

Santa Barbara School Districts

Administrative Regulation

AR 6161.4

Instruction

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING CITIZENS' OBJECTIONS TO OUTSIDE SPEAKERS IN THE SCHOOLS

Whenever a citizen of the District wishes to register an objection to the use of an outside speaker in a school; or, when a speaker has been used and a citizen wishes to offer formal criticism of such use, that person shall be expected to present his/her objection or criticism in writing to the Superintendent.

To permit thorough and objective consideration of the objector's viewpoint, his/her communication to the Superintendent shall include the following information:

1. His/her name, address, and telephone number.
2. Date of communication.
3. Name of group or organization, if any, represented.
4. Name and title of speaker against whom the objection or criticism is made.
5. Where speech was or is planned to be given, date and hour and to whom.
6. Specific reasons for objecting to the speaker, with clear differentiation between those reasons that apply to the speaker as a person and those that apply to the subject matter of the presentation.
7. Suggestions for handling the matter – whether to cancel, substitute another speaker or provide another type of educational experience.
8. Suggestions, if any, on other speakers considered equally effective and more appropriate, with reasons for this judgment.

The Superintendent shall bring the citizen's challenge, and a recommendation thereon, to the Board of Education as soon as practicable.

The Superintendent's recommendation to the Board shall be based on written recommendations from the principal of the school in which the speaker has appeared or is scheduled to appear, and from the teacher or teachers directly responsible for or concerned with the speaker's appearance. In addition, if deemed necessary or desirable, the Superintendent shall solicit the advice of an ad hoc committee of appropriate

professional staff members. Representative citizens who are authoritative in the proposed speaker's subject field may also be consulted.

The re-evaluation of a speaker questioned or challenged shall be carried out objectively. Questions as to the appropriateness of the speaker's use shall be given serious consideration in proportion to the amount of factual evidence in support thereof.

When written objections to a proposed speaker are received reasonably in advance of the date of presentation, the Superintendent shall immediately advise the principal concerned whether or not the presentation should be tabled pending further review.

Citizens registering objections to outside speakers shall be informed in writing of the Board's decision.

Policy: SANTA BARBARA ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Approved: December, 1965 Santa Barbara, California
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