

Community Resource Persons

One goal of education is to prepare students to participate constructively in a democratic, pluralistic society, a society in which many differing opinions are held and differing causes are espoused. It is important that students develop an understanding of divergent ideas. It is also important that they 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 students exposure to many differing ideas, but for effective learning it is also useful to invite appropriate persons not on the district educational staff to speak to, or to meet with groups of students as part of the educational process.

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

1. The staff/sponsor and building administrator are expected to exercise judgment and to investigate fully those proposed resource persons about whom questions may arise. A staff/sponsor will notify the principal (supervisor) at least three days prior to the arrival of the resource person;
2. Staff/Sponsors should encourage the use of resource persons representing various approaches or points of view on a given topic to afford students a more comprehensive understanding;
3. An appropriate record will be made of each resource person utilized and of his/her presentation;
4. The ideas presented and the resource person invited to present them will have a demonstrable relation to the curricular or cocurricular activity in which the participating students are involved;
5. The staff/sponsor responsible for inviting the resource person, or any member of the 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 the health and safety of students and staff;
6. Students have the right to leave the classroom if the presentation makes them uncomfortable. This action will not cause a reduction in the student's grade for the class. Students leaving the classroom must report immediately to the principal's office and write a statement explaining the reason(s) they have left the classroom;
7. Parents will be given the option of having their student excused during the presentation of any controversial presentation. This action will not cause a reduction in the students grade for the class.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS

Building: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Class: _____

*Resource Person: _____

Purpose of Visit: _____

Describe the Presentation:

Approved by: _____

Principal

A staff member will notify the principal (supervisor) at least three days prior to the arrival of the resource person.

Please send a copy of this form to the superintendent's office immediately after approval by the building principal.

*Resource people from other educational institutions such as the ESD, extension office, colleges, etc., do not need prior approval.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074 (2006).
Westside Cmty. Bd. of Educ. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).

Cross Reference(s):

INB - Studying Controversial Issues