

# **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

## **POLICY 6162.4**

### **USE OF COMMUNITY (NON-STAFF) RESOURCE PERSONS**

The Board of Education holds that freedom to learn is no less a desirable freedom than freedom of speech, press and assembly. One goal of education is to prepare our students to participate constructively in a democratic, pluralistic society, a society in which many differing opinions are held and different causes are espoused. It is important that the student develop an understanding of ideas and of people who may seem alien to him. It is also important that he develop judgment, a capacity to discern the difference between fact and opinion and to weigh arguments, slogans and appeals. Books, films and other media are valuable for giving the student exposure to many differing ideas, but for effective learning it is also useful to invite appropriate persons not of the Cherry Hill educational staff to speak to our to meet with groups of students as part of the educational process.

No overall standard can be established which will automatically separate and exclude as a resource the person whose views or manner of presenting them may actually obstruct the educational process or endanger the health and safety of students or staff. However, the Board, in an effort to uphold the student's freedom to learn while also recognizing obligations which the exercise of this freedom entails, establishes the following guidelines:

- A. The teacher/sponsor and school building administrator are expected to exercise judgment and to investigate fully those proposed resource persons regarding whom questions may arise.
- B. Teachers/sponsors should encourage the use of resource persons representing various approaches or points of view on a given topic, and to afford the student a more comprehensive understanding of it.
- C. An appropriate record shall be made of each resource person utilized and of his/her presentation.
- D. The ideas presented and the resource person invited to present them shall have a demonstrable relation to the curricular or co-curricular activity in which the participating students are involved.
- E. Prior to his/her appearance or participation, the resource person shall be given a copy of this Board of Education policy.

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- F. The teacher/sponsor responsible for inviting the resource person, or any member of the school administration, has the right and duty to interrupt or suspend any proceedings if the conduct of the resource person is judged to be in poor taste or endangering to the health and safety of students and staff.

**Legal References:**    *N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1*                      *General mandatory powers and duties*  
                                 *N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20*                      *Powers of board (county vocational schools)*  
                                 *N.J.A.C. 6:29-1.1 et seq.*                      *Health, safety and physical education*  
  
                                 *See particularly:*  
                                 *N.J.A.C. 6:29-2.3(a)3,*  
                                 *-6.3*  
                                 *N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.4*                      *Evaluation process for the annual review*  
  
                                 *Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (August 2000)*

Formerly Policy IFCC  
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