OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAVs)

Definitions

This policy defines the following:

- *Unmanned aircraft systems/drones* means an aircraft operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.

Educational Use

The Board is committed to providing all district staff and students with technology-based learning opportunities. Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAVs) is a privilege which comes with responsibilities that must be adhered to.

District staff and students shall only operate UAVs in accordance with this policy and applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the North Dakota High School Activities Association regulations. Any inappropriate use must be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

All data gathered by the district as part of a UAVs operation will belong to the district. The data gathered by the district will follow applicable state and federal laws. Retention of such data will be maintained in accordance with law.

UAVs Request

District staff must submit a request and provide educational supporting documentation to the Superintendent or designee for review and approval.

District staff shall work with administrators to ensure that proper insurance, registration and authorization are in place prior to the operation of a UAVs.

Operation Guidelines

Staff and students shall not operate UAVs within five (5) miles of any airport without prior notification and acknowledgment from airport authorities. Written documentation for notification must be logged and kept on file by the notifying staff member.

Students shall not operate UAVs without the presence of supervising staff. All proper safety equipment must be used by any operator(s) and observer(s) to include eye and ear protection.

The use of any UAVs on school grounds must be approved in advance by the principal or a district administrator.

Staff and students shall not operate UAVs above an altitude of 400 feet above ground level or within 400 feet of a structure.

Staff and students shall ensure that they maintain safe control and line of sight when operating a UAVs. Broadcast from a remote location does not constitute line of sight.

Staff and students shall not operate a UAVs with a weight of more than 55 lbs.

Staff and students shall not operate UAVs before sunrise or after sunset or in adverse weather conditions.

Staff and students shall not operate UAVs within proximity to or above individuals, crowds, or vehicles, to include parking lots, bleachers, sporting events, school-based activities or functions.

If used outside, and if the UAVs were to be flown/blown onto a building roof, off-campus location, or another restricted area, the district employee must report it immediately to school administration and appropriate support staff, i.e. custodial staff, or technical services if the UAVs is located on the roof. Students shall not be used to retrieve the UAVs under any such circumstances.

Inappropriate Use

Staff and students shall not operate UAVs under circumstances where profit would be generated.

Staff and students shall not operate UAVs broadcasting or recording images of people or property where the reasonable expectation of privacy exists or over areas that are normally deemed private by social norms, such as restrooms, locker rooms, or residential areas.

Staff and students shall not operate UAVs indoors unless devices, such as small drones, are specifically designed for indoor use and use is monitored by a staff member.

UAV Injuries or Incidents

Any injuries or property damage resulting from District UAVs use shall immediately be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

Further use of the UAVs in question will be suspended until an investigation of the events takes place and clearance for use is provided by the Superintendent or designee.

Any scenarios not addressed within this policy shall be governed by the appropriate Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

The Superintendent or designee will be responsible for notifying staff of this policy annually. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion for students or suspension and/or termination for staff.

Third Party Use

Third party use of a UAVs on district property or at district-sponsored events for any purpose is prohibited, unless granted permission from the Superintendent or designee.

If permission is granted by the Superintendent or designee, the third party operating a UAVs will comply with all FAA regulations and shall provide the following to the district:

1. Proof of insurance that meets the liability limits established by the district;
2. Appropriate registration and authorization issued by the FAA when required; and
3. A signed agreement holding the district harmless from any claims of harm to individuals or damage to property.