

## **Why developing these policies and having them approved by the school board is important:**

1. This is a proactive approach to serious issues.
2. School board approval is good support should people complain about how these issues are dealt with at Paoli.
3. Developing and approving these policies will help keep emotions out of emotional situations.
4. They will also provide fair and equal coverage. They will allow people to look at the situations in an objective manner.
5. They will give freedom to the students to make good decisions as well as mistakes.
6. They agree with the goals and coverage style of professional media, while protecting the students.
7. These policies, especially the Editorial policy, allow administration, teachers, students, and School Board and community members know where the paper stands while protecting the rights of student journalists to sometimes make hard ethical decisions.

## **JEA's Policy on Prior Review**

Prior review:

- violates the concept that it is the school's responsibility to teach and maintain, through example, the principles of democracy;
- Gives school administrators, who are government officials, the power to decide in advance what people will read or know. Such officials are potential news makers, and their involvement with the news-making process can interfere with the public's right to know;
- Contradicts every principle of sound journalism education and constitutes blatant but indirect censorship;
- Negates the educational value of a trained, professionally active adviser and teacher working with students in a counseling, educational environment;
- Establishes the possibility of viewpoint discrimination which destroys a free marketplace of ideas where a community can be fully informed, and undermines all pretext of responsible journalism;
- Leads toward self-censorship, the most chilling and pervasive form of censorship in schools. Fear like this can eliminate any chance of critical thinking, decision making or respect for the opinion of others.

## **Policies for School Board Approval**

1. Editorial Policy of the newspaper
2. Advertising Policy for newspaper, yearbook, and any other publications
3. Death Policy for newspaper, yearbook, and any other publications
4. Arrest Policy for newspaper

## **Advertising Policy**

Items to consider for having this policy:

1. It is proactive.
2. It gives the staff control of inappropriate material.
3. By having it approved by the board, it gives the policy more power and support.

### **Policy**

The journalism department has the right to accept, reject, or cancel any ad. In the event of cancellation, money will be refunded promptly. The newspaper will try to meet predetermined publication dates for each advertisement; however, it reserves the right to change the ad publication date. Should this occur, the advertiser will be notified prior to publication. Advertising shall be free of statements which are offensive to good taste or public decency based on the opinion of the staff. Advertising shall offer merchandise or service on its merits and refrain from attacking competitors. The staff will not accept advertising that is racist or sexist, offers products which are illegal for high school students, or which violates other standard journalistic principles (libel, obscenity, invasion of privacy, disruption). Ads which the staff accepts are not an endorsement from the staff, the adviser, the administration, or the school board of trustees.

## **Death Policy**

Items to consider for having this policy:

1. It is proactive.
2. It will keep staff members from having to make story content decision while dealing with complicated emotions.
3. It makes the coverage fair for all students, popular or not.
4. It prevents complaints on coverage.

Policy:

### **NEWSPAPER**

Should a faculty, staff, or student die during the school year, there will be a news-feature story to appear in the next issue of the paper. The article will mention the day of the death, the survivors, and the services but will focus on the person's life with activities, quotes from friends. The cause of death will be omitted from the story at the family's request. The story will be accompanied by a mug shot (if available). It will not receive a full page of coverage but be only one of the stories on the page; however, related stories may appear that will inform/help the student body. All stories will be written by staff members.

### **YEARBOOK**

Should a faculty, staff, or student die during the school year, a half page ad with a picture (if available) and short story will appear in the yearbook. Only students dying during that year will be covered in the book. The same story guidelines as the Paolite will be used. All stories will be written by staff members.

## **Arrest Policy**

Items to consider for having this policy:

1. A policy like this would be proactive and give students a basis for deciding content for the paper.
2. School-related arrests are of news value and affect students at school.
  - if member of a group or team were busted for alcohol and kicked off
3. Rumors will get out of hand; facts are usually boring and lost when rumors begin and a news story will set things straight.
4. A story gives the student an opportunity to say something.
5. Sometimes the arrest is the end to a story that may have previously appeared in the paper.

### **Policy**

Stories will be written about school-related arrests only. Any arrest that does not directly relate with the school will not be published. As with the style of most professional papers, minors will be mentioned only by grade and/or age, not by name; any student over 18 will be mentioned by name.

## **Editorial Policy**

Items to consider for having this policy:

1. It is proactive. It will give the students the freedom they need to make content decisions based on the content instead of based on “getting in trouble.”
2. It is the policy developed by JEA.
3. It respects the learning process for the students and will create even more learning.
4. It will give the freedom for discussion prior to appearing in the paper as well as the consequences.
5. Good journalistic standards will be applied during the decision-making process and the policy protects this.
6. It supports the students’ decisions in what is their paper.
7. It supports the classroom environment and learning principles that I would like in my classroom