

Community Relations

Public Complaints

The Board of Trustees welcomes comments and suggestions for improvement. Constructive criticism of The Academy is welcome whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program. However, the Board has confidence in its professional staff and desires to support their actions in order that they are free from unnecessary, spiteful or negative criticism and complaint. Therefore, whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it will promptly be referred to the school administration for study and possible solution.

Individual Board members shall refer persons making complaints about The Academy to the most immediate level at which the problems can be resolved and, as may be necessary, through lines of organization to the Head of School. Parents should be made aware of the proper channels of communication and appeal. The decision of an administrator regarding a student must include notice to the parents of the next step of appeal. Any appeal from the decision of the Head of School to the Board of Trustees shall be in writing and signed.

The Head of School, the person who made the complaint, or the employee involved may request an executive session of the Board of Trustees to discuss the complaint. Generally, all parties involved, including the appropriate Academy administration, shall be asked to attend such a meeting for the purpose of presenting additional facts, making further explanations, and clarifying the issues.

Anonymous complaints provide no avenue for response or redress of the complaint. Therefore, it is the policy of the Board that such complaints will not be pursued unless deemed appropriate by the Head of School and/or the President of the Board of Trustees. An unsigned complaint will not be read at any meeting of the Board and will be considered in accordance with all relevant bargaining unit contracts.

Any parent, guardian, or other person who insults or abuses any employee or trustee on Academy property or in the presence of students may be prosecuted by The Academy under the provisions of law and be escorted off Academy grounds.

Challenged Material

A person challenging a piece of material shall write a letter directed to the Head of School. The Head of School shall evaluate the complaint and if warranted, shall appoint a committee to re-evaluate the material in question.

In all cases, the decision to retain or reject shall be made on the basis of whether the material represents life in its true proportions, whether circumstances are realistically dealt with, and whether the material has literary or social value. Factual material shall be included in all instructional material collections.

Legal Reference: Keyishian v. Board of Regents 385 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)
 President's Council, District 25 v. Community School Board No. 25 (457 F. 2d 289 (1972), cert. denied 409 U.S. 998 (1972))
 Minarcini v. Strongsville City School District, 541 F. 2d 577 (6th Cir. 1976)
 Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982)
 Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)
 Connecticut General Statutes 10-238. Petition for hearing by Board of Education

Policy Adopted: August 25, 1992
 Policy Updated: October 21, 2014
 Policy Reviewed by Policy Committee: September 11, 2019

The Woodstock Academy
 Woodstock, Connecticut