

### **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/GUEST SPEAKERS**

The following procedures will be in effect when guest speakers and/or controversial issues are being considered for use in the classroom:

When a teacher believes that a guest speaker or a controversial topic will contribute to the curriculum by helping to achieve the goals and objectives of the course, the staff member will follow the procedure set out below.

A. At least two weeks before the date the speaker will visit or topic will be covered, the teacher will notify the principal on the designated form.

Any teacher may request a waiver of the two-week notice period and any principal may grant such a waiver in order to accommodate the scheduling of a speaker on short notice. However, such a waiver shall be at the sole discretion of the principal and the previous granting of such waivers shall not obligate any principal to grant a waiver for any future request.

B. If the teacher and the principal believe the guest speaker's topic or a subject to be covered by the teacher is controversial, they will develop a plan whereby the issue(s) can be presented in an objective unbiased manner.

C. In the event the speaker's topic or the teacher's topic is determined to be controversial, the teacher will notify students beforehand that any student who does not wish to attend the presentation may have an alternative assignment.

D. Unless the principal approves otherwise, the teacher will not allow non-class members to hear the speaker.

E. If the principal has reason to believe that the appearance of the guest speaker or a controversial topic would not contribute to the curriculum or would be harmful to the students, he/she may deny the planned use. If the teacher disagrees with the denial, he/she may appeal to the superintendent to determine whether the speaker should be allowed.