

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

**PRESENT:**

Theresa Fowler, President  
James Grieco, Vice President  
Francine Aloï  
Laurie Donato

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dr. S. Guiney, Superintendent of Schools  
M. B. Mancuso, District Clerk  
D. Pirro, Director, Physical Education, Health &  
Athletics\*

**ABSENT:**

Vincent D'Ambroso, Board member  
Christopher Pinchiaroli, Board member  
Eric Schulze, Board member

\*In attendance until 9:19 am

Ms. Fowler, President, opened the September 26, 2011 Board of Education meeting at approximately 9:05 am in the District Office. At approximately 9:20 am, motion made by Ms. Aloï, seconded by Ms. Donato and unanimously adopted by the Board to enter into executive session to discuss a specific personnel matter. At approximately 9:33 am, motion made by Ms. Donato, seconded by Mr. Grieco and unanimously adopted by the Board to close executive session and return to the work session. At approximately 9:45 am, motion made by Ms. Aloï, seconded by Ms. Donato and unanimously adopted by the Board to adjourn the September 26, 2011 Board of Education meeting.

At approximately 9:13 am, the Board acted on the following resolution.

**A) APPROVAL – ADOPTION OF POLICY NO. 7421, INTERSCHOLASTIC FOOTBALL HELMETS**

Motion made by Mr. Grieco, seconded by Ms. Aloï as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education herewith waives a second reading of the attached Policy Number 7421, Interscholastic Football Helmets, concerning football helmets and immediately adopts said policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board herewith acknowledges and approves the administrative regulation and waiver form related to said policy; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board herewith directs the Superintendent of Schools and Athletic Director to disseminate said policy and regulation to all staff members, parents and students participating in Interscholastic Football.

**VOTE: 4 - 0**

Mary Beth Mancuso  
District Clerk

Approved: 10/19/11

**POLICY**

2011

7421

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Students

**SUBJECT: INTERSCHOLASTIC FOOTBALL HELMETS**

The Board of Education recognizes that student participation in Interscholastic Football can lead to head injuries and concussions, even if the participant is wearing appropriate equipment to protect against such injuries. The Board further recognizes that, while no helmet can guarantee the prevention of such injuries, the use of appropriate, certified helmets while participating in Interscholastic Football can reduce the potential for injury. The Board also acknowledges that certain parents and/or students participating in Interscholastic Football desire to purchase their own helmets in lieu of utilizing a District-owned helmet.

Based upon the foregoing, the Board of Education herewith acknowledges and approves the attached Interscholastic Athletic Football Administrative Regulation and Waiver Form concerning football helmets.

Adopted: 9/26/11

## Interscholastic Athletic Football Regulation

The Board of Education (the “Board”) takes its obligation to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all students very seriously. The Board recognizes that concussions and head injuries are the most commonly reported injuries in students participating in interscholastic sports. To this end, the Board has established certain rules and regulations for students who participate in interscholastic athletic activities, specifically with respect to the protective headgear, (i.e. helmets), required for participation in interscholastic football. Parents and students are reminded that participation in this activity is a privilege granted to those students who comply with and maintain necessary eligibility criteria, as provided in Board Policy 7420. In addition, parents and students must be aware that while no helmet can guarantee the prevention of serious injury to the head or neck, this Regulation is adopted as a means to reduce the potential of injury to students who elect to participate in interscholastic football.

In order for students to maintain eligibility for participation in interscholastic football, the following requirements for football helmets must be strictly complied with:

- All football helmets used by participants, including those purchased privately by students and/or parents, must bear the permanent seal, “Meets NOCSAE standards” and include the “NOCSAE” logo on the football helmet.
- Participants intending to privately purchase a football helmet for use in interscholastic football must consult with the District **prior** to such purchase. In addition, such participants and their parents shall be required to read and sign a District “Football Helmet Waiver Form.”
- All football helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be turned over to the District each year, at a time specified by the Coach and/or Athletic Director, for reconditioning and recertification by a NOCSAE licensed agency.
- All football helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be properly fitted to each student.
- All football helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be inspected by the District before use, for items including, but not limited to, damage to the helmet shell or liner, holes, loose hardware and/or loose face masks. If a helmet shows any of the above signs, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, the District reserves the right to prohibit its use.
- Participants shall not modify, change or alter in any way, any football helmet, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, except as otherwise approved by the District.
- Participants shall not remove any warranty labels, warning labels, logos or stickers from any football helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents. This includes, but is not limited to, the “NOCSAE” logo and/or any stickers warning of the risk of injury.
- Participants shall use football helmets only for their proper purpose, i.e. no head butting, ramming or spearing of other players.
- Users of helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents should be familiar with the helmet warranty associated with the brand of helmet purchased. Any helmet

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determined by the District to have a void warranty due to the user's failure to comply with the applicable conditions for warranty, may be prohibited from use by the District.

In addition to the above, the following maintenance procedures are highly recommended in order to minimize the risk of injury to participants:

- Users of District-supplied helmets should only employ factory authorized paints, cleaners, waxes, adhesives, guards and/or attachments, as determined by the District.
- Users should regularly clean and sanitize all football equipment to avoid the transmission of pathogens, including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, mold and/or staphylococcus.
- Users of helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents are strongly encouraged to refer to the specific instructions for care/maintenance instructions for that particular helmet.

In an effort to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all participants, the District reserves the right to prohibit a student from using a privately purchased football helmet. Should this occur, the District shall provide a District-owned football helmet, at no cost to the student.

*Reference: Board Policy 7420 (Sports and the Athletic Program)  
Board Policy 7410 (School Sponsored Activities and Extracurricular Activities)*

Adopted: 9/26/11

**MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOTBALL  
HELMET WAIVER FORM**

- I hereby acknowledge that I was offered a District-owned football helmet for my use during the \_\_\_\_\_ (<<YEAR>>) football season. However, I have declined this offer and instead, have elected to privately purchase a football helmet, at my sole expense.
- I understand that in order for the District to permit me to utilize my privately purchased football helmet for interscholastic football, my helmet must bear the permanent “meets NOCSAE standards” seal and “NOCSAE” logo.
- I understand that in order for the District to permit me to use my privately purchased football helmet for District football in any subsequent season, I must turn over my helmet to the District, each year, for the required reconditioning and recertification by a NOCSAE licensed agency, at a time specified by the Coach and/or Athletic Director.
- I understand that in order for the District to permit me to utilize my privately purchased football helmet, my helmet must be properly fitted to me.
- I acknowledge that prior to my use, the District has the right to inspect my helmet for items including, but not limited to, damage to the helmet shell or liner, holes, loose hardware and/or loose face masks.
- I acknowledge that the District has the right to prohibit the use of my privately purchased helmet, in its discretion, should the District determine that my football helmet does not meet the above criteria or is otherwise deemed by the District to be unsafe and/or improper for my use. In such event, I understand that the District shall provide me with a District-owned football helmet at no cost to me.

I understand and acknowledge that no helmet can prevent all head or neck injuries a player might receive while participating in any practice, contest or game.

I understand and acknowledge that improper or illegal use of a helmet can result in severe head or neck injuries, concussion, paralysis, or death to me and/or my opponent.

I understand that the District may remove me from any game, contest, practice or other activity, should I demonstrate any signs of injury, including, but not limited to, head injury or concussion.

I hereby acknowledge that other than the required reconditioning and/or recertification of my privately purchased football helmet by the District, I remain solely responsible for my privately purchased helmet, including but not limited to compliance with the applicable helmet warranty(ies), proper fitting of my helmet, remediation of any damage and/or necessary repairs, and proper care/maintenance of my football helmet.

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I hereby release the Mount Pleasant Central School District, Superintendent of Schools, individually and in her official capacity, the Board of Education of the District, its members, individually and in their official capacities, or any of the District's employees, agents or independent contractors, from any liability, claim, suit, or expense including, but not limited to, negligence, for any injury or harm which may result from my use or purchase of a privately purchased football helmet.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ I have carefully read and accept the above  
Helmet Waiver.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment:

I have carefully read and accept the above Helmet Waiver and I acknowledge that I have  
discussed this Helmet Waiver with my child.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_