Walla Walla Public Schools

BOARD POLICY

Policy No. 3220

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The free expression of student opinion is an important part of education in a democratic society. Students' verbal and written expression of opinion on school premises is to be encouraged so long as it does not substantially disrupt the operation of the school. Students are expressly prohibited from the use of vulgar and/or offensive terms in classroom or assembly settings.

The superintendent shall develop procedures assuring that students are able to enjoy free expression of opinion while maintaining orderly conduct of the school.

Student Publications

Student publications produced as part of the school's curriculum or with the support of the associated student body fund are intended to serve both as vehicles for instruction and student communication. They are operated and substantively financed by the student body and the district.

Material appearing in such publications should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be controversy and dissent. Controversial issues may be presented provided that they are treated in depth and represent a variety of viewpoints. Such materials may not be libelous, obscene or profane; cause a substantial disruption of the school; invade the privacy of others; demean any race, religion, sex, or ethnic group; or advocate the violation of the law or advertise tobacco products, liquor, illicit drugs, or drug paraphernalia.

The superintendent shall develop procedures to implement these standards and to provide prompt review of any materials which appear not to comply with the standards.

Distribution of Materials

Publications or other material written by students may be distributed on school premises in accordance with procedures developed by the superintendent. Such procedures may impose limits on the time, place, and manner of distribution including prior authorization for the posting of such material on school property.

Students responsible for the distribution of material which leads to a substantial disruption of school activity or otherwise interferes with school operations shall be subject to corrective action or punishment, including suspension or expulsion, consistent with student discipline policies.

Materials shall not be distributed on school grounds by non-students and non-employees of the district.

Cross Reference:	Board Policy	2340	Religious-related Activities and Practices
		3200	Students' Rights and Responsibilities
Legal References:	WAC	180-40-215	Student rights

First Reading: May 7, 2002
Adopted by the Board: July 16, 2002