

## SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Board of Education encourages student publications not only because they offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism, but also because they provide an opportunity for students to express their views and a means of communicating both within and beyond the school community.

All student publications will comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, false statements, materials advocating racial or religious prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school policies and/or regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted. Expressions of personal opinion must be clearly identified as such, and bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those of the student publishers must be provided.

In addition, student newspapers and/or publications which are paid for by the school district and/or produced under the direction of a teacher as part of the school curriculum are not considered a public forum. In such cases, the Board reserves the right to edit or delete such student speech which it feels is inconsistent with the district's basic educational mission.

Students shall have the right to appeal the exercise of pre-publication or pre-production control by district staff to the Board.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for developing regulations to implement this policy. The regulations shall:

- Identify district staff responsible for student publications and productions;
- Establish procedures for pre-publication and/or pre-production review;
- Establish the parameters of speech which is acceptable to express in the context of school-sponsored publications and/or productions; and
- Specify procedures for appeal by students to the Board with provisions for prompt decisions to be made at each level.

Ref:     *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 US 260, 108 S Ct 562, (1988) (limits on student free speech rights in school-sponsored student publications)  
           *Bethel School District v. Fraser*, 478 US 675 (1986)  
           *Tinker v. DesMoines Independent Community School Dist.*, 393 US 503, (1969) (limits on student free speech rights in school setting)  
           *Thomas v. Board of Education, Granville Central School Dist.*, 607 F 2d 1043 (1979)  
           *Trachtman v. Anker, et al.*, 563 F 2d 512 (1977)  
           *Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education*, 314 F Supp 832, mod'f'd. 440 F2d **803** (1971)  
           *Frasca v. Andrew et al.*, 463 F Supp 1043 (1979)  
           *Matter of Beil and Scariati*, 26 EDR 109(1986)

Adoption date: February 4, 2009