

Ronan Public Schools

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Mission of the Board

The District is a public education institution serving a diverse community and providing an equitable learning opportunity in a safe environment for all students. The District exists to educate and empower students for present and future individual achievement and contribution to their community and society.

Vision

The District and the community join in partnership to provide a safe, attractive, and orderly learning environment. This positive climate promotes healthy lifestyles, where students realize the importance of lifelong learning, take responsibility for high personal standards, and feel a greater sense of self-worth and belonging. Each individual will learn to celebrate and be respectful of the rich, multicultural community and to appreciate the unique heritage and history of the Flathead Reservation. This partnership strives for a standard of excellence where all students achieve their highest personal expectations and are prepared to be successful in today's competitive, global society. In this learning environment students will graduate prepared to pursue their life choices and to attain their personal visions of success.

Policy and Vision for Indian Education

Policy

It is the Board's policy that all children will have full and equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities operated under District jurisdiction. The Board hereby reaffirms the commitment to the Indian population of the school system, as stated in the Montana Constitution (Article X, Section 1, Subsection 2): "The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity." The Board further recognizes the distinct and unique Indian cultures present in the District. The Board urges both the Indian and the non-Indian populations of the District to learn and acknowledge the historical perspectives and values of the other.

The Board has emphasized its commitment to full opportunity for all children to participate in school programs and activities, through a number of policies and actions. The Board wants to emphasize its commitment to Indian students through the establishment of this Policy for Indian Education. This policy is intended to provide for the effective and meaningful participation by Indian parents and students in the planning and administration of relevant educational services and programs under the authority of the District and its Board, with the goal being full and equal opportunity for Indian and non-Indian students alike to participate in all programs and activities operated under District jurisdiction.

The Board recognizes and respects the strong desire of the Indian community for self-

determination through effective Indian participation in the field of education. The Board strongly recommends that the school system exercise initiative in implementing educational programs meeting the needs of all District students, including Indian students. The Board believes that diversity of gender, ability, culture, and background is a strength to be respected.

Vision

The Board supports and encourages as visionary goals:

1. Development of programs and services to identify and meet educational needs of Indian students, including but not limited to programs designed to provide mentor/tutor help, counseling, and self-enhancement;
2. Active involvement of the District's Indian tribes, communities, students, and parents in the total educational program;
3. Incorporation of Indian languages, history, literature, and heritage in the curricula through the curriculum-development process, which ensures community input.
4. The concept of equal access and opportunity to Indian and non-Indian students alike; and
5. Viable educational programs which allow all students, including Indian students, to compete, succeed, and excel in life areas of their choice.

Implementation of this Policy and Vision for Indian Education will be developed with input of the District community through a community goal-setting process.

Policy History:

Adopted on: 10-17-97

Revised on: 8-10-98; 5-14-07