

DONATIONS TO NORTH KINGSTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process and procedure for the donation of gifts of any kind, money or property, to North Kingstown Public Schools.

PHILOSOPHY:

The North Kingstown School Committee recognizes and appreciates the benefits of citizen's donations of time, talent, and money in support of the educational goals of the School District. The School Committee further acknowledges the value of group or individual donations to the public schools that help to maintain, augment, and support approved programs, while at the same time recognizing that a free and appropriate public school education must be provided to every school aged child who resides in North Kingstown.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The present financial resources of cities, towns and the state are stretched to their limit with regard to providing adequate funding for education, yet the need to fund public education at its present level remains unabated.

School districts and School Committees are limited in their ability to seek alternative sources of funding for budgetary items outside of the annual appropriation of state aid to education and municipal tax levies. Gifts and donations from the community or organizations are welcome and appreciated. The School Committee remains aware of their obligation of fair and equitable distribution of resources through the public school system.

PRIVATE DONATIONS TO THE NORTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOLS

The Town of North Kingstown and the North Kingstown Public Schools are obligated by the state constitution and state law to provide a free and appropriate education to school-aged children who reside in the Town.

The School Committee acknowledges that in addition to the funding that must be provided to public schools by the federal, state and local governments, private citizens and groups may wish to donate to the schools for general and specific operating and capital needs. The School Committee is bound by federal law to ensure that all resources distributed through the North Kingstown Public Schools are distributed as fairly and equitably as possible.

Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 16, Section 89, allows School Committees to accept grants or gifts from the federal and state governments, charitable foundations, private corporations, and private citizens for the educational purpose for which the gift is made. Grant funds may be expended only by approval of the School Committee.

Citizens and groups wishing to donate to the School Department may indicate the purpose of the gift in an accompanying letter. It is understood that a gift is a voluntary transfer of property given gratuitously and without consideration. Any interest generated from a temporary investment of the gift shall remain with the principal and be used for the specific purpose of the gift if the letter of donation so specifies. Donations to the North Kingstown Public Schools are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. An acknowledgment letter for tax purposes shall be sent promptly to each donor and be signed by the Superintendent of Schools or the designee. Because of the need for transparency, and to avoid any appearance of favoritism or impropriety, the identity of the donor of any anonymous gifts to the School District, will be revealed to the School Committee but will not be announced publicly.

Unless otherwise indicated, a gift is unrestricted and may be used by the School Department for purposes consistent with the School Committee's goals and priorities. If a donor wishes to restrict a gift to a specific program, the donor must indicate this in an accompanying letter. The School Department shall establish separate interest bearing accounts for restricted gifts as needed. The School Committee reserves the right to decline restricted gifts for programs that it has chosen to discontinue. Further, the School Committee reserves the right to decline contributions with conditions and restrictions that are not consistent with Federal and State law, School Department policy and procedures, and/or School Committee's goals and priorities. Gifts may also be made to the schools or School Department through donation to the Town, but must be approved by the School Committee in the same manner as gifts made directly to the schools. The School Committee reserves the right to decline gifts from the Town to the same extent described above.

In the event that a private foundation or group seeks to raise \$100,000 or more for the North Kingstown Public Schools or for a specific school program through an event, a direct mail campaign, or another activity, it is suggested that the organizing group and the School Committee sign a Memorandum of Understanding defining the goals and purposes for which funds will be raised. The Memorandum of Understanding must be approved by a majority vote of the North Kingstown School Committee.

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS

Gifts, from public or private entities, of a known value of over \$5000.00 will be subject to School Committee approval.

Gifts will automatically become the property of the school system. Any gift of cash, whether or not intended by the donor for a specific purpose, will be handled as a separate account and expended at the discretion of the Committee, as provided by law.

The Committee directs the Superintendent to assure that an appropriate expression of thanks is given all donors.

First Read: 9-9-2014

Second Read: 9-23-2014

Adopted: 9-23-2014

Amended: