

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/GUEST SPEAKERS

The Board recognizes the educational profession's right and responsibility to insist that children must be free to learn and teachers free to teach. Employees shall accept the responsibility of a commitment to the democratic tradition, the pursuit of truth, and a concern for the welfare, growth, and development of students. Thus, no special limitations shall be placed upon study, investigation and interpretation of facts and ideas, except that:

- A. The teacher must be acting within scope of his or her certified area in accord with accepted and/or adopted courses of study;
- B. When an employee believes that he or she may be entering into a controversial area of instruction, he or she will first (1st) meet and discuss with his or her building principal prior to presentation. If the principal believes the area to be controversial, he or she may request an outline of the areas to be covered and the resources to be used in the instruction. The building principal shall have the right to deny the teacher from entering into any such "controversial area". The principal's decision can be appealed to the school Board at its next regular session; and
- C. The teacher must exercise responsibility and prudence, and must realize that teaching in an elementary or secondary school places special responsibility upon the teacher to carefully consider the maturity level of the student and the special circumstances that surround the teacher and learner relationship.

While the teacher must feel free to teach and live according to his or her conscience, so must his or her students and the public he or she serves. The teacher may not infringe upon the freedom of those he or she serves. Proselytism has no place in a public school. Opinion or theory must be stated as such for what it is.