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| Bartlett City Board of Education | | 6056 |
| Descriptor Term: STUDENT EQUAL ACCESS (LIMITED PUBLIC FORUM) | Descriptor Code: Student Services | Issue Date: 10/26/2023 |
| | Rescinds: | Revised: |

1 Bartlett City Schools shall not discriminate against a student’s publicly stated voluntary expression
2 of a religious viewpoint, if any. Further, BCS shall establish and maintain a limited public forum
3 through adoption of this Policy to eliminate any actual or perceived affirmative school sponsorship
4 or attribution to BCS of a student’s expression of a religious viewpoint, if any.¹

5 “Limited public forum” means public property the District provides for students as a place for
6 expressive activity. The District may impose reasonable and content-neutral time, place, and manner
7 restrictions on groups or topics of speech; provided that the restriction is necessary and narrowly
8 tailored to serve a compelling interest.²

9 **STUDENT MEETINGS**

10 Schools may allow students to form clubs or groups that meet before, during, and/or after the school
11 day. Requests to form such clubs or groups shall not be denied based upon the religious nature or
12 beliefs of proposed club or group. If permitted, school administrators shall ensure that all clubs and
13 groups have the same abilities to access facilities and advertise their meetings.³

14 No student may be compelled to attend or participate in a club or group meeting under this policy.

15 A student or a group of students who wish to conduct a club or group meeting under this policy shall
16 submit a request with the Principal at least three (3) days prior to the proposed date.

17 The principal shall approve the meeting if he/she determines that:

- 18 1. The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
- 19 2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting or its content by the school, the Board, or its
20 employees;
- 21 3. The meeting will not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the
22 school’s educational activities or conflict with other previously scheduled meetings;
- 23 4. An employee of the District shall be present in a non-participatory monitoring capacity during
24 each meeting; however, no employee shall be required to attend in this capacity if the content
25 of the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the employee; and
- 26 5. Non-school persons shall not direct, control, or regularly attend such student-initiated
27 meetings.

¹ T.C.A. §49-6-1803

² T.C.A. §49-6-1801

³ 20 U.S.C.A. §4071; T.C.A. §49-6-1805

1 **STUDENT USE OF FACILITIES⁴**

2 The District shall not engage in viewpoint discrimination when making facilities available for student
3 use and shall adhere to applicable local, state, and federal laws, constitutions, ordinances, and
4 regulations. The Board shall further reserve the right to impose reasonable, content-neutral
5 restrictions on the time, place, and manner of use of BCS facilities. The following parameters shall
6 apply to such restrictions:

- 7 1. Student use of facilities must not unduly disrupt the order of the school, including traffic,
8 safety, noise, occupancy, and time considerations.
 - 9 A. Unreasonable safety risks shall not be permitted.
 - 10 B. Activities may not create an unreasonable noise disruption.
 - 11 C. Activities may not allow participants to exceed the maximum occupancy of the designated
12 space.
 - 13 D. Activities may not take place at an unreasonably early or late hour as determined by the
14 Principal; and
- 15 2. Student use of facilities must not unduly disrupt discipline of the school. Disruption may
16 include, but is not limited to, expression that is obscene, defamatory, fraudulent, uses fighting
17 words, uses threats of physical harm, or expression that incites imminent lawless action; and
- 18 3. Student use of facilities must not disrupt the educational process; and
- 19 4. Student use of facilities must not infringe on the right of the school to determine educational
20 curriculum and assignments; and
- 21 5. Student use of facilities may not be used to harass other persons or coerce other persons to
22 participate in the activity; and
- 23 6. Facility location(s) must be left in the original condition at the conclusion of student usage.

24 **SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS⁵**

25 If the Board or a Principal authorizes an event at which a student is to speak, a limited public forum
26 shall be established for such student speaker, provided that:

- 27 1. The forum is provided in a manner that does not discriminate against a student's voluntary
28 expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject;
- 29 2. There is an appropriate method of selecting student speakers which is based on neutral
30 criteria;
- 31 3. Student speakers do not engage in speech that is obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd,
32 indecent, or promotes illegal drug use; and
- 33 4. To the extent possible and practical and prior to events in which students will speak, notice
34 shall be provided orally and/or in writing that the student's speech does not reflect the
35 endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the Board or its employees.

36 Notice of this policy shall be provided in student handbooks and staff handbooks.

⁴ T.C.A. §49-6-2904

⁵ T.C.A. §49-6-1803