

#### **4.9 Political and Issue Advocacy Activities DRAFT 12-5-2019**

Board employees may participate in political activities to the full extent permitted by the United States Constitution and federal and state laws securing the right to engage in such activities. To the extent not inconsistent with said constitutions and laws, participation in political campaigns and other political activity by Board employees is subject to the following policy:

a. Definitions.

1. "Political Activities" shall mean (a) activities in support of or in opposition to a candidate, or slate of candidates for elected office at any level of county, municipal, state or federal government; and (b) activities in support of or in opposition to a political party.
2. "Issue Advocacy Activities" shall mean activities in support of or in opposition to a ballot initiative or ballot question that is beneficial to the interests of the District or serves a public purpose.

b. Political Activities.

1. Employees may not use Board property or resources for Political Activities and may not engage in Political Activities, other than passive personal political expression, during regular school or duty hours or at Board-sponsored or sanctioned events, functions, or activities at which the employee is on duty, or is assigned official responsibilities.
2. Employees may not represent their political beliefs or positions on political matters to be those of the Board or other Board officials, or falsely assert or imply that their Political Activities or positions are endorsed by the Board or other Board officials.
3. Political signs, campaign literature, and other similar materials advocating for or against a candidate for elected office at any level of county, municipal, state or federal government or advocating for or against a political party may not be placed or distributed on school or Board property, except as provided below at events permitted with prior Board approval.
4. Board property may not be used to host political events, candidate speeches, meetings, rallies or similar gatherings or events in support of, or opposition to any candidate for elected office at any level of county, municipal, state or federal government, except, with the prior approval of the Board, for a student or community forum or debate-style event at which all candidates or their representatives are given the opportunity to speak, or, with the approval of the Superintendent, presentations or speaking engagements to students by a current or

former public official when not currently an active candidate for election or re-election. Placement of political signs, stickers, etc. shall not be allowed on any Board property or within Board facilities for any such events approved by the Board. Distribution of campaign literature, stickers, buttons and the like shall be subject to such limitations as the Board may choose to impose.

5. Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to prohibit Board employees from engaging in personal political expression, subject to reasonable limitations included in procedures issued by the Superintendent.
- c. Issue Advocacy Activities.
1. The Board and Superintendent may engage in and expend public funds for Issue Advocacy Activities to inform the public and seek support for ballot initiatives and questions that are beneficial to the interests of the District or serve a public purpose.
  2. Employees other than the Superintendent and those acting at the request of or on behalf of the Superintendent, may not undertake Issue Advocacy Activities during regular school or duty hours.
- d. Superintendent Procedures. The Superintendent is authorized to issue procedures for the implementation of this policy.