

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES 9 – Controversial Issues in Education**

Date: July 30, 2004

Responsible Administrator: Superintendent

1.0 RATIONALE

Controversial issues need to be handled in a balanced manner that respects the rights and opinions reflected by different perspectives.

2.0 PROCESS

The Superintendent will be responsible for maintaining this Administrative Practice and ensuring that it is followed.

3.0 GUIDELINES

- 3.1 When a controversial issue is addressed, the information presented shall:
 - 3.1.1 Represent alternative points of view, subject to the condition that resources used are not restricted by any federal or provincial law, or by the policy of the Board of Trustees.
 - 3.1.2 Appropriately reflect the developmental level, capabilities, and educational needs of students.
 - 3.1.3 Be rooted in the requirements of provincially prescribed and approved courses of study and education programs.
 - 3.1.4 Reflect the neighborhood and community in which the school is located, and as may be appropriate to a given issue, reflect provincial, national and international contexts.
- 3.2 Controversial issues which have been anticipated by the teacher and those which may arise incidentally in the course of instruction shall be used by the instructor to promote critical inquiry rather than advocacy for a particular position, and to teach students how to think rather than what to think.
- 3.3 The school should play a supportive role to parents in the areas of values and moral development, and shall handle parent views in regard to controversial issues with respect and sensitivity.

References: *Board Policy: F/1/15*