



PENN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

1200 North Fifth Street, Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944

215-257-5011

dthomas@pennridge.org

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Pennridge School Board Approves Policies on Resource Materials and Staff Advocacy Activities

Perkasie, Pa.

The Pennridge School has passed two policies and will be implemented in all eleven schools in the School District by October 4, 2022.

The first Policy; Policy 109 defines the use of resource materials used in the District. You may **click [here for the link to the policy](#)**. Policy 109 governs all resource materials that are used throughout the district. The main categories include district library, classroom library, and all instructional resources. Under the Policy, our Professional staff continues to be responsible for recommending all library, classroom, and curricular materials. And the emphasis remains on providing comprehensive, varied, and age-appropriate resources. Additionally, the review process for any resource that is challenged will be completed through our professional staff.

However, the Policy, approved in September, now requires resource materials being recommended for purchase will be posted publicly on our website for a minimum of two weeks.

That portion of our [website for resource material review can be viewed by clicking this link](#).

Additionally, parent consent must be obtained before students are assigned any deprioritized resources that contain sexualized content and this will be continue to be be facilitated through the

curriculum process. [Specific content about Policy 109 can be seen and heard in the video, starting around 1:14:00 into the meeting video.](#)

The second policy; Policy 321, can be read by clicking [here for the link to the policy](#). “Advocacy” is defined as using power, position, or authority to advise or persuade students. This policy more fully defines the expectation that all staff members will not advocate their personal beliefs across a number of categories. Instead, staff will retain their personal views and remain neutral on advocacy-related matters during assigned work hours. During the Septmeber meeting, School Board members agreed by majority vote that, after family members, educators are some of the most important advocates in a child’s life and this policy does not eliminate the importance of those relationships and does not prohibit staff from speaking with and supporting all students and their families. Board members and Dr. David Bolton, Superintendent reiterated this is a staff policy and does not address student expression and staff members continue to be allowed to display curricular and personal items (family photos, college/fan items, jewelry, other small personal items worn by the individual, etc). Staff members also retain their right to engage in areas of advocacy outside of their assigned work hours. Staff members continue to be expected to only discuss advocacy-related matters when it applies directly to their curriculum. In those instances, all topics will be presented in a balanced and factual manner. Furthermore, this policy does not address district and/or building-sponsored materials (clubs, sports, spirit events, etc.). Under Policy 321, District resources and property (desks, walls, doors, hallways, etc.) may not be utilized for advocacy purposes. [Click here for the video of the meeting. At 1:20:30 for the specific discussion on Policy 321 as well as the voting afterward.](#)

Further details about other School Policies and information from the monthly meeting as well video links to Pennridge Community public comments may be accessed in the monthly, “School Board Snapshot” newsletter. Click here for the [“School Board Snapshot.”](#)

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