of the student's Protected Class that:

- A. Places a student in reasonable fear of harm to their person or damage to their property;
- B. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
- C. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

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"Harassment" also includes "hate speech" directed against a student —the use of language, behavior, or images/symbols that express prejudice against a particular group or groups on the basis of any protected characteristic(s).

Examples are:

- A. making statements that promote violence toward a racial or ethnic group;
- B. drawing, displaying, or posting images or symbols of prejudice (e.g., swastikas).

District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's Compliance Officers (individually "CO" and collectively "COs"):

Lori Smits
Director of Pupil Services
(920) 779-7900 Ext. 13111
246 N Olk Street, Hortonville WI
lorismits@hasd.org

Thomas Ellenbecker
Director of Human Resources
(920) 779-7900 Ext. 13108
246 N Olk Street, Hortonville WI
thomasellenbecker@hasd.org

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually:

- A. on the School District's website.
- B. in the parent and staff handbooks.
- C. in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- D. in the School District's calendar.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding harassment.

Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Reporting procedures are as follows:

- A. Any student who believes they have been the victim of harassment prohibited under this Policy will be encouraged to report the alleged harassment to and District employee, such as a teacher, administrator, or other employees.
- B. Any parent of a student who believes the student has been the victim of harassment prohibited under this Policy is encouraged to report the alleged harassment to the student's teacher, building administrator or District Administrator.
- C. Teachers, administrators, and other school employees who have the knowledge or received notice that a student has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited under this Policy shall immediately report the alleged harassment to one (1) of the CO with in two (2) days.
- D. Any other person with knowledge or belief that a student has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited by this Policy shall be encouraged to immediately report the alleged acts to any District employee, such as a teacher, administrator or other employees.

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- E. The reporting party or Complainant shall be encouraged to use a report form available from the principal of each building or available from the District office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Use of formal reporting forms shall not be mandated. However, all oral complaints shall be reduced to writing.
- F. To provide individuals with options for reporting harassment to an individual of the sex with which they feel most comfortable, the Board has designated both a male and a female CO for receiving reports of harassment prohibited by this Policy. At least one (1) CO or other individuals shall be available outside regular school hours to address complaints of harassment that may require immediate attention.

A CO will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to harassment, prohibited by this Policy and to assist students, other members of the School District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the student.

Any employee who directly observes harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2 days. Thereafter, the COs must contact the Complainant, if over age eighteen (18) or the Complainant's parents/guardians if under the age of eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise of the intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the CO to conduct an investigation following all the procedure outlined in the complaint procedures.

The COs are assigned to accept complaints of harassment prohibited by this Policy directly from any member of the School District community or a Third Party or to receive complaints that are initially filled with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, a CO will contact the Complainant and will provide a copy of this Policy to the Complainant and Respondent. The CO will prepare recommendations for the District Administrator. In the case of a complaint against the District Administrator or a Board member, the CO will prepare recommendations for the District Legal Counsel who has been designated to serve as the decision maker for such complaints. All Board employees must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer as soon as possible, but always within no more than two (2) days of learning of the incident.

In cases where no District CO is able to investigate a complaint due to concerns regarding conflicts, bias, or partiality, or for other reasons that impair the CO's ability to conduct an investigation, the CO may, in consultation with the District Administrator, or Board President if the matter involves the District Administrator, engage outside legal counsel to conduct the investigation consistent with this policy.

Filing a Complaint and Initial Processing of a Complaint

Except for sex-based harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination of the Basis of Sex in education Program or Activities, any student, or student's parent/guardian, who believes the student has been subjected to harassment, prohibited by this Policy, may seek resolution of the complaint

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through the procedures described below. The complaint process involves an investigation of the Complainant's claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the allegations are substantiated.

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of a student to pursue a complaint of harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights ("OCR") and/or another applicable governmental agency. The Chicago Office of the OCR can be reached at John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor Chicago, IL 60604; Telephone: 312-730-1560; FAX: 312-730-1576; TDD: 800-877-8339; Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov; Web: http://www.ed.gov/ocr.

If at any time during the investigation process the investigator determines that the complaint is properly defined as Bullying, under Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and not Harassment under this Policy, because the conduct at issue is not based on a student's Protected Characteristics, the investigator shall transfer the investigation to the appropriate building principal.

If during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior, and/or harassment, in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile educational environment and may have constituted discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior, and/or harassment to one (1) of the CO who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this Policy. If the alleged harassment involves sex-based harassment as defined by Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Program or Activities, the matter will be investigated in accordance with the grievance procedures outlined in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities.

Complaint and Investigation Procedure

A Complainant may file a complaint, either orally or in writing with a teacher, Principal, or other District official who works at another school or at the District level. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of harassment, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known, and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, or other District official at the student's school, the CO, District Administrator, or other District official either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) days.

All complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent: a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); and a list of potential witnesses.

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If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation including but not limited to a change of class schedule for the Complainant or the Respondent or possibly a change of school for either or both of the parties. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the principal and the District Administrator prior to any action being taken, except for complaints against the District Administrator, in which case the Board President should be consulted.

As soon as appropriate in the investigation process, the CO will inform the Respondent, that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative procedures and the Board's anti-harassment policy shall be provided to the Respondent at that time. The Respondent must also be provided an opportunity to respond to the complaint.

All investigations shall be commenced as soon as practicable upon receipt of a complaint and concluded as expeditiously as feasible, in consideration of the circumstances, while taking measures to complete a thorough investigation. The Complainant shall be notified in writing of receipt of the complaint within forty-five (45) days of the complaint and shall reach a determination concerning the complaint within ninety (90) days of receipt unless additional time is agreed to by the Complainant.

Generally, within two (2) days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate an investigation by at a minimum confirming receipt of the complaint with and informing the complainant of the investigation process.

The investigation by the CO or designee will include:

- A. Interviews with the Complainant;
- B. Interviews with the Respondent;
- C. Interviews with any other witnesses who reasonably may be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations as determined by the CO or designee;
- D. Consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO or designee.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or designee shall prepare and deliver a report to the District Administrator that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of harassment as provided in Board policy

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and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent engaged in harassment/retaliation of the Complaint. In determining if harassment occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The CO or designee's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved.

The CO or designee may consult with the Board's attorney during the course of the investigatory process and/or before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

Generally, within five (5) days of receiving the report of the CO or designee, the District Administrator or designee, or in the case of a complaint against the District Administrator or a Board member, the person designated to serve as the decision-maker for the complaint either must issue a written decision regarding whether the complaint has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the District Administrator or a designee's written decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and Respondent. The District Administrator or a designee may redact information from the decision consistent with applicable law. The Board authorizes the District Administrator to consult with legal counsel to determine the extent to which information in an investigation report must be provided to either the Complainant or Respondent.

If the District Administrator or designee requests additional investigation, the District Administrator or designee must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator or designee must issue a written decision as described above.

The decision of the District Administrator or designee shall be final. If the Complainant feels that the decision does not adequately address the complaint, they may appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction by submitting a written request to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction ("DPI"), Pupil Nondiscrimination Program, or by contacting the DPI Pupil Nondiscrimination Program at (608) 267-9157.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of harassment regardless of whether the member of the School District community or Third Party alleging the harassment pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board.

To the extent required by law or permitted by the District, the parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the

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filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

Additional School District Action

If the evidence suggests that the harassment at issue is a crime or requires mandatory reporting under the Children's Code (Sec. 48,981, Wis. Stat.), the CO or District Administrator shall report the harassment to the appropriate social service and/or law enforcement agency charged with responsibility for handling such investigations and crimes.

Any reports made to the local child protection service or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the CO's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the COs may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the District Administrator.

Privacy/Confidentiality

The District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the District's legal obligations to investigation, take appropriate action, and comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations. Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed however. Respondents must be provided an opportunity to meaningfully respond to allegations, which may include disclosure of the Complainant's identity.

All record generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided with the Complainant's identity.

During the course of an investigation, the CO will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to Third Parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

Directives During Investigation

The CO may recommend to the District Administrator placing any employee involved in an investigation under this Policy on administrative leave pending resolution of the matter. If the District Administrator is the Respondent, the CO shall make such recommendation to the Board. Administrative leave may be appropriate in situations in which protecting the safety of any individual or the integrity of the investigation necessitates such action.

The CO shall determine whether any witnesses, in the course of an investigation, may be required to answer questions that could also involve criminal investigations or sanctions, including the existence of a

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co-occurring law enforcement investigation are still required to answer questions concerning the District's investigation, but are entitled to do so without waiving their Constitutional right against self-incrimination that applies during a criminal investigation.

Every employee interviewed in the course of an investigation is required to provide truthful responses to all questions. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Remedial Action and Monitoring

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken because of the discrimination, or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a District employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to address any reported occurrences promptly.

Sanctions and Disciplinary Action

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against harassment by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. Disciplinary action will be taken according to law.

When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the age and maturity level of any student involved. In those cases where harassment is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior disciplinary action has been taken against the Respondent all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging harassment/retaliation, prohibited by this Policy or participates as a witness in an investigation conducted pursuant to this Policy, is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or

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participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting pursuant to this Policy is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Complaints alleging retaliation in violation of this Policy, may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

Education and Training

In support of this Policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of discriminatory practices. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information, provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The CO is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conduction investigations under this policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, which may include but are not limited to:

- All written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;
- Narratives of all verbal reports, allegations, complaints, and statements collected;
- A narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;
- Any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;
- Narratives of, notes from or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- All documentary evidence;
- E-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;
- Contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- Written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;
- Dated written determinations to the parties;
- Dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;

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- Written documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt;
- Documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 – Information Management) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310 – Public Records, Policy 8315 – Information Management, Policy 8320 – Personnel Records, and Policy 8330 – Student Records for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

Legal References:

48.981. Wis. Stats.

118.13, Wis. Stats.

P.I. 9, Wis. Admin. Code

P.I. 41 Wis. Admin. Code

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, as amended (IDEA)

29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

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42 U.S.C. 1983

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

34 C.F.R. Part 104, Section 504 Regulations

34 C.F.R. Part, IDEA Regulations

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