

The district encourages students to broaden their knowledge and citizenship by the formation of clubs and other groups organized to promote or pursue specialized activities outside the regular classroom environment provided membership is open to all interested and eligible students. Approval of the building principal and the Board shall be obtained and a member of the faculty shall attend the meetings or activities as an official advisor.

Student Clubs

The administrator shall establish regulations for the operation of school-sponsored clubs. Such clubs shall operate for the welfare and in the best interests of the students and the school. School-sponsored clubs are those directly under the control of school personnel. Non-school clubs may not conduct their activities on school property without prior permission from the Board.

Student Government

A student council may be established in each attendance center provided that it is under the direct control of the building principal or designated faculty representative. Student councils shall exercise only that authority expressly delegated to them by the building principal.

Student Publications

School-sponsored student publications shall be under the control and supervision of the building principal or designated faculty representative. All material published in school-sponsored publications must have the prior approval of the faculty sponsor.

Students who have facts and opinions should be allowed to express them in print as well as through oral communication. However, student editors and writers must observe the same legal responsibilities as those imposed upon conventional newspapers and communication media. Thus, no student shall distribute in any school publication that which:

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Is obscene according to current legal definitions;

Is libelous according to current legal definitions;

or,

Creates a material or a substantial disruption of normal school activity or appropriate discipline in the operation of the school.

Student Social Events

Student social events, such as dances and parties, contribute an important element in the development of the individual. All such events must have the prior approval of the building principal and the official advisor of the club or class sponsoring the event.

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Student Clubs

Every school club shall be sponsored by a faculty advisor, who is a member of the current school staff. All meeting times and places of the club must have the advance approval of the faculty advisor and the building principal, and the sponsor or designated representative shall be present at all meetings. Every school club shall have on file in the school office a constitution approved by the student council and the building principal.

Student Publications

Student publications which are not libelous, disruptive or obscene may be distributed on school property during school hours in areas designated by the building principal. Distribution

which substantially interferes with the normal flow of traffic within the school corridors and entranceways, which is coercive of any other person's right to accept or reject any publication or which causes substantial and material interference with "normal school activities" shall not be permitted. Distribution in violation of this policy may result in suspension, expulsion or other discipline of the students involved.

Should the principal render a decision to disapprove the distribution of a student publication and approval is not granted, the principal shall state his/her reasons to the student.

If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the principal, the student may appeal this decision to the superintendent.

If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the superintendent, the student may appeal this decision to the Board by notifying the Clerk of the Board.

A hearing date must be established within ten days after receipt of the notice of appeal has been filed with the Clerk of the Board, and the Board shall render its decision in writing within three school days of the hearing.

At every level of the appeal process as outlined above, the student or his/her representative shall have the right to appear and present his/her case supported by relevant witnesses and materials as to why distribution of the student publication is appropriate.

In order for a student publication to be considered disruptive, there must exist specific, articulable facts upon which it would be reasonable to forecast that a clear and present likelihood of an immediate, substantial and material disruption to normal school activity or school discipline would occur if the material were distributed. Mere undifferentiated fear of apprehension of disturbance is not enough; school personnel must be able to affirmatively show substantial facts which reasonably support a forecast of likely disruption. Such disruption would include, for example, student rioting, unlawful seizures of property, destruction of property,

threats or acts of violence, widespread shouting or boisterous conduct, or substantial participation in a school boycott, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out or other related forms of activity. On the other hand, material that stimulates heated discussion or debate does not constitute the type of disruption prohibited herein.

Ads

Ads concerning drug paraphernalia, any controlled substances, or any illegal activity, are prohibited in school sponsored publications.

Definitions of Terms Used in Discussing Student Publications

“School Day” means any day during the regular school year or summer session on which regularly scheduled classroom instruction takes place and excludes Saturdays, Sundays and official school holidays.

“Publication” means any book, magazine, pamphlet, newspaper, yearbook, picture, photograph, drawing or any other written or printed material or visual representation, however produced.

“School publication” means any publication, as defined herein, which is composed, compiled, published or distributed under the official supervision of a faculty sponsor.

“Student publication” means any publication as defined herein which is composed, compiled, published or distributed by students without school sponsorship.

“Distribution” means circulation or dissemination of the student publication to students at the time and place of normal school activity or immediately prior or subsequent thereto by means of handing out free copies, selling or offering copies for sale, accepting donations for copies of the publication or displaying the material in areas of the school building or property which are generally frequented by students. In dealing with material which is “obscene” or “libelous”, the

term “distribution” refers to dissemination of one or more copies; whereas in dealing with all other types of materials, the term “distribution” refers to a substantial circulation or dissemination of the student publication so as to make the student publication generally available to the students of the school.

“Normal school activity” means organized educational activity of students under the direct supervision of the school staff which includes classroom work, library activities, physical education classes, official assemblies and other similar gatherings, school athletic contests, band concerts, school plays and scheduled in-school lunch periods.

“Minor” means any person under the age of 18 years.

“Obscene” means that an average person, applying contemporary community standards would find that the publication, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest and has no redeeming social value; that the publication depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specified in applicable law; and that the work taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, educational political or scientific value.

“Libel” is the false and unprivileged (unprotected by immunity) publication in writing electronic media or the printing of pictures, effigies or other fixed representations to the eye which expose a person to public hatred, contempt, ridicule or obloquy which causes him/her to be shunned or avoided or which has a tendency to injure him/her in his/her occupation.

When the publication concerns “public officials”, i.e., those who hold government office or “public figures”, i.e., those who, by reason of the notoriety of their achievements or employment or by reason of the vigor and success with which they seek the public’s attention, the defamatory falsehood must be made with actual malice in order to be libelous, i.e., with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether or not it was false. “Public figures” also includes administrators, teachers and coaches.

Student Social Events

Student social events may be held as a part of the last regular class period during the school day.

Any fee charged for a dance or party shall have the prior approval of the building principal.

The class organization for each grade level shall be limited to one social event per semester. The student council, which represents all students, may be authorized to exceed this limit with the approval of the building principal.

Middle school or junior high dances will be limited to one per semester and include only middle school or junior high students and sponsors. Parents are welcome to attend.

All social events must be approved by the building principal at least one month in advance of the event.

Unless otherwise approved by the Board, attendance at all social functions is limited to the students of the district.

All high school social events must end by 11:00 P.M. on nights followed by a school day and by 12:30 A.M. on weekends.

All middle school or junior high school events must end by 10:00 P.M. on nights followed by a school day and by 11:00 P.M. on weekends.

The building principals may make such other rules and regulations as deemed necessary for the conduct of student social events. These rules and regulations shall be made known to the Board prior to their enforcement and shall be published so that students have the opportunity to be aware of the rules and regulations.

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