AP 7370 POLITICAL ACTIVITY

References:

Education Code Sections 7050 et seq.

No restriction shall be placed on the political activities of any employee of the District except as provided in Board policy and these procedures.

District employees may exercise all rights of citizenship, including campaigning for or against a candidate or ballot measure, on their own time, provided the following conditions are met:

- Campaign activities may be undertaken only at times when the employee is not required to perform duties for the District. Distributing campaign materials while on duty as an employee of the District is prohibited;

- District resources shall not be used to campaign for or against a candidate or ballot measure. District resources include computers, copying equipment, telephones, mailboxes, e-mail, phone mail, faxes, staff time, etc.;

- Reasonable steps must be taken to clarify that the District employee is acting in an individual capacity and does not represent the District;

- All other restrictions imposed by the Political Reform Act of 1976 and other provisions of law are followed;

- All College and/or District regulations are respected; and

- A careful accounting of the time used in campaigning should be maintained so that there is no question of impropriety.

Candidates for office may be invited to address a class or forum provided the following conditions are met:

- All candidates for a particular office are offered the same opportunity to address the class or forum, although not necessarily at the same time; and

- The discussion or debate of candidates is directly related to the course matter being taught.

District employees, employee organizations, or student organizations are encouraged to invite declared candidates for office to address groups on campus provided the following conditions are met:

- The presentation does not interfere with the educational programs or processes of the Colleges and/or District;

- All candidates for a particular office are offered the same opportunity to address groups on campus, although not necessarily at the same time; and

- All candidates for a particular office are offered the same opportunity to address students in an in-classroom forum, although not necessarily at the same time.

Declared candidates for office and proponents or opponents of political issues and candidates who wish to speak or distribute materials on campus may do so provided all District and College regulations related to time, place, and manner of speech are respected. Candidates or proponents or opponents of specific issues may not use District resources to prepare or distribute materials on campus.

District resources may be used to provide information to the public about the possible effects of a bond issue or other ballot measure if both the following conditions are met:

- The informational activities are otherwise authorized by the Constitution or laws of the State of California; and

- The information provided constitutes a fair and impartial presentation of relevant facts to aid the electorate in reaching an informed judgment regarding the bond issue or ballot measure.

Any administrator or Board member may appear before a citizens' group that requests the appearance to discuss the reasons why the Board called an election to submit to the voters a proposition for the issuance of bonds, and to respond to inquiries from the citizens' group.

An officer or employee of the District may solicit or receive political funds or contributions to promote the support or defeat of a ballot measure that would affect the rate of pay, hours of work, retirement, civil service, or other working conditions of officers or employees of the District. Such activities are prohibited during working hours, and entry into buildings and grounds of the District during working hours is prohibited. Such activities are permitted during nonworking time. "Nonworking time" means time outside an employees' working hours, whether before or after the work day or during the employees' lunch period or other breaks during the day.

Also see BP/AP 3900 titled Speech: Time, Place, and Manner as well as BP/AP 7340 titled Leaves.

Date Approved: January 18, 2012
(Replaces current WVMCCD Policies 2.16.1, 2.16.2, 2.16.3, 2.16.4 and Procedure 2.16)