

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: JICE
Date of Adoption: August 17, 1988 Dates of Revision: June 18, 1996, October 20, 1999 Code Change Adopted School Board: May 2, 2012 Previously: IGDB	Page 1 of 1

## *STUDENT PUBLICATIONS*

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of this policy is to set forth basic guidelines that will insure freedom of responsible expression and, at the same time, maintain an orderly educational environment and respect for the rights of all.

### ***Basic guidelines for all student publications***

- a) Freedom of expression shall be bound by the canons of good journalism.
- b) Publications shall strive for high quality without the use of obscenities, libelous statements, or statements which involve defamation of character.
- c) Publications shall not advocate or precipitate violence, illegal action, or action which would disrupt the educational community or be harmful to the student body. They may, however, advocate change of laws or regulations.
- d) Responsibility for establishing procedures for the distribution of publications shall rest with the school administration.
- e) All publications shall explicitly state on the editorial page that the opinions expressed are not those of the school.
- f) Only publications that are published by persons attending the school or a member of the school district staff may be distributed unless permission is granted by the school administration 48 hours in advance.
- g) All revenue raised from the sale of these publications must be used to meet publication expenses.
- h) Unacceptable items in student publications include: so-called hate literature which scurrilously attacks ethnic, religious, and racial groups; other irresponsible items aimed at creating hostility and violence; materials denigrating to specific individuals in or out of school; plus pornography, obscenity, and other similar materials not suitable for distribution in school.
- i) Acceptable items are those not proscribed above, unless the principal should be convinced that the items would materially disrupt class work or involve disorder or invasion of the rights of others. Students denied approval by the principal may appeal to the superintendent of schools.

### ***Recognized or official publications***

- a) Official publications shall have a faculty advisor as is the policy for other student groups.
- b) These publications shall provide opportunity for each and every student to express his/her opinion.

### ***Informal or unofficial publications***

- a) The names of all students involved in the editorial policies or publications of informal papers shall be printed in each edition of the paper and articles shall be by-lined.
- b) Basic guidelines for all student publications as outlined in this policy shall be adhered to.
- c) Students who edit, publish, and distribute unofficial school publications must assume full responsibility for the contents. Editorial freedom entails the same obligations as under the rules of responsible journalism and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

### ***Implementation***

The effective implementation of these guidelines requires the exercise of good faith on the part of students, parents, and school personnel. A basic respect for the work of each individual is a primary consideration.

Student reporters and editors have a responsibility to the school community to recognize the influence of student publications, to use common sense and good judgment, and to heed the guidance of advisors on issues of appropriateness.