

## **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES INVOLVING STAFF AND STUDENTS**

**P1300**

The school and the community should not be considered separately but as working as a unified whole in the educational process. Through the participation of staff in community activities, many avenues may be opened for building community support.

In the interest of community relations, and in order to foster community support for educational programs, the Board of Education may encourage district personnel to participate in community activities and to take an active part in community affairs.

School personnel strengthen the credibility of responsible service to the school through participation in associations of service to the community. In particular, there are many positive benefits to be gained by the community participation of the Superintendent, as the educational leader of the school district, and the school principals as the leaders of the district schools.

Teachers and other employees of the district have a dual role in their relations with the public as employees of the school system and as members of the community. The Board of Education is advised to be sensitive to differences of opinion which may arise concerning goals or operations of the schools and school district. Employees as other citizens have First Amendment rights to comment on issues of public concern which must at all times be respected. The Board should attempt in those cases to resolve differences in a manner to benefit the school district as well as school-community relations.

Reviewed April 1997