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## Hermon School Department

### **Solicitation in the Schools**

In order to promote an educational rather than a commercial atmosphere in its schools, to avoid the exploitation of its students and employees, and to discourage the impression that it has endorsed a particular product, service or viewpoint, the Hermon School Department shall adopt the following policy regarding solicitation in the schools. All determinations concerning solicitations or other commercial activity in the schools will be made in the sole discretion of the superintendent of the Hermon School Department or his/her designee. Such decisions shall be based on furthering the Department's educational mission and will ensure that any permitted solicitation or other commercial activity is age-appropriate and will not disrupt the school environment. No solicitation or other commercial activity will be permitted that is lewd, vulgar or obscene, which encourages actions which might endanger the health and welfare of students, or which does not serve the best interests of the Hermon School Department.

The superintendent shall use his/her best judgment, on a case-by-case basis, in deciding whether any exceptions to this policy will be permitted due to the educational nature of the proposed solicitation or advertising. Specific exceptions to the rules in this policy may also be granted by vote of the School Committee for a cause which is of immediate educational benefit to students within the Hermon schools.

The following rules shall apply to solicitation in the schools:

1. No person, group or agency from outside the Hermon schools shall advertise, promote or attempt to sell or solicit any article, service, investment, insurance or other business proposition to any student or employee of the Hermon School Department during school or office hours or in connection with a school-sponsored activity without the prior consent of the superintendent or his/her designee. (This prohibition shall not apply to employees of the school department whose duties involve the purchase of goods or services for school use.)

2. Students may not attempt to sell or solicit any funds, goods or services on school property or in the name of any of the Hermon Schools without prior consent of the superintendent or his/her designee. Students who wish to participate in minor money-raising events including, but not limited to, bottle drives, car washes, dances, etc., to benefit classes, clubs or other school organizations must obtain prior consent from the superintendent or his/her designee.

3. All non-school sponsored events and all contracts or other business transactions with commercial enterprises, providers, media, etc., must have prior written approval of the superintendent or his/her designee and must meet the criteria established by the School Committee in this policy. Contracts with vendors of school-related products (including, but not limited to, class rings, diplomas, caps and gowns, class photographs, yearbooks, facility rental and other books) must be approved and signed by the superintendent or his/her designee.

Transactions and/or commercial ventures such as the sale of pens and pencils, school sweaters, etc., by classes, clubs or other school organizations must have prior consent from the building principal.

4. No person, whether connected with the school department or not, may approach or recruit students, while under school supervision for the purpose of encouraging their participation in tag days or similar solicitations, without the prior consent of the superintendent or his/her designee.

5. There shall be a space in each school set aside for the distribution of information provided by student or community organizations concerning educational or other age-appropriate, non commercial activities or subjects. Any display of such information must receive prior approval of the superintendent or his/her designee, in his/her sole discretion, and must be in accordance with this policy. The decision of the superintendent or his/her designee regarding materials to be displayed shall be final.