

School Board Executive Summary

Topic: Board Policies for Review: #6300; 6310

Date: January 12, 2026

Presented by: Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel



Recommended Action:

- ☐ Information Only
- ☐ Presentation/Discussion
- ☐ Discussion/Action by Board of Education
- ☒ Presentation/Action Next Meeting

Recommendation: None at this time. Presenting revisions to two existing policies for board discussion and consideration. Policies will be presented again for approval on February 9, 2026.

Background: The Board of Education and the District adhere to a regular policy review process to ensure: timely and appropriate updates to existing policies; the implementation of new policies as warranted; the elimination of outdated / conflicting policies; and grammatical / language revisions as needed.

#6300 - Controversial Issues (Instruction) - These revisions come from KSB's policy book and are intended to outline the requirements for teachers teaching controversial subjects.

#6310 - Speakers (Instruction) - These revisions are intended to clarify the steps necessary to request and approve guest speakers for classes/extracurricular activities/clubs and assemblies. The Teaching and Learning team has also provided input on these revisions.

Attachment(s): Redline copies of policies 6300; 6310

TOPIC CATEGORY:	INSTRUCTION
NUMBER CATEGORY:	6000
TITLE:	<u>CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES SENSITIVE TOPICS</u>
NUMBER:	6300

~~Training for effective citizenship is accepted as one of the major goals of our public schools. Our instructional program developed to achieve this purpose properly places great emphasis upon teaching about our American heritage, the rights and privileges we enjoy as citizens, and the citizenship responsibilities that must be assumed in maintaining our American way of life. The ability to discuss, listen, and dissent are essential elements of effective citizenship and a life of purpose. The District encourages students to develop skills in analyzing issues, respecting the opinion of others, distinguishing between fact and opinion, considering all pertinent factors in reaching decisions, and arriving at group decisions.~~

In training for effective citizenship, it is frequently necessary for ~~pupils~~ students to study ~~issues~~ topics that are ~~controversial~~ sensitive. Teachers may teach or lead discussions about sensitive topics if they comply with the following criteria. ~~In considering such issues, it shall be the purpose of our schools to recognize the pupils' rights and/or obligations:~~

- ~~1. The topics discussed must be relevant to the curriculum, part of a planned educational program, and within the range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students. To study, within the framework of the curriculum and within the appropriate stage for forming an opinion, any controversial issue of a political, economic and social nature which has relevance to the curriculum.~~
- ~~2. Students must have free access to appropriately-leveled (see above) materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the topics. To have access to all relevant information, pertinent to the specific topic.~~
- ~~3. The teacher should ensure students To study sensitive topics under competent instruction in an atmosphere of freedom from bias and prejudice and with respect for majority and minority opinions alike.~~
- ~~4. To form and express one's own opinions on issues without jeopardizing the relationship with the teacher or the school.~~

~~To recognize that compromise is an important facet in decision making in our society.~~

- ~~3. Teachers must refrain from advocating for any candidate for political office, ballot question, partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda of any kind through any classroom or a school device. However, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach their own decision independently.~~

Teachers who are unsure of their obligations under this Policy should confer with their principal prior to or, in the event of an unplanned discussion, immediately after discussing sensitive topics in the classroom.

5.

Parents and guardians are encouraged and expected to be familiar with their child(ren)'s current curriculum and topics being discussed in their child[ren]'s classroom(s). Parents or guardians who want to have their child[ren] excused from discussion of sensitive topics should refer to the excusal process outlined in Policy 6320 (Review of / Access to Education Materials).

Cross Reference: Policy 6200; 6320 and 6320-R

POLICY ADOPTED: April 3, 1973

POLICY REVIEWED AND ADOPTED: June 1, 1987

POLICY AMENDED: February __, 2026

TOPIC CATEGORY:	INSTRUCTION
NUMBER CATEGORY:	6000
TITLE:	SPEAKERS
NUMBER:	6310

The Board recognizes that guest speakers with demonstrated expertise in areas of interest to the District and its students may enrich the students' educational experiences. The District has adopted this Policy to ensure that the messages provided by outside speakers do not conflict with District Policies, the vision, and mission of the District as articulated by the Board, or the legal limitations placed on public school districts. Individuals who wish to invite a guest speaker must follow the procedures outlined below.

Selection of Speakers

Upon the approval of the building principal, a faculty member may invite speakers or consultants on subjects which: (a) are within the framework of his curriculum; (b) are not prohibited by law; and (c) do not denigrate the American form of government. On controversial issues, the faculty member shall ensure that all viewpoints are presented.

Request by Speakers

Persons who request to address the student body or staff must have the approval of the Superintendent.

Classroom or School-Sponsored Activity Guest Speakers. Teachers, coaches or activity sponsors who desire to invite a guest speaker to address his or her class, team, or activity members must:

1. Research the guest speaker, have a clear understanding of the guest speaker's purpose and message, and determine that the speaker's message complies with the District's Policies, vision and mission.
2. Complete a Guest Speaker Request Form and submit it to the building principal at least 30 days prior to the proposed appearance. This 30-day timeframe may be modified at the discretion of the principal.
3. Notify parents of the name, time, date, and topic and summary of the presentation at least 14 days before the presentation (if the request is approved) so parents can request to excuse their child(ren) under Policy 6320 (Review of / Access to Education Materials). This 14-day timeframe may be modified at the discretion of the principal.
4. Require the guest speaker to submit a copy of any visual or written materials to the employee at least 24 hours prior to any presentation. The employee shall submit the materials to the principal upon receipt.
5. Prepare students in advance for the experience.
6. Terminate the presentation if the speaker fails to limit his or her remarks to the subject on which he or she has been invited to speak.
7. Remain with the speaker and students to facilitate and monitor the discussion.
8. Provide appropriate follow-up activities and education.

Assembly Speakers. Employees who desire to invite a guest speaker to address staff or students at an assembly must follow the identical procedures outlined above. In addition, the employee must submit the Guest Speaker Request Form to the Superintendent, or designee, at least 45 days prior to the proposed appearance and the speaker submitted materials upon receipt. This 45-day timeframe may be modified by the principal or, if the address will involve staff or students from multiple buildings, the Superintendent, or his or her designee.

Request Consideration. The administrator(s) must research the guest speaker and determine that the speaker's message complies with the District's Policies, vision, and mission. If it does not comply, the administrator will reject the request. If it does comply, the administrator shall then consider the following factors when approving or denying the request:

1. The guest speaker's ability to appropriately and adequately address the topic with the students based upon the speaker's education, training, expertise, or other qualifications.
2. The materials submitted by the guest speaker.
3. The educational value to students, and relevance of the presentation to the class, activity, or school's educational mission.
4. Whether the topic of the presentation is appropriate for the students' ages and level of maturity.

The administrator shall notify the employee of his or her decision.

Sensitive Issues. If the employee or administrator determine that the guest speaker's topic or presentation is partisan or controversial but will still be of benefit to the students, the employee and administrator will work with the guest speaker to develop a plan that will allow the issue to be presented in an objective and unbiased manner. Subject to the approval of the Superintendent, or his or her designee, the principal may require that other, or opposing, viewpoints be presented. The employee will notify students and their parents at least 14 days in advance of the nature of the presentation. If a student does not wish to attend a controversial presentation, the employee will either excuse the student from attending or provide an alternative assignment, per applicable District Policies.

Other Requirements. The inviting employee or appropriate administrator shall interrupt or stop the presentation if it violates this or any other District Policy, or the vision and mission of the District.

POLICY ADOPTED: April 3, 1973

POLICY AMENDED: February __, 2026