*Policy*

**SCHOOL-RELATED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**

**AND PRODUCTIONS**

*Code* **JICEA** *Issued* **DRAFT/19**

The board recognizes that creative student expression can enhance the district’s educational program and, therefore, supports freedom of comment, both oral and written, in the school setting. The board sanctions student publications and productions so long as students are willing to accept the responsibilities of the freedoms of speech and of the press. This means expression which is false or obscene, libelous, slanderous, or defamatory under state law; presents a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts, violation of school rules or board policy, or a material and/or substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school; violates the privacy rights of others; or threatens violence to property or persons will not be permitted.

All school-sponsored publications and productions will contain a disclaimer that expression made by students in the exercise of freedom of speech or freedom of the press is not an expression of board policy. The superintendent or his/her designee will make rules as to the time, place, and manner of distribution of such publications and/or performance of such productions and will make any other regulations necessary to ensure that student publications and productions do not infringe upon the rights of others.

The designated sponsor(s) of any officially recognized school-sanctioned and school-financed publication (e.g. newspaper, news programs, yearbook, literary magazine, etc.) will assume the initial responsibility of screening and editing all materials earmarked for publication or production. Although students should be given meaningful editorial latitude, the sponsor(s) retains the inherent obligation to delete any article, comment, or performance element likely to create substantial disruption of, or significant interference with, school operations.

Any student objecting to a sponsor’s exercise of discretion in this regard should bring the objection to the attention of the sponsor in writing in accordance with the procedures outlined in policy JII, *Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances*.

Adopted ^

Legal References:

A. Federal Cases:

 1. *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).