C40-P: FLAGPOLE PROCEDURES

District Flag poles are a form of government speech, thereby maintaining the distinction between government speech versus private speech. The flagpoles are under the control and management of the District and it is impermissible to fly any flag without the approval of the School Board of Trustees.

The following guidelines outline the procedure for bringing a request to the MTSD Board of Trustees.

Guidelines

1. The School Board will consider requests from MTSD students only.

2. Students will submit a request to the Superintendent to be added to a MTSD School Board agenda.

3. Student proposals will be presented to the MTSD Board of Trustees during a regularly scheduled, public board meeting as an agenda item. All proposals must include:
   a. A visual replication of the exact flag the group proposes to raise
   b. A rationale for the flag and how it aligns with the MTSD vision and values
   c. The time frame for raising and flying the flag.
   d. A petition or other form of evidence of student support for the flag. Evidence requested may be determined by the administration and School Board on a case-by-case basis.

4. Petitions and/or other means of evidence that reflects student support must include student signatures from the school requesting to raise the flag.

5. Only the main flag pole at the MMS and MHS will be considered in any requests. Flag poles associated with school athletic field(s) or elementary school will not be considered.

6. Excluding the National and State Flags, only one additional flag in any given period of time may be approved by the MTSD Board of Trustees to be raised on the MHS flag pole.

7. The MTSD Board of Trustees will not be responsible for purchasing and/or replacing the flag. The student group(s) must provide and/or replace any flag the Board deems to be worn, faded or damaged.

8. The MTSD Board of Trustees cannot approve requests to fly flags with symbols that are prohibited from government speech, including religious symbols.

9. The MTSD Board of Trustees has the right to evaluate whether a proposed flag is offensive or contrary to the values of the MTSD.

10. The MTSD Board of Trustees has the right to remove a flag at any time.

11. In accordance with the U.S. Flag Code, any additionally approved flag will be removed during half mast orders.

Date Approved: 08/12/19