

IMC - CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS

Category R

A goal of education is to prepare our students to participate constructively in a democratic, pluralistic society in which many different opinions are held and differing causes are espoused. It is important that students develop an understanding of ideas and of people who may seem unfamiliar to them. It is also important that students develop judgment and the capacity to discern the difference between fact and opinion. Books, files, and other media are valuable for giving students exposure to many differing ideas; but for effective learning, it is also useful to invite appropriate guest speakers to meet with groups of students as part of the educational process.

The District's schools are not deemed to be a public forum. The District has an obligation to regulate the District in a manner so that public speech does not interfere with the District's educational programming, curriculum or instructional goals. To that end, no speakers or programs shall be permitted which interfere with the curricular goals of the District, the educational process, or the safety of students.

The Board, in an effort to uphold the students' freedom to learn, while also recognizing obligations and responsibilities that the exercise of this freedom entails, establishes the following guidelines:

1. All guest speakers shall be invited through the school principal and when the subject matter is controversial, an attempt shall be made to engage speakers for both sides of the issues. In no instance shall a speaker who advocates unconstitutional or illegal acts or procedures be permitted to address students. The teacher/sponsor and principal are expected to exercise judgment and to fully investigate proposed guest speaker.
2. An appropriate record shall be made of each guest speaker and of his/her presentation.
3. The ideas presented and the guest speaker invited to present them shall have a demonstrable relation to the curricular or co-curricular activity in which the participating students are involved.
4. Prior to his or her appearance or participation, the guest speaker shall be given, in writing, and shall agree to abide by the following Board regulations:
 - A. Profanity, vulgarity, and lewd comments are prohibited.
 - B. Smoking is not permitted.
 - C. The teacher/sponsor and principal are expected to exercise judgment and to fully investigate the proposed guest speaker.

First Reading: 10/23/07

Second Reading: 11/13/07

Adopted 11/27/2007