

SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Centennial School Board recognizes the educational value of official publications developed and prepared by students under the sponsorship and direction of school personnel.

The Superintendent is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Policy: 3.2

Adopted: 05/23/78

Amended: 05/13/86

..... 04/25/89

..... 06/09/93

..... 04/22/98

..... 06/11/02

..... 05/09/06

SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

I. School Sponsored Student Publications

- A. The School District may sponsor and support student publications such as, but not limited to a school paper, yearbook, or literary magazine, through a faculty advisor and/or in other appropriate ways. Such publications shall be for the purpose of providing students with educational opportunities, including, but not limited to, the opportunities to practice writing skills and to develop an understanding of journalistic responsibilities.
- B. School sponsored student publications are not intended to be public forums, open or limited, for public or student expression. The School District may exercise editorial control that is viewpoint neutral and reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns.
- C. The faculty advisor of a school sponsored student publication will instruct and guide students in various writing styles and journalistic responsibilities.

II. Content of School Sponsored Publications and Editing

- A. Student editors will determine the content of the publication with the advice and concurrence of the faculty advisor and according to guidelines set forth in Section III. When in doubt about the propriety of any specific article, picture, cartoon or photograph, the advisor and student editors will consult with the principal. Appeals regarding the principal's decision may be made through the Director of Secondary Education for any middle schools or the high school and the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Elementary Education for the elementary schools.
- B. If unauthorized materials are published without the permission of the faculty advisor, the student or students responsible for the unauthorized publication will be responsible for any suits and/or claims brought as a result of said publication. The District will assume no responsibility for such materials.
- C. When a writer submits copy, the editors may reject, make minor rewrites or correct said copy without the approval of the author. Appropriate notations of such changes shall be kept by the sponsor. When there is a major revision of the article, the editor must discuss the changes and have them approved by the author.
- D. Student editors will ensure that when a writer quotes any staff member, community member or student, the writer must check the statement with the individual quoted for accuracy before submitting the article.
- E. School sponsored student publications must include the names of the students writing the editorials.
- F. Letters to the editor must always be signed. The editors reserve the right to check the letter for its authenticity and to discuss its content with the writer. The editors also reserve the right to publish or not publish the letter.

III. Content of School Sponsored Student Publications

- A. The faculty advisor may exclude material from a school sponsored student publication if it:
1. will cause a disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities or is otherwise inappropriate to the school setting;
 2. advocates unlawful behavior;
 3. is libelous;
 4. violates copyright laws;
 5. is suggestive, obscene, indecent or vulgar;
 6. is inappropriate to the level of maturity of its student authors or its intended readers;
 7. is not grammatically correct, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced;
 8. may reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use or conduct otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized order or;
 9. contains criticism of individual students or of individual District employees in the conduct of their duties as employees.
- B. Other material may be excluded from school sponsored student publications provided that the decision to exclude such materials is viewpoint neutral and reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns.

IV. School sponsored publications may incorporate the name of the District or its mascot into the publication name. However, the faculty advisor will place on the masthead of student publications a statement that the District does not take responsibility for the content of the publication, nor does it necessarily endorse the opinions expressed therein.

V. Violations of this Policy

Violations of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Administrative Procedures: 3.2

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