

## **4587 Freedom of Expression: Distribution of Information to Parents**

Policy 4587

STATUS: ADOPTED

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### ***FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO PARENTS***

Board Approved: January 14, 2009

Last Reviewed: June 19, 2013

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Description:

Section 1 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms states:

*The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.*

The Board of Education, School District 59 (Peace River South) recognizes the rights of teachers to exercise their right to Freedom of Expression as defined by law.

This policy is intended to address the on-duty conduct or “expressions” and distribution of information by teachers to parents, either directly or through students.

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**Description:**

The Board of Education requires teachers to obtain the approval of their principal before distributing union/political information on school property during school hours, to parents or through students as couriers. The principal will review the information for its accuracy and its relevance to educational matters concerning students.

In determining the appropriateness of materials for distribution there must be consideration of the teacher's rights. Where limits are contemplated by the principal, they will be to the extent that, a balance is achieved between support for the teacher's right of free speech, while at the same time achieving the objectives of the school and school district.

When a union/political communication is approved by the principal for distribution by a teacher, through students, such communication must be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked/addressed to the parent/guardian. The communication itself must clearly identify the author and/or the organization from which it is coming; i.e., this is the view of the BCTF or PRSTA, with their letterhead-logo.

*Should a union/political communication not be approved by the principal for distribution to parents or through students as couriers, the employer will raise the matter with the local union.*