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Community/Board Operations

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS BY STUDENTS

Regional School District #10 Board of Education is obligated to protect the welfare of students, the integrity of the learning environment and its limited resources. At the same time, the Board of Education recognizes that the dissemination of information about local events, activities and services may be beneficial for students and encourages positive school-community relationships. Printed materials may be distributed to parents and guardians by students as an inexpensive means of mass communication. However, this procedure can be objectionable to parents, guardians and the school district if it is over utilized. Therefore, the distribution of advertising materials by students will be subject to the following criteria:

1. The materials must relate to Region 10 Schools, the communities of Harwinton and/or Burlington or to local recreational or civic activities relevant to students.
2. The materials must not relate to any religious belief or activity, promote private gain, or endorse any political agenda.
3. The materials must not promote any political party or candidate.
4. All information must be consistent with district policies and must be age-appropriate for the students involved. Information must not:
 - a. Promote the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco or firearms.
 - b. Promote hostility, disorder, or violence
 - c. Attack, demean, mock or discriminate against any individual based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
 - d. Be libelous, fraudulent or unlawful.
 - e. Promote any specific religion or religious activity
 - f. Promote or oppose any political candidate, group or ballot proposition.
 - g. Be likely to disrupt the functioning of the district or any school, interfere with instructional time or adversely affect district/school resources

Distribution of materials includes posting information on school district property, using students as couriers of the materials or transmitting materials via electronic mail to students, parents/guardians or school personnel.

Distribution of Materials Requiring the Approval of the School Principal:

At the discretion of the principal and upon his/her approval based upon the above criteria, schools may distribute or post the following types of information for students, families or staff:

- Information developed or sent by Region 10 Schools
- Information about school-sponsored events, activities, coursework and programs, including school-sponsored fundraising and culminating projects.
- Information in officially sanctioned student newspapers/publications.
- Information from district/school parent organizations (PTA)



Distribution of Materials Requiring Approval of the Superintendent of Schools:

The Superintendent of Schools or designee may permit local, nonprofit organizations to distribute information to students about youth-related activities, services, and events subject to the above criteria. In exercising his/her discretion with regard to the approval of the distribution of such materials, the Superintendent may consider the potential social, emotional or educational benefits of the information to students, as well as any need to minimize the volume of information being distributed by students at the time the request is made.

All requests for the distribution of materials shall be made by submitting a completed *Nonprofit Organization Request for Distribution of Materials* form with required documentation to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether the request complies with the criteria established by this policy. The decision of the Superintendent shall be final. The Superintendent's office or designee is responsible for notifying school administrators and school office personnel of the approval of any distribution of materials.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

§ 9-369b Explanatory text relating to local questions.

ADOPTED: June 7, 2010
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