

UNDERSTANDING DISTRICT POLICY – Sections A through L

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What will we cover?

- Intro: Policy what is it, how do you change it, why do you care
- Policy From the Superintendent's Perspective
- Policy From the Board Member's Perspective
- ASBA's Policy Manual – A through L
- Recent Policy Advisories and affect on policy manual – IJL and IHAMB



But first, a hypothetical . . .



- A new board member, "Holly", was recently appointed to the board and wants to make it so that the school is not littered with political ads and wants to add that to policy.
- What policy will Holly change? How will Holly effect this change? How will Holly enforce this change?



School District Policy

- ❖ What is it? The Board's Rules.
- ❖ How do you change it? BGB- discuss the policy at an open meeting and vote as a board to change it.
- ❖ Why should board members care?

Because it is the only “hard” mechanism board members have to effect change in their role. *(I mean you should lead by example in all things but if you want to effect change you gotta change the law).*



School District Policy – What is it?

- ❖ Principles adopted by the Governing Board to chart a course of action

- ❖ The Board's principal job:
 - ❖ 15-341(A)(1) The Governing Board shall:
 - ❖ “Prescribe and enforce policies and procedures to govern the schools that are non inconsistent with the laws or rules prescribed by the state board of education.”



Where does Authority of Board come from?

- ❖ Answer: STATUTE (AKA the Arizona Legislature)
- ❖ 15-421(A) “the governing body of a school district shall be a governing board.”

- ❖ The Board’s principal job:
 - ❖ 15-341(A)(1) The Governing Board shall:
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School District Policy – How are Governing Board's Policy powers limited?

❖ Limited by: Statute

- ❖ School Districts have “only such powers as are granted to them by the [Legislature].” Tucson Unified School District No. 1 v. Tucson Educ. Ass’n, 155 Ariz. 441 (Ap. 1987)
- ❖ AND, a School Board “can exercise only those powers which are expressly or impliedly granted.” (*Id.*)



❖ Limited by: Law

- ❖ 15-341(A)(1) The Governing Board shall:
 - ❖ “Prescribe and enforce policies and procedures to govern the schools that are not inconsistent with the laws or rules prescribed by the state board of education.”

What is the Policy Manual?

- A compilation of board policies, regulations and exhibits organized into 12 sections including:
 - A- Foundations and Basic Commitments
 - B-School Board Governance and Operations
 - C- General School Administration
 - D- Fiscal Management
 - E-Support Services
 - F-Facilities Development
 - G- Personnel
 - I- Instructional Program
 - J- Students
 - K-School- Community Relations
 - L- Education Agency Relations



Superintendent's Perspective

- Remember Holly?
- What will the Superintendent do in this situation to effectuate Holly's concern?
 - Agenda
 - Board Discussion
 - Investigate the Issue
 - Board Vote
 - Implement Policy



Superintendent's Perspective

- Policy Advisories
- Keeping District compliant with law
- Effective governance of schools
- Whom may I call for assistance?



Board Member's Perspective



- Do we have a policy for this already?
- Holly's suggestion, is it ripe for discussion?
- Chance to work with other board members?
- Important issue for board to be concerned about?

Board Member's Perspective



- Utilizing Policy to effectuate change
- Whom may I call for advice?
- How do I work with the board to amend and implement policy?



Amending Policy to solve issue Holly raised

- **KHC**- Distribution/Posting of Promotional Materials
 - Time and Place Restrictions – approved by School administrator
 - Restrictions must be view-point neutral or disallow all materials
 - Request made by **KHC-E**- Exhibit
 - Dispute Resolution Process defined in policy.

Where questions arise consult legal counsel or ASBA policy services.



Recent Policy Advisories – No. 733- IJL

- Library Materials and Selection and Adoption
- For books and materials purchased after January 1, 2023, the law creates a public review period that requires districts and charter schools to notify parents at least seven (7) school days before the public review period begins (notice will provide the opening and closing dates of the public review period).
- The public review period must last 60 days
- Consists of putting the books on the website



Recent Policy Advisories – No. 733- IJL

- In response to questions for guidance, ASBA created:
- IJL-E – an exhibit with a letter to parents and the timelines as required.
- AND, a checklist for administrators.



Recent Policy Advisories – No. 720- IHAMB

- Family Life Education
- HB2495 prohibits school districts and charter schools from referring students to or using any sexually explicit material in any manner
- But there are exemptions . . .
- Need Parental Consent



Recent Policy Advisories – No. 720- IHAMB

- In Response to questions ASBA answered with a guidance document:
 - Step 1: Audit of School Materials
 - Step 2: Determine whether the exemption applies
 - Step 3: Obtain Parental Consent
 - Step 4: Create an alternative assignment for non-consenting families

Conclusion

- ASBA policy services is available 5 days per week to answer questions and assist subscribers.
- Policy is the Board's principal job and may be amended to improve school district governance.
- Districts should work together (Superintendent and Board) to localize policy for their schools.

