

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The School Committee believes that academic freedom is essential to the fulfillment of the purposes of the school system. It acknowledges the fundamental need to protect teachers from any censorship or restraint which might interfere with their obligation to pursue truth in the performance of their classroom functions. Accordingly the School Committee holds that:

1. The nature of American democracy requires that citizens be able to listen to all sides of a controversial issue, sort out facts, and arrive at independent conclusions. Students in school, therefore, have a right to be exposed to issues which are within their intellectual grasp and are under current debate in our society.
2. This right of students imposes certain obligations upon the School Committee, the teachers, the administration and the community.
3. The School Committee will attempt through its policies to employ capable teachers, supply them with the necessary teaching materials, and maintain an atmosphere of academic freedom in the schools.
4. Teachers as individuals through their councils, committees, departments, and faculties, will be responsible for determining when and how to deal with controversial issues according to the maturity and needs of students and the policies of the School Committee.
5. The communities have a right to expect that controversial issues will be presented in a fair and unbiased manner and to communicate through proper channels to the School Committee if convinced that they are not.