



RELATED BOARD POLICY: PG2.6 - ASSET PROTECTION

WSD PROCEDURE PG2.6-P1

APPROVAL DATE: 4/1/2024



Superintendent Signature

FLAGPOLE USE

1. **The US Flag** will always be flown and be at the highest visual level in accordance with state and federal guidelines.
2. **The Vermont flag** will always be flown.
3. **Flags will be lowered** when directed by the state.
4. **Flags may be lowered** by additional Superintendent directive.
5. **Additional flags** to be flown at a lower visual level may be approved by the Board, after a recommendation from the Superintendent, if flying such flag promotes the WSD's Ends statement priorities and supports students' sense of belonging in the schools, especially those from historically and currently marginalized identities.
6. **An identity** includes permanent traits, unchosen intrinsic characteristics, or statuses over which the individual has no control over. This includes race, color, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, and others.
7. **"Protected" groups** as defined by existing US law are automatically considered an "identity" in this procedure.
8. **A political viewpoint** or membership within a chosen group does not constitute an identity as defined in this procedure.

PETITIONS

The Black Lives Matter Flag and the Pride Flag, having been approved prior to the current administration, are grandfathered in and are not subject to this procedure.

The following rules apply to petitions for flagpole use after April 1, 2024:

1. **A student group** may petition for a new flag to be flown. No petitions shall be initiated nor accepted from any other individual, group, or entity.
2. **The student group** must submit signatures from at least 50% of the school site's student population (if the group is from the middle school, at least half of all currently enrolled middle school students must sign the petition).
3. **The student group** must be able to convene in person or online at least 25% of the total student population of their respective school site to be present during the meeting with the Superintendent where the petition will be discussed.
4. **The group must submit** a well-articulated essay specifying how "flying such flag promotes the WSD's Ends statement priorities and supports students' sense of belonging in the schools, especially those from historically and currently marginalized identities."
5. **The group** (including all and any students in attendance during the meeting with the Superintendent) must be able to easily articulate their reasons when asked during the meeting. Students who attend the meeting may be selected randomly to state their reason for support. It should be clear to the Superintendent that students present understand their petition.
6. **The petition must state** for how long the flag will fly and how the flag will be provided at no cost to the district. No flag may be approved to fly for longer than two years. If the group wishes to have the flag fly for longer, a new petition process must be initiated by current students at the time of petition.
7. **Students found** to be in active collaboration with outside entities, such as politically-driven groups, will not be eligible to participate in a petition.