

### **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

Any discussion of controversial issues in the classroom shall be conducted in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner designed to foster a spirit of inquiry. Such discussion shall:

- A. Further the educational process;
- B. Match the maturity level of the pupils;
- C. Be related to the goals of the Board and to the appropriate curriculum guide; and
- D. Present a variety of opinions as appropriate.

If teachers wish to supplement the curriculum with material that may be of a controversial nature, i.e., subject to interpretation as obscene, profane, doctrinaire or inappropriate, each in relation to the maturity level of the class, they must secure the approval of the appropriate building administrator first. In doubtful cases, the Superintendent may present the matter to the Board of Education for consideration.

In determining speakers to be invited for a class or schoolwide program, the principal must consider whether:

- A. The speaker is controversial for any reason;
- B. The topic is controversial, or sensitive, or known to arouse strong community feelings;
- C. The proposed speaker would gain an advantage by having a "captive" audience; and
- D. Whether the goals of the curriculum would be better promulgated by the guest speaker.

One or more members of the district's administration or instructional staff, depending upon the size of the audience, will be present when a guest speaker is addressing students.

**CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES** (Cont.)

File Code: 6144

**Source:** Regular Board Meeting

**Date:** August 20, 1986

**Revised:** March 22, 1995

**Revised:** May 28, 1997

**Legal References:**

<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:54-20	Powers of Board (county vocational schools)
<u>N.J.A.C.</u>	6:8-2.1(b)1	State educational goals

Tenure Hearing of William Lee Johnson, Clearview Regional School District, 79 S.L.D. 267; 79 S.L.D. 273 aff'd with deletion of paragraph

**Possible**

**Cross References:**

*1312	Community complaints and inquiries
5145	Rights
*6141.2	Recognition of religious beliefs and customs
*6145.3	Publications
*6161.1	Guidelines for evaluation and selection of instructional materials
*6161.2	Complaints regarding instructional materials

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

