

LINE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROPERTY
 TITLE: MEMORIALS
 ADOPTED: June 26, 2007
 REVISED:

702.1. MEMORIALS	
1. Purpose	<p>The death of a student, friend, colleague or other loved one often motivates individuals to make memorial contributions to the school district. In addition, requests for specific types of memorials are commonly made by donors. However, the district recognizes that it may not always be appropriate to comply with these specific wishes. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the management of memorial donations and requests. Memorials will be considered for students who were enrolled in one (1) of the district's schools at the time of their death.</p>
2. Guidelines	<p>Written requests for the establishment of memorials shall be submitted to the Superintendent. The request shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The identity of the person(s) to be submitted for memorial. 2. A brief narrative justification of the reason(s) for the memorial. 3. A description of the memorial to be established given the guidelines set forth herein below. <p>The Superintendent may refer the request to the relevant building principal for a recommendation. The School Board, however, will make the final decision. The principal may request further information if required. In making a recommendation for a memorial, the principal must consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school district may provide family and friends appropriate opportunities to share their grief upon the death of a student. 2. In the event that requests are made to establish district-wide memorials (e.g. the naming of a facility, etc.), the Superintendent or designee will select a committee to address such issues.

3. Plantings on school grounds, i.e. trees, will be considered by the Property Committee and if deemed appropriate by such committee, the type and placement of the planting is subject to the approval of the School Board after receiving the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

Memorials that do not involve property issues, such as yearbook memorials or newspaper tributes, should follow similar procedures. The building principal and Property Committee should review and approve all suggested memorials or tributes. The following suggested ideas for memorials should be shared with the family of the deceased for their consideration:

1. A memorial scholarship with award guidelines approved by the principal.
2. Purchase of library books, CD ROMs, school supplies or equipment, with the approval of the principal. Donated books or equipment may include a label with wording limited to "donated in memory of" and the deceased's name along with the name of the party donating the same.
3. Monetary funds designated to a particular school activity or department. The principal will approve the use of funds.

Spontaneous Temporary Memorials/Expressions Following A Death

Tragic incidents or deaths may be observed by spontaneous expressions of grief, support, or sympathy for a victim. These expressions often have taken the form of banners, locker decorations, or gatherings. So that no human life is taken to be more or less important than others, the following is established:

1. In enforcing this policy, it is imperative that students and staff are treated in a sensitive manner and that the reasons for this policy are explained to students and their parents/guardians.
2. Since such expressions are indications that students feel the need to let out something they are feeling, individual or trained professionals should offer group sessions to appropriately address them.
3. Locker decorations should be limited to that of the victim's locker only. Principals should use discretion as to their appropriateness and when they are to be removed.
4. Spontaneous gatherings without the presence of an appropriate adult should be discouraged.

5. Formal observances should give the family final consideration in decision-making.
6. The district will not permit services to be held in school buildings or on school property without prior approval by the School Board.

Unacceptable Memorials

The following types of memorials are seen as inappropriate:

1. Memorials that alter the conduct of a regular school instructional day or school activities.
2. Those that require the discontinued use or retirement of school property.
3. Those which violate the United States or Pennsylvania constitution, laws, regulations or ordinances.
4. Those which require the use of public funds for purchase, development, or maintenance.
5. Memorials to those who have committed suicide or those that glamorize the method of death.
6. Memorials to those who have committed a serious form of illegal behavior on the part of the deceased.
7. Memorials consisting of the display of personal property other than approved plantings.