

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

The District and the Board may sponsor student publications and productions as a means for students to learn, under adult direction, the rights and responsibilities of the press in a free society. The District's sponsored student publications and productions are not meant to be utilized by the public indiscriminately and are not to be considered a forum for public expression.

For purposes of this policy, "publications: shall include any audio, electronic, visual, or written materials such as tapes, banners, films, pamphlets, notices, newspapers, books, web pages, blogs, social media posts or other like materials. "Productions" shall include the theatrical performances as well as impromptu dramatic presentations.

Such publications and productions also play a vital role in the school program by:

- a) serving as a public relations media;
- b) developing skills in communicating via the mass media;
- c) developing acceptable methods for preserving the constitutional provision of free speech

In sponsoring a student publication or production, the Board is mindful of the fact that the publication could be available to any student attending this school, and must, therefore, generally be suitable for all students.

Issues on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion may be introduced in a school-sponsored publication or production provided equal opportunity is given to present each view and provided further that the material generally is acceptable to this community.

Advertising is permitted in school newspapers, yearbooks, programs, etc. which are published by student organizations. The advisor must give permission.

The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit the distribution of publications and productions that are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. Such unprotected materials are those which:

- a) are grossly prejudicial to an ethnic, religious, racial, or other delineated group;
- b) libel or slander any specific person or persons;
- c) seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect, or point of view over any other religious denomination, sect, or point of view
- d) advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material which may reasonably be believed to:
  - 1. constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health of students;
  - 2. contain obscenity or material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable students who may receive them;
  - 3. incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations
  - 4. contains speech that would substantially interfere with the District's work or impinge upon the rights of other students
  - 5. contains information which might reasonable be perceived as associating the District with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy

The Board also prohibits publications and productions which:

- a) fail to identify the student or organization responsible for distribution;

- b) solicit funds for nonschool organizations or institutions when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board;
- c) promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election to the Board or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any election

The decision to publish or produce something shall be made by the advisor with appeal to the principal and district administrator.

**LEGAL REF.:** 118.001 – Wisconsin Statutes  
120.12(2), 120.13 – Wisconsin Statutes  
Wisconsin Constitution; Article I, Section 3  
Hazelwood School District vs. Kuhlmeier [484 U.S. 260 (1988)]

**CROSS REF.:** 363.2 – Student Access to Technology Resources  
411.1 – Harassment  
411.1-Rule – Student Harassment and Discrimination Complaint Procedures  
771.1 – Copyright Policy

**APPROVED:** June 20, 2011  
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**MAY 17, 2021**