

## **STUDENT PUBLICATIONS & POSTINGS**

The Board of Education establishes that students attending the Berlin Central Schools shall enjoy the constitutional right of freedom of expression. They shall have the right to express their views in speech, in writing, or through any other medium or form, limited only by those restrictions imposed on all citizens generally and those that are specifically applicable to children and youth in a school setting.

The Board encourages student publications. Such publications offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism; they also provide an opportunity for students to express their views and a means of communicating within and also beyond the school community.

All student publications shall comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, false statements, materials advocating or condoning racial or religious prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process shall not be permitted. Expressions of personal opinion shall be clearly identified as such, and shall bear the author's name. Opportunity for the expression of views and opinions differing from those of the student publisher(s) must be provided.

Moreover, student newspapers or publications that are paid for by the District or produced under the direction of a teacher as part of the school curriculum, or both, are not considered to be a public forum. In such cases, the Board reserves the right to edit or delete such student speech that is in its judgment inconsistent with the District's basic educational mission.

### **Distribution or Posting of Literature or Other Printed Materials**

Students shall have the right to distribute literature and other printed materials on school grounds and in school buildings provided that such distribution does not interfere with or disrupt the educational process. No literature or other printed materials may be distributed unless a copy is submitted in advance to the school principal.

The Superintendent of Schools shall establish guidelines that are in keeping with the above-stated policy, and shall provide for the review of the content of all student publications prior to their distribution.

#### **References:**

Tinker v. DesMoines Independent Community School Dist., 393 US 503 (1969)

Bethel School Dist. No.403 v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Hazelwood School Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 108 S.Ct. 562 (1988)