

**January 9, 2017**

**Board meeting questions from Loretta Byrnes**

**1. What % of 9th and 10th graders pass the AP exams**

*Last year at NKHS, 63% of 9th and 10th graders who took AP exams received a score of 3 or higher. Last year at KHS, 52% of 9th and 10th graders who took AP exams received a score of 3 or higher.*

**2. When did the district start inviting 9th and 10th graders to take AP classes?**

*We have numerous AP courses that students take in 9th and 10th grade that have been available for different periods of time. Additionally, we have students who opt into exams without taking the courses, choosing to self-study.*

**January 26, 2017**

**Board meeting questions from Rick Eckert**

**1. In regards to execution of the policy placing para-educators on special education buses, what is the district policy when a para is not available for a bus on a given day?**

*There is not a district policy. It is the practice of the district to have an instructional para-educator on special education buses. In some cases where it is needed based on a student's IEP a special education para is assigned to that specific student on a bus. In the case that a para-educator is absent from work we follow district procedure to fill the position to be subbed. In the event of an emergency, the Transportation Department will work with HR to find a substitute from a school. If no one is available, then we may "borrow" from a route with two Para-educators (one regular and one special ed). Finally, we will use a substitute driver who is willing to work additional hours as a Para-educator. If no substitute is available then we will work to find a district administrator to ride the route. If all options and protocols have been exhausted, we will notify parents that there is no Para-educator to ride the bus and the route will be cancelled. This is a last resort and happens infrequently.*

**2. What is the policy in NKSD regarding teachers introducing political views in the classroom? In light of national events, has this policy been discussed/reminded recently district-wide?**

*Policy 2331 Controversial Issues/Guest Speakers:*

*The district will offer courses of study which will afford learning experiences appropriate to the level of student understanding. The instructional program shall respect the right of students to face issues, to have free access to information, to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice and to form, hold, and express their own opinions without personal prejudice or discrimination. The district encourages staff members to provide for the free and orderly flow and examination of ideas so that students may gain the skills to gather and arrange facts, discriminated between facts and opinion, discuss differing viewpoints, analyze problems and draw their own tentative conclusions. Teachers will plan discussions and procedures, including the use of guest speakers to gain divergent points of view, with thoroughness and objectivity to acquaint students with the need to recognize opposing viewpoints, the importance of fact, the value of judgment and the virtue of respect*

*for conflicting opinions. Teachers will exercise professional judgment in determining the appropriateness of the issue to the curriculum and the maturity of the students. When in doubt regarding appropriateness, the matter should be referred to the principal.*

*NKEA Bargaining Agreement 2016-2017 Section 6: Academic Freedom:*

*The right to academic freedom herein established shall include the right to support or oppose political causes and issues outside of the normal classroom activities. Academic freedom includes a commitment to the democratic tradition, a concern for the welfare, growth and development of children and an insistence on objective scholarship. Academic freedom must be exercised consistent with the curriculum of the District. Teachers shall take into account the relative immaturity of their students and the need for guidance and help in studying controversial issues. Teachers shall use prudent professional judgment in planning the inclusion of controversial issues or resources in classroom presentations. The foregoing matters shall be discussed with the teacher's building principal. The teacher's answer(s) to spontaneous classroom questions are subject to the same exercise of professional judgment; however, in such spontaneous situations prior discussions and approval are not required. The presentation and discussion of controversial issues in the classroom shall be on an informative basis and shall endeavor to develop in students a willingness to examine all sides of an issue before drawing inferences or conclusions.*