

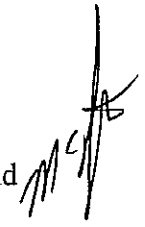


College Station Independent School District

Success....each life....each day....each hour

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Eddie Coulson, Superintendent

From: Greg McIntyre, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Personnel 

Date: December 12, 2007

Subject: Policy FNA (Local) Student Expression

Agenda Item: I-1

Board Priority/
District Goal: Priority A: Goal 4

BACKGROUND

In August, the CSISD Board of Trustees discussed House Bill 3678 which required school districts to take immediate action to adopt a local policy on student expression. Following discussion, the Board adopted the State recommended local policy (FNA) which addressed HB 3678, also called the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act (RVAA).

Due to the short timeline, the administration and the Board agreed that an alternate FNA local policy should be studied and possibly recommended for consideration at a later date.

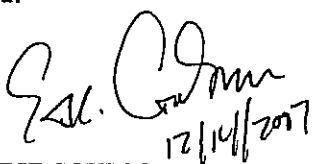
The attached recommended policy FNA, as drafted jointly by CSISD administration and the legal firm of Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Schulze & Aldridge, P.C., complies with RVAA while containing key provisions to better match district practice. As a reminder, the RVAA addresses four general areas of student expression: (1) freedom of religious expression, (2) student speakers, (3) class assignments, and (4) freedom of association.

The recommended policy FNA (Local) addresses student introductions so that:

- A student must stay on topic
- Students may not promote illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or other controlled substances
- Speech may not contain defamatory statements
- A limited public forum is established for Home Varsity Football and Basketball games (rather than at all school events where students publicly speak)
- A student cannot advocate imminent lawless action
- It does not create reasonable cause to believe that the speech would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others.

GREG MCINTYRE
Deputy Superintendent
of Curriculum, Instruction
and Personnel

1812 Welsh Street
College Station, TX 77840
979-764-5415 FAX 979-764-5425


EDDIE COULSON, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

An additional feature of the recommended policy FNA provides for the selection of students at graduation ceremonies which matches CSISD past practice and tradition.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the CSISD Board of Trustees approve the recommended policy FNA (Local) as presented.