

Blue Hill Consolidated School
Procedure for Working with Unruly Visitors

1100-R

We teach children everyday that they are to treat adults and their peers with respect, and we expect teachers to treat students and other adults with respect, as well. Parents and visitors are also expected to treat all others at the school with respect.

For parents, if they have an issue with something that is happening for their child at school, they should first take some time to think about it from all perspectives. Why might this have happened? Often times, a child will relate to a parent the major impressions that he/she has, and it can be lop-sided and only part of the picture. It is important to find out the rest of the story. A simple phone call to a teacher might address this.

If a parent has a serious issue with a teacher, he/she must call the teacher and make an appointment explaining what the problem seems to be. Parents should not come in unexpectedly, as the teacher has many responsibilities and obligations to all the children before, during, and after school. If the parent or teacher feels that the principal should be present, by all means that arrangement will be made, but the first contact should be with the child's teacher, and attempts should be made for resolution.

During the meeting, all parties must conduct themselves with civility (no yelling, threatening, aggressive body language, etc.), the same practices that are expected at school for students. Listen carefully and hear the concerns. Wait and think and then speak when it is your turn. Respect the other's point of view. Sometimes the meeting can get heated and passionate, as parents are ultimately the truest advocates for their children, and to them it is very personal. There is a difference between this degree of passion, and an aggressive attack on a teacher.

Yelling and aggression will put an end to the conversation. If the principal is not present, the teacher or parent will call an end to the meeting, explaining that the meeting will need to take place at another time when the principal or another member of the school staff is present. If the principal is present at that meeting or at a subsequent meeting, he/she will ask that the meeting end if it is unruly. The superintendent and/or another administrator will be asked to attend any meetings in the future.

If aggression seems irrational, extended, or threatening at any time, law enforcement will be called. Charges may be filed. The school board's policy #1100 will be followed.

Approved: Blue Hill School Committee – March 12, 2014