

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #221 (2007-2008)

March 3, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD POLICY REVISIONS: SECTIONS 841,
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOL; 841.1, POLITICAL
CANDIDACY AND PUBLIC OFFICES; AND 842, GIFTS (FIRST
READING)

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier-free schools. Effective consultation with community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance of facilities, and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Policy Subcommittee's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board adopt on First Reading the proposed revisions to sections 841, Political Activities in the School; 841.1, Political Candidacy and Public Officers; and 842, Gifts.

PERTINENT FACTS:

With the approval of the Municipality of Anchorage's Ethics Ordinance and the subsequent adoption of new sections of School Board policy earlier in the year, the Policy Subcommittee has been working through existing policy to identify and correct any conflicts or redundancies.

These proposed revisions (Attachment A) clarify 841 and 841.1 and remove 842, as that section was replaced by the Board in February of 2007 with a new section on gifts. Sections 874 and 875 as passed by the Board in February of 2007 are included for your reference.

CC/RG

Attachment

Prepared and approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

841 Political Activities in the Schools

School employees or members of the community shall not use school district property, or students during the school day or in school sponsored activities for campaign purposes. This provision is not intended to prohibit student involvement in campaigns pursuant to approved instructional programs.

~~¶ During the school day~~ candidate forums are allowed only if sponsored by a non-partisan groups are allowed and approved by the superintendent or designee. Partisan groups may rent school district facilities ~~as under~~ pursuant to ASD Policy 855.1. ~~No pictures shall be taken except during a building rental.~~

Current office holders or candidates running for election are encouraged to visit schools to learn more about our programs and facilities. Any ~~campaign~~ political activity during the school day may only occur in an organized forum approved under this section. Photographs or images taken on or of school property, students, or the name or logo of the district or a school may not be used for political or campaign purposes. Student images may be used with expressed written parental permission. ~~However, no images taken of their visits may be used for campaign purposes~~ A candidate may not indicate, directly or indirectly, endorsement by the Anchorage School District.

School employees' personal rights regarding political activity are in ASD Policies 264.4, 539.5, ~~and~~ 673, and 875 and the Municipal Ethics Code ~~Section~~ Chapter 1.15.

Political discussions with students shall attempt to include all perspectives on issues or all candidates for an office, and shall be related to the curriculum. ~~Employees will not use students for political purposes without express written parental permission.~~ When encouraging student civic involvement, teachers shall not advocate regarding choices of candidates or issues. While on duty, teachers and other employees may not engage in political campaigning, political endorsement, or campaign fundraising.

~~When encouraging student civic involvement, teachers shall remain neutral regarding choices of candidates or issues.~~ Teachers may not recruit their own pupils for political campaigning or fundraising.

(Section 841.11 - Revised December 9, 1996)
(Section 841.11 - Revised January 26, 1998)

841.1 Political Candidacy and Public Offices

School District employees may seek but not hold elected public office ~~the position of School Board member~~ while employed by the District. Employees are not prohibited from serving on local Service Area Boards. ~~Employees may seek and/or hold any other public office.~~

Any related political activity is to be kept wholly separate from District employment and shall not interfere with the employee's attendance or job performance, nor violate any provision of the Municipal Code of Ethics (AMC Section ~~Chapter~~ Chapter 1.15-180) or otherwise create a direct conflict of interest with the employee's job responsibilities.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement uniform administrative procedures pursuant to this policy.

(Section 841.13 - Revised October 13, 1986)
(Section 841.13 - Revised February 23, 2000)

~~842~~ Gifts to School Personnel

~~No employee may accept gifts from any person, firm or corporation that is directly involved in business dealings with the District. This does not include gifts valued at no more than ten dollars and that are routinely provided by a company for purposes of product promotion.~~

874 Gifts

Employees are governed by the provisions of the Anchorage Municipal Code of Ethics concerning the receipt and disclosure of gifts. Where the Ethics Code requires that a gift be reported, the report must be filed with the employee's designated supervisor and with the Municipal Clerk within 10 working days of receipt. Where the 10 day time period includes summer, winter, or spring break, the report must be filed within 10 days, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and state or national holidays.

875 Political Activity

Employees are governed by the provisions of the Anchorage Municipal Code of Ethics. To the extent permitted by the Ethics Code and other applicable restrictions, employees are encouraged to be informed participants in political, civic, and community activities as positive role models for District Students.

Employees are encouraged to participate actively in community life to an extent consistent with their professional obligations. Students are also encouraged to participate in community activities as appropriate.

Employees are encouraged to accept invitations to appear at community organizations as observers and speakers.

AS 14.20.095

AMC Chapter 1.15