

Board of Education

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CAPITAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Board Meeting Date: October 19, 2026
2. Item Title: V.B.5 First reading and discussion of proposed revisions to CMS Board Policy A-0450, Commitment to Religious Neutrality.
3. Name of Presenter: H. Gutierrez, Superintendent
4. This item is for: ___ Action ____ Consent Agenda XX Discussion ____ Report/Information
5. Proposed Motion (Action Items Only): Discussion only
6. Executive Summary: Please see attached.

COMMITMENT TO RELIGIOUS NEUTRALITY

The Board recognizes that religion has played an undeniable role in the formation of the world's peoples, its civilizations, the foundation of our country, and the lives of its citizens. The place of religion in our society should be recognized as an important one.

At the same time, under the Constitution of the United States, our schools ~~may neither actively sponsor nor interfere with religion~~ must remain neutral regarding religion, neither favoring nor disfavoring religion or any particular religious belief while respecting the constitutional rights of students and employees to engage in protected private religious expression.

The proper role of religion in the public schools is in its educational value in the study of subjects such as history, literature, and art, and in ~~non-religious~~ objective, educational recognition of the place of religion in society. In that capacity, and when appropriate within the curriculum, the subject of religion can provide a basis for schools to teach our children about various belief systems, and their current and historical impact on human culture. The nonreligious study of religion also provides a basis for the schools to play a vital role in instilling understanding, tolerance and mutual respect among people of different backgrounds.

Adopted: date of manual adoption

LEGAL REF.:

28-1-2 NMSA *et seq.*

~~Article 1 U.S. Constitution~~ U.S. Const. amend. I

CROSS REF.:

JB - Equal Educational Opportunities

JII - Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances

JJAB - Limited Open/Closed Forum

JK - Student Discipline

JKD - Student Suspension/Expulsion

KED - Public Concerns/Complaints about Facilities or Services

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