

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 39, SECTION 8-39.1 ENTITLED “RIGHTS OF STUDENTS; ROLL OF INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL; RESPONSIBILITY OF PRINCIPAL” OF THE POLICIES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD – FIRST READING AND ADOPTION

BE IT ORDAINED, by the School Board of the City of Suffolk, Virginia that Chapter 8, Article 39, Section 8-39.1, entitled “Rights of Students; Roll of Instructional personnel; responsibility of principal” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 8-39.1. Rights of Students; Roll of Instructional personnel; responsibility of principal. — A. To provide effective education for citizenship it must be recognized that many areas of student study involve issues on which different positions are held by various citizens and groups. In considering such issues a student shall have the following rights:

- (i) to study any controversial issue which is of political, economic or social significance and which is within the knowledge, maturity and competence of the student and which does not conflict with the regulations of the State Board of Education or School Board policy;
- (ii) to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere of freedom from bias and prejudice, coercion and
- (iii) to develop and express any reasonable way his or her own opinions on controversial issues without jeopardizing the student’s position in the school.

B. The role of the instructional personnel in the presentation of controversial issues is vitally important. All sides to controversial issues should be given in a fair manner to students. In this way students may be taught to think clearly on all matters of importance and to make their own decisions in an objective manner at the review to all materials that may be presented with respect to a particular issue. Indoctrination shall not be a policy of the School Board.

C. Principals shall make certain that literature of a partisan, sectarian or controversial nature is not distributed in the schools for reasons other than academic pursuit. (Adoption January 12, 1995)

Legal Authority - Virginia Code § ~~22.1-293~~ 22.1-78 (1950), as amended.

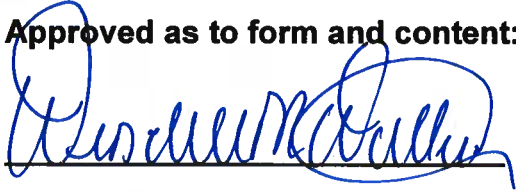
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, sections and chapters of the School Board’s Policy Manual not amended or repealed shall remain in full force and effect.

FIRST READING AND ADOPTION: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

TESTE: _____

Approved as to form and content:



Wendell M. Waller, Esquire
School Board Attorney