

Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent Involvement

5422CSD *Controversial Issues*

The Board believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools.

Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions. In the discussion of any issue, a teacher may express a personal opinion, but shall identify it as such, and must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic:

- A. On which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion.
- B. Likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program:

- A. Is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students;
- B. Does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view;
- C. Encourages open-mindedness and is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry.

When controversial issues have not been specified in the course of study, the Board will permit the instructional use of only those issues which have been approved by the principal or Superintendent.

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and materials, a parent indicates to the school that either content or activities conflicts with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the

school may honor a written request for his/her child to be excused from particular lessons or classes for specified reasons. The student may be required to substitute the missing lessons or classes with alternative learning activities. The student must fulfill graduation requirements in order to graduate from Chelsea High School.

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Date adopted:

Date revised: