

Controversial Speakers

Teachers are encouraged to use at their discretion, in their classroom, assemblies, club meetings or other school-sponsored meetings, resource people from the community-at-large. The administration is expected to exercise judgement and to investigate fully those proposed resource speakers, especially those considered controversial.

Staff members are to follow the procedures listed below whenever they invite a resource speaker to the district:

1. Notice of the invitation to the speaker must be given to the principal one week prior to the date of the scheduled appearance in order that the principal may consider the effect of the speaker on all aspects of the school program;
2. If the speaker or the topic is generally recognized to be controversial, the teacher will complete the appropriate form (see policy INB-AR) and submit it to the principal prior to extending the invitation. If approved, the teacher will notify, in writing, each student's parent or guardian so that those who do not wish to have their student attend the presentation may request a comparable, alternative activity;
3. The notification to parents shall include a statement of the purpose for inviting the resource speaker to the class and a brief statement concerning the speaker's background in relation to the issue to be presented. This notification may be sent home with the student;
4. In the event of no parental response, the student shall retain his/her right to attend the presentation or perform an appropriate alternative assignment in accordance with his/her expressed choice;
5. In advance of the presentation, the speaker shall be given in writing and shall agree to abide by the usual standard of speech, appearance and decorum as outlined below:
 - a. Profanity, vulgarity and slanderous comments are prohibited;
 - b. Smoking is prohibited;
 - c. If the conduct of the speaker or content of the presentation is disruptive to the educational environment, or endangers the health and safety of the students and/or staff, the administrator or teacher will interrupt or suspend the presentation.
6. The teacher shall remain with the students while the resource speaker is with the class;
7. If the principal denies permission to invite a resource speaker, he or she shall give the teacher the reasons for doing so. (Should a teacher feel that his/her academic freedom has been abridged, he/she is encouraged to follow the district's grievance procedure.)