

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Special Meeting
Tuesday, December 5, 2017
4:30 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Policy Committee Chair Vote
- III. Review of Policy Committee Calendar for 2018
- IV. Approval of November 20, 2017 Minutes
- V. 1311.1/1311.2 Political Activities of School Employees in School/On School Property
- VI. Graduation Requirements Discussion
- VII. Open Discussion/Public Comment
- VIII. Adjournment

All meetings will be held at 501 Kings Highway East, Superintendent's Conference Room Unless otherwise noted.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2017
4:30 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

Minutes

Call to Order 4:30 PM

Approval of October 17, 2017 Minutes

- Approved 2-0

Discussion of 1311.1/1311.2 Political Activities of School Employees in School/On School Property

- Review of revisions to drafts
- Discussion around ability to include language limiting student political activities

Trisha Pytko left meeting at 6:07 PM

Open Discussion/Public Comment 6:17 PM

- Justin Papp of the Fairfield Citizen requested timeline information of policy

Vote of Adjournment 6:20 PM

Community Relations Political Activities of School Employees

District employees shall be entitled to full rights of citizenship, and no political activities of any employee or the lack thereof shall be grounds for any discipline or discrimination with respect to the employment of such employee providing such activities do not interfere with the performance of the employee's duties or the District's business.

Performance of Civic Duties by Employees

Employees should perform their civic duties commensurate with democratic ideals. These duties may include:

1. Voting and taking an interest in current social, political, and economic issues.
2. Exercising democratic rights and responsibilities shared with other citizens. These rights and privileges may include:
 - A. Electioneering for candidates.
 - B. Accepting positions in political campaigns.
 - C. Holding an office in a political party organization.
 - D. Serving as a delegate to political party conventions

Individual Responsibility in Participating in Political Functions

- A. Employees engaging in political activities shall not:
 1. Engage in political activities on school premises during school hours or at school events.
 2. Involve their school, school property, and/or students in personal political campaigns.
 3. Solicit, receive, collect, handle, disburse or account for assessments, contributions or other political funds, organize, sell tickets to, promote a candidate, solicit votes in support of or opposition to a candidate, circulate petitions, display political pictures, badges, stickers or buttons on District property during assigned hours of employment.
 4. Distribute literature within schools or on school buses, including but not limited to electronic mail, supporting one or more candidates, nor shall campaign posters be displayed at or within the schools. Campaign material shall be used solely for educational purposes.
 5. Poll their students to determine how their parents are voting on any issue, and shall not attempt to indoctrinate students with personal, political, or social philosophy. Any discussions during break time shall be confined to an area out of the hearing distance of students.
- B. Employee's attendance at, or participation at, political or union activities during work time shall not take place without prior written approval of the administration.

The following situations are exempt from the prohibitions of this policy:

- The discussion and study of politics and political issues, when such discussion and study are appropriate to classroom studies, such as history, civics, current events, and political science.
- The conduct of student elections and campaigning connected therewith.
- The conduct of professional staff member representative elections.

Political Materials and/or Engagement as Part of the Instructional Program

- A. Teachers may use political materials as part of the instructional program, provided the material is germane to the instructional objectives of the course. Any presentation of political materials, or issues, or expression of views, however, must be balanced and fair.
- B. Teachers shall be responsible for providing students with the opportunity to investigate various sides of the topics presented in their courses, particularly in relation to controversial subjects, within such limits as may be imposed by relevance to the course, the maturity level and intellectual ability of the students, and the time available.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to impose a burden on the constitutionally protected speech of a staff member or student.

Problems concerning the political activity of an employee shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee who shall follow-up and take appropriate action.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

7-421 Political activities of classified municipal employees.

7-421b Limitation on restriction of political rights of municipal employees.

10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception.

Policy adopted:

rev 1/06

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools/On School Board Property

1. Political Candidates

Debate or Forum: If a class or school-sponsored group plans a political debate or forum during the school day, the Principal/teacher/sponsor shall ensure that all candidates for the same public office or who have differing opinions on a political issue are given equal opportunity to participate.

Appearances: Elected politicians and political candidates are not allowed to appear at a school unless they are invited to visit or speak to a class or other school-related activity during school hours. However, they are entitled to the same rights of all citizens to visit the schools. The requirements for debates or forums are applicable and other candidates for the same public office should be invited to visit at the same time or be provided an equivalent opportunity.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude or prevent incumbent elected public officials from appearances on District property upon the invitation of the Superintendent, the Superintendent's designee or Principal provided that it is within their official capacity and not a campaign activity.

2. School Group Participation in Political Events

School groups may not participate in appearances that create an undue amount of interference with the regular school program or that cause an excessive amount of students' absences for rehearsal or preparation.

3. Use or Distribution of Political Materials During School Hours or on School Grounds

- a. Interschool Mail:** Any interschool or intraschool mail system may not be used to distribute any political materials to schools. A regular newsletter of an employee organization that is normally distributed by the District's/school's mail system will not be considered political material if it simply contains news of a political nature taken by the organization. However, a publication from, or newsletter primarily containing news or discussion about, any political action committee is considered political material and may not be distributed.
- b. Political Materials:** Any distribution of political materials, except as part of the instructional program or student government, or political activity during working hours (including e-mail messages) is prohibited within school or on school buses, except as allowed under this policy.
- c. Student Elections:** Students may post or distribute student-government election materials in an appropriate time, place, and manner, as determined by the Principal, so as to avoid any disruption to the learning environment.

(cf. 1140 – Distribution of Materials by Students)
(cf. 1311.1 – Political Activities of School Employees)
(cf. 1330/3515 – Community Use of School Facilities)
(cf. 3543.13 – Mail and Delivery)
(cf. 4118.21 – Academic Freedom)
(cf. 6144 – Controversial Issues)
(cf. 6153.2 – Student Participation in Election Process)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
7-421 Political activities of classified municipal employees.
7-421b Limitation on restriction of political rights of municipal employees.
9-369b Explanatory text relating to local questions.
10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception.
10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes
31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on account of employee's exercise of certain constitutional rights.
Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)
Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)
Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4074

Policy adopted:
cps 1/06

Instruction

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

6146(a)

Introduction

To graduate from the Fairfield Public Schools a student must earn a minimum of 43 credits and meet the credit distribution requirement. A student must demonstrate the designated computer applications proficiency.

Beginning with the graduating Class of 2006, a student must also meet designated levels of academic proficiency in mathematics, reading across the disciplines, and writing across the disciplines. Beginning with the Class of 2008, a student must also meet designated academic proficiency in science.

Credit Requirements for Graduation

To meet the minimum requirements for a high school diploma, a student must earn 43 credits and achieve the following credit distribution:

English	8 credits
Math	6 credits
Science	6 credits
Social Studies	6 credits
	(7 credits beginning with the class of 2015)
Physical Education & Health	3.2 credits (16 units)
Arts / Vocational	2 credits

The 3.2 credit requirement in Physical Education & Health will be applicable with the class of 2014.

Both the 6 credit requirement in Science and 43 credit minimum requirement will be applicable to the class of 2009.

Demonstrate Computer Applications Proficiency

Demonstrate Academic Proficiency

Score at or above the Proficiency Level on each of four areas of The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT): Mathematics, Reading Across the Disciplines, Writing Across the Disciplines and Science;

OR

Demonstrate proficiency on performance assessments, which correspond to any areas of CAPT, which fall below the designated score levels.

Instruction

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146(b)

High School Performance Standards

Math: A student who has not met the CAPT mathematics criterion must demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways.

a. The student will be retested on the CAPT the following year in order to demonstrate proficiency by meeting the district's identified standard;

OR

b. The individual sub-tests of CAPT that do not meet the above criteria will be identified. Open-ended math problems, which correspond to these sub-tests and are appropriate to the content of the course in which the student is enrolled, will be constructed. Student work on these assessments will be retained in an electronic folder or in a work folder maintained by the student and monitored by the student's teacher. During the summer between junior and senior year, a committee of math teachers will examine this collective work, rate each assessment against an established rubric, and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

c. Additional performance tasks will be provided during the fall of the senior year for those students who did not demonstrate proficiency on their junior demonstration folder. By the second week in January, a committee of mathematics teachers will examine this work against the established rubric and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

d. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency in his senior demonstration folder must successfully complete a performance-based Senior Exit Program.

Reading Across the Disciplines consists of two sub-categories: Response to Literature and Reading for Information. A student who has not met the CAPT Reading Across the Disciplines criteria must demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways.

a. The student will be retested on the CAPT the following year in order to demonstrate proficiency by meeting the district's identified standard;

OR

Instruction

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146(c)

Reading Across the Disciplines (continued)

Assessment instruments will be constructed by English teachers (Response to Literature) and social studies teachers (Reading for Information) to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in reading based on the CAPT criteria:

b. The individual sub-tests of CAPT, which do not meet the above criteria, will be identified. Reading assessments, which correspond to these sub-tests and are appropriate to the content of the course in which the student is enrolled, will be constructed. (The English department will be responsible for the subset of Response to Literature and the social studies department will be responsible for Reading for Information.) Student work on these assessments will be retained in an electronic folder or in a work folder maintained by the student and monitored by the student's teacher. During the summer between junior and senior year, a committee of English and social studies teachers will examine this collective work, rate each assessment against an established rubric, and determine if the work meets performance standards.

c. Additional performance tasks will be provided during the fall of the senior year for those students who did not demonstrate proficiency on their junior reading assessments. By the second week in January, a committee of English and/or social studies teachers will examine this work against the established rubric and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

d. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency in his senior demonstration folder must successfully complete a performance-based Senior Exit Program.

Writing Across the Disciplines consists of two (2) subcategories, which are: Interdisciplinary Writing and Editing and Revising. A student who has not met the CAPT Writing Across the Disciplines criteria must demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways.

a. The student will be retested on the CAPT the following year in order to demonstrate proficiency by meeting the district's identified standard;

OR

Instruction

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146(d)

Writing Across the Disciplines (continued)

Assessment instruments in English and social studies will be constructed to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in writing based on the CAPT rubrics. Internal assessment prompts will be constructed to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in writing in the following manner:

b. The individual sub-tests of CAPT, which do not meet the above criteria, will be identified. Writing assessments, which correspond to the two sub-tests and are appropriate to the content of the course in which the student is enrolled, will be constructed. Student work on these assessments will be retained in an electronic folder or in a work folder maintained by the student and monitored by the student's teacher. A committee of English and social studies teachers will examine this collective work, rate each assessment against an established rubric, and determine if the work meets performance standards.

c. Additional performance tasks will be provided during the fall of the senior year for those students who did not demonstrate proficiency on their junior writing assessments. By the second week in January, a committee of English and/or social studies teachers will examine this work against the established rubric and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

d. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency in his senior demonstration folder must successfully complete a performance-based Senior Exit Program.

Science: A student who has not met the CAPT Science criterion must demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways:

a. The student will be retested on the CAPT the following year in order to demonstrate proficiency by meeting the district's identified standard;

OR

b. The individual CAPT science standards that do not meet the above criteria will be identified. Performance tasks that correspond to these standards and are appropriate for the course in which the student is enrolled, will be constructed. Student's work on these tasks will be retained in an electronic folder or in a work folder maintained by the student and monitored by the student's teacher. During the summer between junior and senior year, a committee of science teachers will examine this collective work, rate each task against an established rubric, and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.

Instruction

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146(e)

Writing Across the Disciplines (continued)

- c. Additional tasks will be provided during the fall of senior year for those students who did not demonstrate proficiency on their junior demonstration folder. By the second week in January, a committee of science teachers will examine this work against the established rubric and determine if the work demonstrates proficiency.
- d. A student who does not demonstrate proficiency in his/her senior demonstration folder must successfully complete a performance-based Senior Exit Program.

Procedures for Review of Student Work

The Headmaster(s) of Fairfield high school(s) and the appropriate curriculum leaders will appoint a committee of teachers. Student work will be submitted and reviewed at the end of the student's junior year. Students who do not meet the standards on either the CAPT retest(s) or the submitted demonstration folder will be allowed to submit another demonstration folder at the conclusion of the first semester of their senior year. Students who do not demonstrate proficiency will enroll in a designated senior project course and/or a designated math course.

Transfers

If a student transfers to a Fairfield high school after completing three (3) years of high school elsewhere, he may be exempt from Fairfield High School Performance Standards.

Notification: Teachers, Students, and Parents

The guidance department will formally notify students, their teachers, and their parents or guardians if the district's standard on the CAPT has not been met in the areas of Mathematics, Reading Across the Disciplines, and Writing Across the Disciplines. Students who have not met the district's standard will be encouraged to retake designated CAPT areas in the spring of their junior year and to submit a demonstration folder of their work by June 1st as indicated above. The results of the assessment of the student work will be communicated to students who have demonstrated proficiency on their folder of work by the second week of September. The results of the CAPT retest and the scoring of the folder of student work from the first semester of the senior year will be communicated by the guidance department via certified mail to the student and parent or guardian by the second week of January of the senior year.

Successful completion of a performance-based Senior Exit Program will be communicated to the students and parent or guardian by June 1st of the senior year.

Instruction

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (continued)

6146(f)

Options

If a student does not demonstrate proficiency as described, he may return to the high school for a fifth year, enroll in summer school, or register for appropriate night school classes.

Appeals

The headmaster(s) shall design and implement an appeals process. The final authority to determine proficiency on appeal will rest with the headmaster(s).

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-14n Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination.
Limitation on use of test results
10-16(l) Graduation exercises (as amended by PA 96-108 An Act
Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the
Establishment of Graduation Dates)
10-221a High school graduation requirements (as amended by PA 00-156
An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II

Adopted 8/27/2004

Revised and Adopted 9/27/2005

Revised and Adopted 1/12/2010

Sample revised policy to consider.

Community Relations

Political Activities of School Employees

School employees are encouraged to assume full responsibilities as citizens of a democracy.

Performance of Civic Duties by Employees

Employees should perform their civic duties commensurate with democratic ideals. These duties may include:

1. Voting and taking an interest in current social, political, and economic issues.
2. Exercising democratic rights and responsibilities shared with other citizens. These rights and privileges may include:
 - A. Electioneering for candidates.
 - B. Accepting positions in political campaigns.
 - C. Holding an office in a political party organization.
 - D. Serving as a delegate to political party conventions.

Individual Responsibility in Participating in Political Functions

Employees engaging in political activities shall:

1. Realize their obligation to their work as educators.
2. Help others understand that employee opinions and actions are expressed as individuals and not as representatives of the educational institution.
3. Engage in no political activities on school premises during school hours.

Alternate language to consider:

The following guidelines will be followed regarding employee participation in political and union activity:

- All employees shall be encouraged to exercise their constitutional rights as citizens, but they shall not involve their schools and students in personal political campaigns.

Community Relations

Political Activities of School Employees

Individual Responsibility in Participating in Political Functions (continued)

- Campaign literature, including but not limited to electronic mail, supporting one or more candidates shall not be distributed within schools or on school buses, by students, teachers or others; nor shall campaign posters be displayed at or within the schools. Campaign literature shall be used solely for educational purposes.
- Employees shall not poll their students to determine how their parents are voting on any issue, and shall not attempt to indoctrinate students with personal political and social philosophy; however, employees are not prohibited from political activity after hours of official employment. Any discussions during break time shall be confined to an area out of the hearing distance of students.
- Employees may not use school property for personal political use.
- Employees' attendance at, or participation at, political or union activities during work time shall not take place without prior written approval of the Superintendent or designee.

The following situations are exempt from the prohibitions of this policy:

- The discussion and study of politics and political issues, when such discussion and study are appropriate to classroom studies, such as history, civics, current events, and political science.
- The conduct of student elections and campaigning connected therewith.
- The conduct of professional staff member representative elections.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to impose a burden on the constitutionally protected speech of a staff member or student.

Problems concerning the political activity of an employee shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee who shall follow-up and take appropriate action.

A succinct version of this policy to consider:

District staff members shall not use school time, school property or school resources or equipment for the purpose of furthering the interests of any political party, the campaign of any political candidate or the advocacy of any political issue.

Community Relations

Political Activities of School Employees

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

7-421 Political activities of classified municipal employees.

7-421b Limitation on restriction of political rights of municipal employees.

10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception.

Policy adopted:

rev 1/06

A new version of this policy to consider.

Community Relations

Political Activities of School Employees

The _____ Board of Education recognizes the right of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity. However, the Board recognizes that school property and school time are paid for by all the people of the District, and should not be used for partisan political purposes, except as provided for in policies pertaining to the use of school facilities by civic and political organizations.

Prohibited activities include the posting of political circulars or petitions, collection or solicitation of campaign funds, solicitations for campaign workers, the use of students in writing or addressing campaign materials, and the distribution of campaign materials to students on District property or during school time in any manner which would indicate that a school employee is using a position in the school to further personal partisan views on candidates for public office or questions of public property. Teachers and other District employees will not attempt to influence students concerning political party affiliations and will not praise or denigrate any particular political party.

Nothing in this policy will be interpreted as prohibiting teachers from conducting appropriate activities that encourage students to become involved in the political processes of the party of the students' choice or as independents; nor does it prohibit the use of political figures as resource persons in the classrooms.

- (cf. 1140 – Distribution of Materials by Students)
- (cf. 1311.2 – Political Activities in the Schools/On School Board Property)
- (cf. 1330/3515 – Community Use of School Facilities)
- (cf. 3543.13 – Mail and Delivery)
- (cf. 4118.21 – Academic Freedom)
- (cf. 6144 – Controversial Issues)
- (cf. 6153.2 – Student Participation in Election Process)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
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31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on account of employee's exercise of certain constitutional rights.
Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)
Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)
Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4074

Policy adopted:

cps 1/06

A new, optional policy pertaining to this issue.

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools/On School Board Property

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring each citizen's rights as provided in the Constitution and laws of the State of Connecticut and the Constitution of the United States. However, Board employees shall be prohibited from the following:

- a. Participating in any political activity while on duty.

or (for a more specific listing)

Engaging in political activities including but not limited to, soliciting, receiving, collecting, handling, disbursing or accounting for assessments, contributions or other political funds, organizing, selling tickets to, promoting a candidate, soliciting votes in support of or opposition to a candidate, circulating petitions, displaying political pictures, badges, stickers or buttons on District property during assigned hours of employment.

- b. Using school property to solicit funds for political associations or activities.
- c. Attempting, either directly or indirectly, to coerce political activity or support from any other District employee.
- d. Soliciting or attempting to solicit funds from a District employee on behalf of any candidate, party, or issue while on duty.

School Board employees shall have the right to actively participate in political activities on behalf of any candidate, party, or issue during the time they are not scheduled to be on duty.

Nothing contained in this policy shall be interpreted to prohibit a Board member or employee from performing any statutory or assigned duty with respect to any issue which directly affects the District or which is placed on a ballot by or at the request of the Board, provided that such assigned duty is consistent with a willing employee's personal political beliefs.

District employees who offer themselves as candidates for public office shall notify the Superintendent immediately upon qualifying for election. They shall file a written statement explaining plans for conducting their campaign so as not to interfere with their job responsibilities.

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools/On School Board Property (continued)

- a. Personal leave may be taken for thirty (30) days prior to the election as provided herein.
- b. A successful candidate for an office requiring a part-time responsibility shall report immediately to the Superintendent after the election and thereafter when deemed necessary by the Superintendent or Board to evaluate the compatibility of the dual responsibility.
- c. A Board employee may be granted leave of absence, with loss of full pay, for a specified period of time for the purpose of campaigning or for serving in public office.

District employees shall be entitled to full rights of citizenship, and no political activities of any employee or the lack thereof shall be grounds for any discipline or discrimination with respect to the employment of such employee providing such activities do not interfere with the performance of the employee's duties or the District's business.

Political Candidates

Debate or Forum: If a class or school-sponsored group plans a political debate or forum during the school day, the Principal/teacher/sponsor shall ensure that all candidates for the same public office or who have differing opinions on a political issue are given equal opportunity to participate.

Appearances: Political candidates are not allowed to appear at a school unless they are invited to visit or speak to a class or other school-related activity during school hours. However, they are entitled to the same rights of all citizens to visit the schools. The requirements for debates or forums are applicable and other candidates for the public office should be invited to visit at the same time or be provided an equivalent opportunity.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude or prevent incumbent elected public officials from appearances on District property upon the invitation of a Board member, the Superintendent, the Superintendent's designee or Principal provided that it is within their official capacity and not a campaign activity.

School Group Participation in Political Events

School groups may not participate in events that fall into these classifications:

- a. Public appearances to promote the political candidacy of any person or the furtherance of any partisan political interest.

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools/On School Board Property

School Group Participation in Political Events (continued)

- b. Appearances that create an undue amount of interference with the regular school program or that cause an excessive amount of students' absences for rehearsal or preparation.
- c. The school Principal shall refer any case where a possible conflict may exist to the Superintendent for approval or disapproval.

Use or Distribution of Political Materials During School Hours or on School Grounds

Interschool Mail: Any interschool or intraschool mail system may not be used to distribute any political materials to schools. A regular newsletter of an employee organization that is normally distributed by the District's/school's mail system will not be considered political material if it simply contains news of a political nature taken by the organization. However, a publication from, or newsletter primarily containing news or discussion about, any political action committee is considered political material and may not be distributed through the pony mail.

Political Materials: Any distribution of political materials, except as part of the instructional program or student government, or political activity during working hours (including e-mail messages) is prohibited, except as allowed under this policy.

Student Elections: Students may post or distribute student-government election materials in an appropriate time, place, and manner, as determined by the Principal, so as to avoid any disruption to the learning environment.

Political Materials as Part of the Instructional Program

- Teachers may use political materials as part of the instructional program, provided the material is germane to the instructional objectives of the course. Any presentation of political materials, or issues, or expression of views, however, must be balanced and fair.
- Teachers shall be responsible for providing students with the opportunity to investigate various sides of the topics presented in their courses, particularly in relation to controversial subjects, within such limits as may be imposed by relevance to the course, the maturity level and intellectual ability of the students, and the time available.

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools/On School Board Property

Political Materials as Part of the Instructional Program (continued)

- Teachers shall permit freedom of expression on those topics that are matters of opinion so that students may weigh alternative views and make up their own minds. Students shall be encouraged to examine, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize the information available to them before drawing conclusions in order to develop as fully as possible their capacities for rational judgment.
- Teachers shall strive to promote tolerance for the opinions of others and respect for the right of all individuals to hold and express differing opinions.
- A teacher may express his/her opinions in regard to political, social and religious values or issues provided that the total presentation is essentially balanced and fair. He/she shall not use professional interaction with students to further his/her own political aims or views or those of any other individual or group.

(cf. 1140 – Distribution of Materials by Students)

(cf. 1311.1 – Political Activities of School Employees)

(cf. 1330/3515 – Community Use of School Facilities)

(cf. 3543.13 – Mail and Delivery)

(cf. 4118.21 – Academic Freedom)

(cf. 6144 – Controversial Issues)

(cf. 6153.2 – Student Participation in Election Process)

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Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4074

Policy adopted:

cps 1/06

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools

The Board of Education strongly supports the concepts of representative government and elected office. The Board encourages District employees to exercise their right to vote, and the Board expresses its admiration for those who seek and obtain public office. Further, the Board recognizes that the public schools are tax-supported and should be accessible to the community. The Board, however, does believe that the educational process should be clearly separate from the political activities associated with campaigns for public office.

Therefore, political activities in the schools during school hours shall be restricted to those of an educational nature that are beneficial to students as part of their program of study. The Board shall promulgate regulations in conjunction with this policy governing the following:

- Access to school system information
- Display and distribution of political literature
- Employee political activities
- Participation by student groups
- Use of school facilities
- Use of district resources
- Conduct of candidates

(cf. 1140 – Distribution of Materials by Students)

(cf. 1311.1 – Political Activities of School Employees)

(cf. 1330/3515 – Community Use of School Facilities)

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(cf. 4118.21 – Academic Freedom)

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Policy adopted:

cps 1/06

A sample regulation to consider/modify.

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools

A. Purpose

To provide guidelines to candidates, candidate representatives, Board employees and students related to the conduct of political activities as it may involve District schools and school activities.

B. Access to School System Information

Any candidate or other Connecticut citizen may have access to school records and information pursuant to the provisions of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.

Requests for information from candidates or their representatives related to political campaigns and issues regarding the District should be directed to the Office of the Superintendent. To ensure impartial cooperation with candidates in elections for the Board of Education, responses to campaign requests will be shared with all announced candidates.

C. Display and Distribution of Political Literature

Display and distribution of political materials in the schools during school hours shall be restricted to those of an educational nature and as part of the educational program. Teachers, who elect to use such materials for instructional purposes, shall present them in an impartial and objective manner that is relevant to the course content and appropriate to the knowledge and maturity of the students. Existing District procedures permit the distribution in schools of materials related to parks and recreation, scouting and other non-profit or service organizations. Consistent with these procedures, political campaign materials or materials that support or oppose political candidates, parties or issues shall not be sent home from school with students. Also such literature shall not be distributed during school hours or on a school bus by students, Board employees or others. Campaign-related posters or signs may not be displayed at or within schools.

Candidates, or their representatives, desiring to distribute campaign or political materials to those attending school-related activities occurring after school hours must do so outside the building or other school facility. The distribution of political literature at events or meetings that are not school-related may be subject to the conditions governing Community Use of School Facilities.

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools

C. Display and Distribution of Political Literature (continued)

Candidates or their representatives, who do not comply with these limits on the distribution of campaign or political materials after being so informed, will be requested by a building administrator to leave school property. If the candidate or their representative does not comply with this request to leave, the building administrator will warn the individual(s) that they are trespassing and will notify the police.

Schools will not accept political advertisements in co-curricular publications (example: school newspaper as part of Journalism class). As with other advertisements, paid political advertisements may be placed in school publications unrelated to the curriculum, subject to the review and approval of the Principal (example: programs for athletic events).

During the times that polls are open and schools are serving as polling locations, Connecticut election laws will govern any associated political activity, including the distribution of political literature or posting of political signs.

D. Employee Political Activities

Employees are encouraged to exercise their constitutional rights as citizens, but they shall not involve their schools in political activities. Employees shall not participate in campaign activities during hours of official employment; however, employees may participate in political activity after hours of official employment.

Employees shall not poll students on the political opinions of their parents and shall not attempt to indoctrinate students or other employees with their personal political views. Student mock elections are permitted when conducted as part of the educational program.

No employee shall be expected or required to participate in any campaign or to support any candidate as a condition of employment.

E. Participation by Student Groups

School-sponsored student groups shall not participate in partisan political activities.

F. Use of School Facilities for Political Activities

When space is available, candidates may use school facilities during non-school hours subject to Board policy pertaining to Community Use of School Facilities and the associated regulations.

Community Relations

Political Activities in the Schools (continued)

G. Use of Other District Resources

Any use of the District's website for political activities is prohibited. Use of any other resources for political activities, including but not limited to copiers, computers or facsimile machines, is prohibited.

H. Conduct of Candidates

Candidates for election, or their representatives, shall not use District resources, District personnel (except those employees who may voluntarily participate during non-duty hours), District events at which they are official participants, District stationery, or the District logo in support of their campaigns.

Candidates, or their representatives, may not access students or employees during school hours for campaign purposes. With the prior review and approval of the Principal, candidates may be invited to address specific classes or groups on specific topics related to the curriculum and educational program. The Principal's review shall ensure all candidates are treated impartially and objectively.

- (cf. 1140 – Distribution of Materials by Students)
- (cf. 1311.1 – Political Activities of School Employees)
- (cf. 1330/3515 – Community Use of School Facilities)
- (cf. 3543.13 – Mail and Delivery)
- (cf. 4118.21 – Academic Freedom)
- (cf. 6144 – Controversial Issues)
- (cf. 6153.2 – Student Participation in Election Process)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 7-421 Political activities of classified municipal employees
 7-421b Limitation on restriction of political rights of municipal employees
 9-369b Explanatory text relating to local questions
 10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception
 10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes
 31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on account of employee's exercise of certain constitutional rights
Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)
 Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)
 Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4

Regulation approved:

cps 1/06

HANDOUT #2 - UPDATED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2017
4:30 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

Minutes

Call to Order 4:31 PM

Approval of September 18 and October 2, 2017 Minutes

- Approved 3-0

Discussion of 1311.1/1311.2 Political Activities of School Employees in School/On School Property

Adjournment

6:10 PM Vote of Adjournment