

Controversial Issues

Section A

The Board of Education believes that **its educational programming should** assist students in the critical examination of ~~the various controversial~~ issues and points of view ~~facing society today~~. Such ~~investigation and evaluation~~ **is** of controversial issues ~~are deemed essential to achieving the district's~~ if the school is to ~~achieve its~~ objective of educating students as thinking, ~~discerning~~ **discriminating** individuals and participants in a democratic society. The ~~B~~board also believes it is imperative that our schools provide an environment where open discussion, free discourse, spirited debate, and individual decisions are encouraged. Free inquiry, free expression, and free association are ~~an~~ **essential parts** of this environment and must be protected as a matter of individual rights. The Board reserves its statutory right to withhold its consent for any school activity which, in its judgment, is not beneficial to the district ~~or~~ **and** in the best interest of ~~its~~ **the** students.

Section B

1. The following guidelines should be observed by the staff and students when involved with controversial ~~or sensitive~~ issues:
 - a. **Classroom experiences should align with the approved department curricula within a classroom environment of respect and rapport.** ~~Presentations~~ Classroom experiences should always be informative, balanced, and objective, reviewing, **without bias**, not only extreme but also moderate positions. ~~Staff~~ Teachers should be cognizant of the maturity of their students, and this should be reflected in their instruction and presentations.
 - b. ~~Staff and student~~ **D**iscussions and presentations should be conducted within the bounds of good judgment and proper decorum and ~~with~~ **will** full consideration of the rights and sensibilities of others. Profanity, **vulgarity**, obscenity, **threats of harm**, libel, slander, **statements that promote illegal activity**, or **substantial** disruption are not considered ~~appropriate~~ **legitimate** means of complying with this policy.
 - c. The ~~personal~~ **emotional** criticism of individuals ~~or, their ideas, or movements is~~ **antithetical to decision-making** and should be discouraged as ~~inappropriate to classroom procedures~~.
 - d. This policy applies to the regular curriculum programs of the school, to school-related extra-~~curricular~~ **class** activities, and to ~~those~~ guest speakers invited by staff or students to address school groups. All invitations to outside speakers and **related** contractual issues shall be ~~cleared through and~~ approved or disapproved, **in advance**, by the principal or designee.

Section C

In an effort to resolve a concern regarding a controversial issue, the individual expressing concern will:

1. First, discuss the concern with the appropriate teacher.
2. If not resolved, discuss the concern with the appropriate instructional supervisor.
3. If still not resolved, discuss the concern with the principal and/or designee.

Any formal complaint regarding controversial issues may be brought pursuant to Policy 2070 - Uniform Grievance.



Approved: April 24, 1973
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