To assure mature leadership and maximum educational value to the students, all student publications shall be supervised by a staff member.

The format, general plan and content shall reflect favorably on the school and the students involved. The maintenance of a high standard shall be the responsibility of the Principal or Building Supervisor. Classroom and school newspapers or other publications may be sent to the local press by the responsible staff member with a covering letter authorizing the publication of items of interest to the general public.

Subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set forth herein, it is the policy of the School District to offer one or more courses or after school activities in which students are taught relevant material and skills relating to the writing and production of a school newspaper, the yearbook and other school publications. It is also the policy of the School District to ensure that proper controls and supervision over School District publications exist and are implemented.

School sponsored publications are developed within the adopted curriculum or in connection with after school activities. Any course associated with the production of school publications or content for school publications shall be considered to be – a laboratory situation in which the students publish the school newspaper or other publication applying skills they have learned in class – or in connection with an after school activity. The lessons to be learned in the applicable courses or activities include development of journalistic skills under deadline pressure, the legal, moral, and ethical restrictions imposed upon journalists within the school community, and responsibility and acceptance of criticism for articles of opinion.

The classroom teacher(s) and/or advisor(s) provided by the School District to oversee the publication of School District publications shall, in the first instance, have the authority to control the applicable school publication in accordance with the terms, conditions and limitations set forth in this Policy and within budgetary constraints. By way of example, and not limitation, the teacher(s)/advisor(s) have the following power and authority:

a. To select the editors and officers of the publication;
POLICY 600 (continued)

b. to schedule publication dates; decided the number of pages for each
issue;
c. to assign story ideas to class members, advise students on the
development of their stories;
d. to review the use of quotations, to edit stories, to select and to edit the
letters to the editor; and
e. to deal with the printing company.

After issues of School District publications have been approved by the
applicable teacher(s)/advisor(s), the issue must be submitted for review by
the Principal or his/her designee.

The School District recognizes and adopts the principle that the First
Amendment rights of students in the public schools “are not automatically
coextensive with the rights of adults in other settings,” See, Bethel School
District No. 403 v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675, 682, 106 S.Ct. 3159, 3164, 92 L.Ed.2d 549
(1986). The School District further recognizes and adopts the principle that
student rights must be “applied in light of the special characteristics of the
school environment.” Tinker, supra, 393 U.S., at 506, 89 S.Ct., at 736; cf. New
The School District will not tolerate student speech that is inconsistent with its
“basic educational mission,” Fraser, supra, 478 U.S., at 685, 106 S.Ct., at 3165.

The School District does not intend to open the pages of its publications to
indiscriminate use by its student reporters and editors, or by the student body
generally. The School District reserves all legal rights that it has and School
District publications for their intended purpose as a supervised learning
experience for students. Accordingly, school officials are entitled under this
Policy to regulate the contents of School District publications in any reasonable
manner that is consistent with applicable law and constitutional principles.

Within the foregoing parameters, the School District distinguishes between
news stories on the one hand and editorials on the other. With regard to the
writing and publishing of the news, the editors and advisor have discretion
to operate and edit like any newspaper, subject to the rules set forth
in this Policy. No student has the right to insert any particular word or
phrase in any news article published by the “newspaper” if rejected by the
editorial board, advisor or principal. However, when it comes to editorials,
particular words or phrases, or the expression of ideas, cannot be prohibited
solely because of the word, phrase or viewpoint expressed; but may be
prohibited for other reasons.

Official School District Publications: The following publications are and
shall be owned, supervised and managed by the School District and, except
as otherwise stated herein, shall be produced primarily by students under the
POLICY 600 (continued)
direction and supervision of the designated teacher (s) and/or faculty
advisor(s), and the high school principal and the students:
   a. The Playwickian;
   b. The Yearbook, whose name shall remain the “Redskin”; and
   c. The Howler.

Nothing in this Policy is intended to interfere with the usual supervisory and
governance structure of the School District

Publication Formats:
Playwickian – The Playwickian shall be published in both paper and/or
electronic form.
   a. Paper Publication of Playwickian
      1) After a fair process for the solicitation of competitive quotes,
         and taking into account reasonable relevant factors, the
         printer shall be selected by the Advisor, subject to oversight
         and approval by the principal, the Superintendent and the
         School Board with regard to those printing contracts in excess
         of One Hundred Dollars ($100).
      2) Contracts may be awarded by the edition or by the year,
         whichever seems most advantageous to the advisor and
         principal. No contract may be awarded for more than two (2)
         school years without first obtaining approval for a longer
         contract from the School Board.
      3) The Playwickian shall be financed by the sale of papers,
         advertising, student activities, fundraising, and/or Board
         appropriations.
   b. Electronic Publication of Playwickian – Each paper edition of the
      Playwickian shall also be published on the School District’s website.
      In reproducing the Playwickian on the School District’s website, the
      School District’s webmaster shall ensure the following:
      1) that the entire publication is reproduced on-line;
      2) that only the current issue is “posted” with an archive
         accessible through links to past editions going back at least
         three calendar years; and
      3) that “comments,” “likes” and those sort of features shall not be
         allowed on the website in general or in connection with the
         Playwickian.

Redskin – The Redskin Yearbook shall be published in a hardbound book in a
style and format customary for such yearbooks.
   a. After a fair process for the solicitation of competitive quotes, and
      taking into account reasonable relevant factors, the printer shall be
      selected by the advisor(s), subject to oversight and approval by the
POLICY 600 (continued)

principal, the Superintendent and the School Board.

b. After a fair process for the solicitation of competitive quotes, and
taking into account reasonably relevant factors, the photographer
shall be selected by the principal, subject to oversight and approval
by the Superintendent and the School Board.

c. Contracts may be awarded for printing and/or photography for up to
two (2) years, unless approval for a longer contract is given by the
School Board.

d. The Redskin yearbook shall be financed by the sale of yearbook,
advertising, student activities, fundraising, and/or Board
appropriations.

Intellectual Property: In order to preserve and protect the intellectual
property rights of the School District associated with the School District
publications subject to this policy, the solicitor shall register any trademarks
or logos associated with the Playwickian, the Redskin and the Howler and
shall periodically ensure that the registrations are properly maintained. The
Playwickian, the Redskin and the Howler shall be appropriately copyrighted
and marked that the School District owns the copyright. No one may
reproduce or republish the Playwickian, the Redskin, the Howler or any part
of the Playwickian, the Howler or the Redskin in violation of the School
District’s copyright or other intellectual property rights. No claim to
copyright is being made with respect to any material owned by others.

Social Media Connected to School District Publications and School District
Courses or Instruction: It is the policy of the School District that the
teacher(s)/advisor(s) may incorporate the use and teaching of Social Media
and how such tools relate to the publication of school publications or
instruction in the classroom provided the following terms, conditions, and
limitations are followed:

a. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term “Social Media”
when capitalized herein shall mean any Internet service that is
encompassed within the concept of social media, including by way of
example and not limitation, Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, blogs,
Pinterest and Google.

b. Any Social Media that is used in conjunction with any School District
publication shall be used in connection with instruction and shall be
subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of this Policy.

c. Whether Social Media is used shall be determined by the applicable
teacher(s)/advisor(s). Once initiated, the teacher(s)/advisor(s) may
discontinue using Social Media. If a School District sponsored Social
Media site or account is discontinued, it must be taken down to the
extent possible.

d. The ownership of any license to use Social Media shall be in the name
of the School District. Any such Social Media account or site shall
specifically state in a conspicuous place that it is a School District site.
POLICY 600 (continued)

or account, shall state that it is subject to review and editing by the
School District and that content may be removed by the School District
in its sole discretion.

e. No Social Media may be used by any teacher/advisor in connection
with any class, School District activity or School District publication
unless the School District has the ability to edit it, delete content from
it, and close the account or site from viewing or use.

f. School District employees and officials may not communicate with
School District students on Social Media or their private email accounts
or texting accounts without notifying the principal of any such
communication.

g. The Social Media authorized herein must be reviewed by the
advisor(s) daily and the advisor shall delete any content from the
account where the content meets the following standards:

1) Where it is reasonably believed that readers should not be
exposed to material that may be inappropriate for their level of
maturity;

2) Where the views of the individual speaker may be erroneously
attributed to the school, any school employee or official, or to
the School District;

3) Where the speech is, for example, ungrammatical, poorly
written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, vulgar
or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences;

4) Where the writing does not reflect high standards that the
School District desires;

5) Where, taking into account the emotional maturity of the
intended audience, content is felt to be inappropriate;

6) Where the content might reasonably be perceived to advocate
drug or alcohol use, irresponsible sex, or conduct otherwise
inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order;

7) Where the content is not accurate in whole or in part;

8) Where the content has not been adequately researched or
developed;

9) Where the material constitutes unlawful discrimination,
unlawful retaliation, unlawful harassment, unlawful
intimidation, bullying or hazing;

10) Where the material impinges on the rights of others;

11) Where the material supports particular candidates for office;

12) Where the material contains (a) racial or ethnic slurs/symbols,
b) gang affiliations, (c) vulgar, subversive, or sexually
suggestive language or images;

13) Where the material promotes products that students may not
legally buy; such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs or
promotes conduct that is unlawful;
POLICY 600 (continued)

14) Where the material incites violence; advocates use of force; or
encourages violation of federal, state or municipal law; Board
Policy or district rules or regulations;

15) Where the content is likely to or does materially or substantially
interfere with the educational process, including school
activities, school work, or discipline and order on school
property or at school functions;

16) Where the material has been posted for a reasonable length of
time; and/or

17) Where the material threatens serious harm to the school or
community.

h. The advisor (s) shall keep a full and complete record of any and all
content that is deleted from any Social Media site that is sponsored
by the School District and shall provide said record to the principal
monthly by the 5th day of each month for the preceding month.

i. The advisor(s) may have students assist in the review and deletion
of inappropriate material from School District sponsored Social Media
sites or accounts, provided, however, that this function is part of the
educational function and is reviewed and monitored by the teacher(s)/
advisor(s). The teacher(s)/advisor (s) is ultimately responsible for
ensuring that inappropriate material is not kept on any School District
sponsored account or site.

Masthead: Each edition of the Playwickian shall contain a masthead. The
masthead shall contain the following:

a. a listing of all editors and officers of the Playwickian;

b. the policy of the newspaper, in the form and content set forth
hereafter;

c. a listing of all contributing writers to the Playwickian;

d. the manner in which students who are not in the applicable class or
on the newspaper staff may submit material for publication.

Playwickian Policy: The policy of the Playwickian which shall be published
as part of the masthead of the newspaper shall be as follows:

“Policy. Subject to applicable law and the terms, conditions and limitations
set forth in Policy 600 of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy
School District and this policy statement, it is the policy of School District that
student journalists shall have the right to determine the content of the
Playwickian. Except for advertisements, all content shall be prepared by
students, subject to editing by others.

Students: (a) strive to produce media based upon professional standards of
accuracy, objectivity and fairness; (b) review material to improve sentence
structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation; (c) check and verify all facts
and verify the accuracy of all quotations; and (d) in the case of editorials or
letters to the editor concerning controversial issues, determine the need for
rebuttal comments and opinions and provide space therefore if appropriate.

As examples, and not limitations on the proper authority of school officials,
the following types of expression will not be approved for publication: (a)
material that is obscene; (b) the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary,
artistic, political or scientific value; (c) indecent or vulgar language is not
obscene; (d) material that violates the legal or constitutional rights of others;
(e) material that will cause a material and substantial disruption of school
activities; and (f) any other material that the school authorities reasonably
believe should be prohibited.

Within the terms, conditions and limitations of Policy 600 and this policy
statement, students are free to express opinions. Specifically, a student may
criticize school policy or the performance of teachers, administrators, school
officials and other school employees.

The viewpoints expressed by anyone in this paper shall not be deemed to be
the viewpoints of the School District, any official or employee of the School
District, or any student other than the student or students who expressed the
viewpoint.

Student Rights. School Newspaper. Playwickian.

a. Subject to the rules set forth herein, students have a right and are as
free as editors of other newspapers to report the news and to
editorialize in any School District newspaper.

b. School officials may not censor or restrict material simply because it
is critical of the school or its administration; but may censor or restrict
the material under the other applicable rules set forth herein.

c. Students who are not members of the newspaper staff shall have access
to its pages in accordance with the terms, conditions and limitations
set forth in the Playwickian for the submission of such material.

Authority of School Officials.

a. The applicable teacher(s)/advisor(s), school principal(s) and
Superintendent shall have the rights and authority to censor or
prohibit any material proposed for publication in the Playwickian
and in the Howler for any of the following reasons:

1) Where for any reasonable reason the material should be
prohibited from publication;

2) Where it is reasonably believed that readers should not be
exposed to material that may be inappropriate for their level of
WHERE THE VIEWS OF THE INDIVIDUAL SPEAKER MAY BE ERRONEOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE SCHOOL, ANY SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OR OFFICIAL, OR TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT;

WHERE THE SPEECH IS, FOR EXAMPLE, UNGRAMMATICAL, POORLY WRITTEN, INADEQUATELY RESEARCHED, BIASED OR PREJUDICED, VULGAR OR PROFANE, OR UNSUITABLE FOR IMMATURE AUDiences;

WHERE THE WRITING DOES NOT REFLECT HIGH STANDARDS THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DESIRES;

WHERE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EMOTIONAL MATURITY OF THE INTENDED AUDIENCE, AN ARTICLE OR EDITORIAL IS FELT TO BE INAPPROPRIATE;

WHERE THE ARTICLE OR EDITORIAL MIGHT REASONABLY BE PERCEIVED TO ADVOCATE DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE, IRRESPONSIBLE SEX, OR CONDUCT OTHERWISE INCONSISTENT WITH THE SHARED VALUES OF A CIVILIZED SOCIAL ORDER;

WHERE THE CONTENT IS NOT ACCURATE IN WHOLE OR IN PART;

WHERE THE CONTENT HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY RESEARCHED OR DEVELOPED;

WHERE MATERIAL IS GRADED MATERIAL AND DOES NOT ACHIEVE OF A GRADE OF AT LEAST A “B” (“PASS/FAIL” CONTENT SHALL NOT BE PUBLISHED);

WHERE THE MATERIAL CONSTITUTES, MAY ARGUABLY CONSTITUTE, OR BE CONSIDERED AS EVIDENCE OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION, UNLAWFUL RETALIATION, UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT, UNLAWFUL INTIMIDATION, BULLYING OR HAZING;

WHERE THE MATERIAL IMPINGS ON THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS;

WHERE THE MATERIAL SUPPORTS PARTICULAR CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE;

WHERE THE MATERIAL CONTAINS (A) RACIAL OR ETHNIC SLURS/SYMBOLS, (B) GANG AFFILIATIONS, (C) VULGAR, SUBVERSIVE, OR SEXUALLY Suggestive LANGUAGE OR IMAGE;

WHERE THE MATERIAL PROMOTES PRODUCTS THAT STUDENTS MAY NOT LEGALLY BUY; SUCH AS ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND ILLEGAL DRUGS OR PROMOTES CONDUCT THAT IS UNLAWFUL;

WHERE THE MATERIAL INCITES VIOLENCE; ADVOCATES USE OF FORCE; OR ENcourages VIOLATION OF FEDERAL, STATE OR MUNICIPAL LAW, BOARD Policy OR DISTRICT RULES OR REGULATIONS.

WHERE THE MATERIAL IS LIKELY TO OR DOES MATERIAL OR SUBSTANTIALLY INTERFERE WITH THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, INCLUDING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, SCHOOL WORK OR DISCIPLINE AND ORDER ON SCHOOL PROPERTY OR AT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS;

WHERE THE MATERIAL THREATENS SERIOUS HARM TO THE SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY;

WHERE THE MATERIAL VIOLATES WRITTEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY 600 (continued)

administrative regulations or procedures on time, place and manner for posting and distribution of otherwise protected expression.

b. In making these assessments, school officials and employees are expected to fulfill their role to awakening each child to cultural values, to prepare each child for later professional training, and to help each child to adjust normally to his or her environment.

c. Prior approval for publication of the Playwickian and Howler must be provided by the principal or his/her designee. Each edition of any publication shall be provided to the principal or his/her designee at least ten (10) school days prior to the time that the edition is due to be sent to the printer. Although the principal or his/her designee is expected to review the edition as soon as reasonably practicable, it must be reviewed within seven (7) calendar days. Everything shall be deemed approved unless something is specifically disapproved and the teacher(s)/advisor(s) as applicable is notified in writing within seven (7) days that one or more things are to be removed from the edition. If the prescribed time for approval elapses without a decision, the material shall be considered authorized for distribution.

Rules of Construction

a. Nothing herein shall be construed as an intent to create a public, a designated forum or a limited public forum with regard to any School District publication. On the contrary, it is the intent of the Board of School Directors of the School District that School District publications be considered government speech for purposes of the First Amendment and to the extent permitted by the First Amendment.

b. Nothing herein shall be construed to violate the constitutional or legal rights of any person and if two or more interpretations can be given to any provision herein, some constitutional and some not, it is intended to give only the constitutional and/or legal interpretation.

c. The term “Redskins” when referring to the School District mascot and when used to express the writer’s viewpoint about the term shall not be construed as a racial or ethnic slur and is not intended by the Board of School Directors as a racial or ethnic slur. Consequently, no student or school official shall censor or prohibit use of the term or of an article or editorial that has been submitted that contains the word and where the word is used in a constitutionally permitted way in accordance with the Free Speech rights of the student author. However, the use of the word or term is not a license to violate any of the terms and conditions of this Policy.
POLICY 600 (continued)

An article or editorial that contains the term may be censored or prohibited for other reasons consistent with this policy or if used in a demeaning manner or as a racial slur.

1) It is not the intent of the Board of School Directors to limit or restrict students in their editing of work for school District publications. Consequently, no student editor shall be disciplined for editing or editorial decisions, including the deletion of the word “Redskin” from any article or editorial or for objecting to its use in any advertisement.

2) Where any material or words, including the word “Redskins” is edited or deleted from an article or editorial submitted by a student, the student affected may appeal the decision to the Principal who shall have final authority in determining what material may be used in accordance with applicable law.

Approved: 9/26/67
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