

GREENBURGH ELEVEN UFSD

POLICY #9110.3

PRINTED AND WRITTEN MATERIAL ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Board of Education believes that exposure to a reasonable spectrum of opinion on issues of public concern is important to the education process and encourages the staff and students of the School District to express their views and to communicate in positive and constructive ways. The Board also recognizes its obligation to protect the civil and personal liberties and the safety and welfare of all of its employees and students.

In a school setting, employees have a limited constitutional right of freedom of expression in matters relating to the School District. The right of free speech does not extend to speech which has a negative effect on the operation of the School District and the potential for substantial disruption or distraction.

The Board prohibits the distribution of material which, by its content, will materially interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the School District, will cause or foster violence or disorder or will constitute an invasion of the rights of others. As used in this policy distribution shall mean the handing out or sale to several individuals.

No person shall distribute any printed or written matter on the grounds of the school or in any school building unless the distribution of such material shall have the prior written approval of the Superintendent of Schools. Any individual wishing to distribute any written or printed matter shall submit the material to the Superintendent who shall have seven (7) days to notify the individual whether the distribution of the material is approved. In the event the Superintendent does not approve the distribution of any material, the Superintendent shall state the reasons for such disapproval and the employee may request the Board of Education to review such decision.

No publication shall use the name of the School District without the prior written consent of the Superintendent. All materials must bear the name of the author or editor and expressions of personal opinion must be identified as such.

Employees are not permitted to use school facilities, resources, equipment, mailboxes or work time, including conference periods, to prepare, edit, print or distribute materials which are not related to the actual school curriculum.

All publications will comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, false statements, materials advocating racial or religious prejudice, sexism, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and School District policies and/or regulations, or materials designed to, or having the effect of, substantially disrupting the educational process will not be permitted.

No person, either singly or in concert with others, while on school property shall:

1. Engage in conduct, which, if written, would be prohibited by the preceding paragraph;
2. Engage in conduct which would threaten, intimidate, embarrass, demean or coerce others from expressing their individual opinion;

3. Deliberately disrupt or prevent the peaceful and orderly conduct of classes, lectures and meetings or deliberately interfere with the freedom of any person to express his/her views, including invited speakers
4. Incite others to commit any of the acts herein prohibited.

The Board recognizes that free inquiry and free expression are important to the objectives of the School District. The purpose of this policy is to protect the educational process, prevent abuse of the rights of others and to maintain a professional environment, not to prevent or restrain peaceful assembly or differing points of view.

The Board directs the Superintendent to prepare and enforce any Rules and Regulations as may be necessary to effectuate this policy.

Readopted: July 9, 2015
Readopted: July 11, 2016
Readopted: July 13, 2017
Readopted: July 11, 2018