

Memorials

The Board recognizes that when a school community experiences the sudden death of a student or staff member, it is important to the school community and to those who are personally affected by the death to acknowledge the event. Additionally, certain traumatic events occurring on a local, state, or national level may also give rise to the need for school unit acknowledgment through appropriate activities. Requests from students, staff, parents or others for remembering or memorializing a person or event may be approved by the Board, Superintendent/designee subject to the provisions of this policy.

The Board recognizes that memorials of flowers, personal messages, and mementos are often created at lockers, parking spaces and other areas on district property upon such losses or events. Memorials may be permitted at the discretion of the principal, who 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.

Requests may be made to memorialize an individual or event in school yearbooks, at graduation ceremonies and other district activities. Activities that will not detract from scheduled classroom or school activities or the celebration of student accomplishments may be permitted with prior building principal approval. Activities or events may be rescheduled or cancelled with prior Superintendent approval only.

In considering memorial activity requests, school administrators will balance memorializing or commemorating the individual or event on the one hand with avoiding creating an atmosphere that glamorizes a traumatic event or self-destructive behavior on the other.

Memorial scholarships may be accepted and awarded in honor of persons who have special significance to the students, district, or community. All such offers should be submitted to the Board with pertinent information concerning the purpose of the memorial scholarship. Funds will be administered RSU 40.

Items may be accepted by the district in memory of an individual or event with Board approval only. The Board will consider any maintenance costs to the district of such items. Items received become the property of the district and will be used for the purpose for which they were donated.

Schools may observe a moment of silence in memory of the individual or in recognition of certain traumatic events as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent/designee. Additional district counseling services may be made available to provide support. Deaths will not be announced or memorialized on reader boards.

School will not be dismissed early or cancelled on the day of a memorial or funeral service unless approved by the Superintendent.

Flags may be lowered only in accordance with state and federal law.

RSU 40 Schools will not hang plaques commemorating the deceased or install permanent living memorials, such as planting trees unless approved by the Board.

The Board recognizes the use of district property for memorial services is generally inappropriate. Any such request will be considered in accordance with Board policy KF – Use of District School Facilities and applicable administrative procedures.

District property (e.g., buildings, rooms, fields, gymnasiums, etc.) may be named or renamed to memorialize an individual with Board approval only.

Cross Reference: EBC – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
 KCD – Public Gifts/Donations to the Schools
 KF –Community Use of District School Facilities

Adopted: June 18, 2015

Reviewed: October 4, 2018