

POLICY GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT NEWSPAPER OR ONLINE PUBLICATION

Overview

A student-run newspaper or online publication published by the District is only distributed within Parkview Junior/Senior High. This policy attempts to define guidelines and procedures regarding material published in a student-run newspaper.

In defining this policy, the Board needs to consider the role it sees the student run newspaper playing within PJH/HS. Traditionally, a student-run paper provides the opportunity for students to learn and practice responsible journalism activities. When publishing a school newspaper, students sometimes raise controversial issues to start a discussion within the school community.

This policy attempts to address the need for students to explore responsible journalism, including some measure of controversy. This policy also considers the need for students to follow scholastic journalism trends so that it can be favorably compared to other student-run newspapers in competitions that acknowledge excellence in student journalism.

Guidelines

The District has defined the following policy guidelines regarding student input in the student newspaper:

- I. The purpose of the school newspaper is to
 1. Inform those who attend PJH/HS or work at PJH/HS.
 2. Provide students with an opportunity to learn and practice aspects of journalism including writing, interviewing, graphics, photography, and layout.
 3. Act as a vehicle for the sharing of student activities including their thoughts, artwork, and accomplishments.
 4. Provide a permanent record of the history of the school.
- II. Material to be published
 1. Items published in the newspaper will follow the ethics of responsible journalism and excellence in writing.
 2. Student input may not include statements, labels, jokes, or any other material that is demeaning or that could be construed in a negative way.
 3. Student input may not conflict with the District's educational mission and philosophy or infringe upon the rights of other students or staff in the educational environment.
 4. Language, pictures, music and symbols will not be permitted if they are obscene, libelous, infringe upon other student or staff rights, or are otherwise offensive.

5. The administrator must approve the printing of material previously published in a professional publication even if permission is given by the author and publication.

III. Expressions of student opinion

1. Within the confines of this policy, students will have the opportunity to express views on issues either individually or collectively.
2. Constructive criticism of the school, the District, or other institutions and/or social groups or practices is permitted provided it does not violate any other provision of this policy.
3. Student views shall not encourage disruption of the normal educational process.
4. Students may objectively express views on local, state or national political issues provided they do not violate any other provision of this policy. The paper may not endorse candidates.
5. Expressions of student opinion should be responsible, balanced, and well-researched.

IV. Advisory Oversight

1. All materials to be printed or published online are subject to review by the advisor for compliance with the provisions of this policy.
2. The advisor will consult with the high school principal with any questions about the suitability of material for publication.
3. Those who are denied approval for inclusion of material or content in the school newspaper may appeal to the district administrator whose decision is final.

V. Public Forum

1. The District student-run newspaper is not a public forum.

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