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Agora Cyber Charter School
1018 W 8th Ave,
King of Prussia, Pa 19406

Board of Trustees Policy

STUDENT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES POLICY

The Board of Trustees ("Board") encourages and provides equal access to the formation of student clubs and activities that promote the educational mission of the Agora Cyber Charter School ("Charter School") and enhance the social and educational experience of its students.

This policy is intended to: (1) identify curriculum-related clubs and their parameters; (2) identify non-curriculum-related clubs and their parameters; (3) identify non-school-sponsored clubs; and (4) set forth basic procedures for the recognition and operation of student clubs and activities.

A student club or activity is considered to be curriculum-related if any one of the following criteria are met:

- A. The subject matter of the group is actually taught or will soon be taught in a regularly offered course;
- B. The subject matter of the group concerns the body of the course as a whole;
- C. Participation in the group is required for a particular course; or
- D. Participation in the group results in academic credit.

Administration is responsible for creating and maintaining for distribution a list of curriculum-related student clubs and activities that meet one of the above-criteria.

If a student wishes the Board to recognize a club or activity as a curriculum-related club or activity, the student shall seek a faculty sponsor/mentor, who will make written application to Administration setting forth how the proposed club or activity meets one of the above-stated (4) four criteria. Administration will then refer the written application to the Board with a recommendation with respect to recognizing the proposed student club or activity as curriculum-related. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the Board shall make a decision whether to recognize the club as curriculum-related club or activity.

If the student club or activity is approved as a curriculum-related club or activity, at the discretion of Administration, the student club or activity may meet during normal school hours at the time and location approved in advance by Administration.

Each curriculum-related student club or activity shall be organized and operated with the assistance and under the supervision of the Charter School faculty sponsor/mentor, who shall be approved in advance by Administration and who shall supervise and assist with the club's/activity's operations.

The Charter School faculty sponsor/mentor shall file with Administration whatever reports Administration deems necessary and appropriate with respect to the operation of the club or activity and in particular with respect to meeting the above-stated criteria.

Non-Curriculum-Related Student Clubs or Activities

These are clubs and activities that are related to the educational mission of the Charter School but which do not qualify as curriculum-related clubs or activities.

Administration is responsible for creating and maintaining a list of non-curriculum-related student clubs or activities for distribution.

If a student wishes the Board to recognize a club or activity as a non-curriculum-related club or activity, the student shall seek a faculty sponsor/mentor, who will make written application to Administration setting forth how the proposed club or activity meets one of the above-stated (4) four criteria. Administration will then refer the written application to the Board with a recommendation with respect to recognizing the proposed student club or activity as non-curriculum-related. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the Board shall make a decision whether to recognize the club as a non-curriculum-related club or activity.

Each club or activity approved by the Board shall have a Charter School faculty sponsor approved by Administration who shall supervise and assist with the club's/activity's operations.

All meetings shall take place before school or after school during non-instructional hours at a time and location approved in advance by Administration.

Non-Approved School Clubs or Activities

These are clubs or activities which do not meet the requirements set forth above and which have not been given Board approval.

These are not clubs or activities that will be endorsed by the Charter School and Administration may endorse announcements with the following: "the NAME Charter School does not recognize this as a school-sponsored activity or club and the NAME Charter School does not endorse the views of the club or activity or of its participants."

Nonetheless, the right of public school students to freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth and Administration is directed to comply with applicable federal and state laws regarding student expression, assembly and speech.

General Requirements for All Student Clubs and Activities

All meetings shall be voluntary and student-initiated. A Charter School faculty member pre-approved by Administration must be present for meetings or activities.

Students shall not be denied access to a student club or activity or to the formation of a student club or activity on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or disability or for any other legally protected reason.

No meeting or activity may include or endorse any conduct which is unlawful or which materially or substantially interferes with the orderly conduct, education or activities within the Charter School.

The Charter School Code of Conduct for students and staff remain in effect and are enforceable in relation to all clubs and activities.

Students may only invite outside speakers to meetings with approval from Administration. Such outside speakers may not be in regular attendance at the meetings or control the meetings or activities of the group and may be required to provide proof of criminal history and child abuse clearances.

All groups shall be allowed the opportunity to announce such meetings by means of posters, bulletin boards, public announcements, student newspaper(s), school website, etc. so long as prior approval is given by Administration.

Students shall have the right to express themselves unless the expression materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens serious harm to the school or community, encourages unlawful activity or interferes with another individual's rights.

Students may use publications, handbills, announcements, assemblies, group meetings, buttons, armbands and any other means of common communication, provided that the use of public school communications facilities shall be in accordance with the regulations of the authority in charge of those facilities.

Students have the responsibility to obey laws governing libel and obscenity and to be aware of the full meaning of their expression.

Students have the responsibility to be aware of the feelings and opinions of others and to give others a fair opportunity to express their views.

Identification of the individual student or at least one responsible person in a student group is required on posted or distributed materials.

Students are required to submit for prior approval a copy of materials to be displayed, posted or distributed on Charter School property.

Bulletin boards must conform to the following:

- A. Administration has the authority to restrict the use of certain bulletin boards.
- B. Bulletin board space should be provided by Administration for the use of students and student organizations.
- C. Administration may require that notices or other communications be officially dated before posting, and that the materials be removed after a prescribed reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards.

Administration may set forth the time and place of distribution of materials so that distribution would not materially or substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school. A proper time and place set for distribution is one that would give the students the opportunity to reach fellow students.

The place of the activity may be restricted to permit the normal flow of traffic within the school and at exterior doors.

No monies may be collected, solicited or disbursed in connection with any student club or activity without prior permission of Administration or, where appropriate, the Board. In addition, student travel in connection with any club or activity must be pre-approved by the Board of Trustees.

Administration is directed to implement procedures and create forms to carry out this policy. Administration is directed to consult with the Charter School nurse regarding any medical forms that may be warranted.

Reservation of Right to Terminate

The Board reserves the right to terminate its recognition of any student club or activity.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.

