COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

The Director of Information Technology shall be responsible for the management of the Board's technology system and for making the arrangements for any networks which may be used to enhance the educational program and/or operations of the district.

All tentative agreements with networks or technology agencies are to be submitted to the Superintendent for review and approval.

It is essential that staff members and students be provided the following information concerning the use of the Internet. This can be done through written guidelines, professional development seminars, faculty and student meetings, and introductory remarks at the beginning of a course in which the Internet may be used.

A.   Use of the Internet is to be related to one or more courses of study and is not to be used by staff or students for discriminatory or unlawful purposes. All student use is to be supervised by a staff member or approved volunteer who has signed the Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement.

B.   Prior to disseminating information across the Internet about a student such as name, address, or other identifying data, including pictures, signed parental permission forms must be on file.

C.   Because of the vast amount of information that can be retrieved from the world-wide web, teachers are responsible for training students to use proper research skills when retrieving information. It is inappropriate, costly, and a waste of valuable instructional time for staff and/or students to download large quantities of information that have not been checked ahead of time for accuracy, relevancy, and probable usage. It may be helpful, therefore, for teachers to conduct some controlled exercises with students on how to differentiate between web-sites that are "attractive but superficial or irrelevant" from those that are attractive, substantive, and relevant.

D.   Staff members need to have back-up plans or contingency procedures in place for times when the Internet may not be accessible. Since the Internet is primarily a data-gathering mechanism, alternative sources for needed data should be available so that students can accomplish the purpose of the instruction within the established time period.

E.   Students and staff members are prohibited from using the Internet for unethical purposes or to obtain information that could be considered obscene, pornographic, or unsuitable for children. If a question of interpretation arises concerning the definition of these terms, the Director of Information Technology shall have the authority to determine whether the web site is appropriate. Prior to accessing or allowing access to information that the staff member is unsure about, s/he should consult with the building principal.

F.   As students and/or staff members complete projects which reflect unusual and creative
          applications of technology, the projects should be shared with the community relations
          liaison so that proper publicity can be created as appropriate to the project.

Adopted: July 18, 2006