

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATION REGULATIONS**

### **I. Limited Open Forum Established**

Students may initiate meetings to discuss matters unrelated to the school curriculum. These meetings shall not be sponsored by the school(s) attended by the students. No student request to conduct a meeting shall be denied based on the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such a meeting.

### **II. Initial Determination of Character of Student Group**

It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to determine first of all whether a student group is related to the curriculum. It shall generally be the case that if the school or school District encourages students to attend meetings in connection with their educational program at school, then the organization will be considered to be curriculum-related. If a student group's reason for being or interests are not directly related to the educational program at school, then the organization will not be considered to be curriculum-related.

No group shall be considered to be curriculum related if it may not legally be sponsored by the school District. Examples of such groups are those whose purposes or interests are political or religious.

### **III. Student Initiation Required**

School personnel, parents, and all other non-students are prohibited from initiating, directing, or controlling the activities, objectives, and goals of any group meeting under these regulations.

### **IV. Time of Meetings**

Students may conduct meetings that are not curriculum-related on school premises at times determined by the Superintendent.

V. Attendance Voluntary

The principal shall ensure that no one who is attending the meeting of a group that is not curriculum-related is attending involuntarily.

VI. Attendance of Non-School Persons

Non-school persons may attend the meetings of a student group that is not curriculum-related upon receipt of permission from the building principal. The term "non-school person" means any person who is not an employee or agent of the Berlin Central School District Board of Education.

VII. Non-Discriminatory Membership Practices

The membership of all non-curriculum-related student groups and organizations authorized to use school facilities under these regulations shall be open to all students, regardless of race, religion, or other protected classification.

VIII. No Minimum Number of Participants Required

No minimum number of students shall be required to constitute a student group or organization that is not curriculum-related.

IX. Participant Lists

Any student or students initiating a meeting under these regulations shall submit a list of prospective group or organization participants to the building principal in September and again in January of each school year. Said student or students shall be responsible for assisting the principal in procuring a completed parental consent form (see no. 10, below), where applicable, for each participant. Additions to the participant list shall be made continually, as completed parental consent forms are received. A copy of the current list shall be provided to the meeting's monitor (see no. 12, below), who shall have the responsibility of ensuring that a completed consent has been provided for each attendee at the meeting.

X. Parental Consent

Parental consent shall be required for any minor, except an emancipated minor, to participate in any non-curricular student organization or group. An administrative form shall be provided for that purpose.

XI. Meeting Requests

Requests for permission to hold and for scheduling meetings of non-curricular student groups shall be submitted to the building principal on a form provided administratively for that purpose at least ten school days prior to the meeting. In accordance with existing policy, requests for meeting space shall be accommodated on a first come, first served basis.

XII. Monitors

The student or students initiating a meeting of a non-curriculum-related group shall have the responsibility of arranging for the presence at that meeting of a member of the school staff as a monitor. Monitors shall not participate in the meeting.

No employee of the Berlin Central School District shall be expected to serve as a monitor at a meeting if the content of the speech at that meeting is or is expected to be contrary to the employee's beliefs.

XIII. No Limitation on Building Principal's Authority

The principal of any school building operated by the District shall have full authority to prohibit unlawful meetings; to maintain discipline on school premises; to prevent material and substantial interference with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and to protect the well-being of students and other persons present on school District premises. Existing codes of behavior and discipline shall be deemed applicable to all circumstances involving meetings occurring under these regulations of non-curricular student groups or organizations.

XIV. Prayer and Other Religious Activities

District employees shall not influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity taking place under these regulations. No District employee acting in that capacity, or acting in circumstances that may reasonably be believed to be that individual's acting in the capacity of a District employee, shall compel, require, or in any way encourage any person to participate in any prayer or any religious activity taking place under these regulations.

XV. Posting of Notice and Announcement of Meetings

Notices of the date, time, and place of any meeting of a non-curricular student group or organization may be posted on a designated bulletin Board, on which the disclaimer referred to in no.16, below, shall be displayed. Such notices may also be announced in a manner consistent with school practice and what is permitted for other extracurricular organizations.

XVI. Required Publication of Disclaimer and Prohibition of Use of School or District Name

The disclaimer incorporated in the policy adopted by the Berlin Central School District Board of Education regarding student organizations shall be incorporated in any publication regarding student meetings issued by any school operated by the District.

No non-curricular student organization or group shall use the name of the Berlin Central School District or of any school that is operated by the District as part of the name of the organization or group.