MIDDLE BUCKS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SECTION: ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYES

TITLE: FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN

NONSCHOOL SETTINGS

ADOPTED: July 1, 1991

REVISED:

320. FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN NONSCHOOL SETTING

1.Purpose

The Executive Council acknowledges the right of its employees as citizens in a democratic society to speak out on issues of public concern. When those issues are related to the school and its programs, however, the employee's freedom of expression must be balanced against the interests of the school.

2.Guidelines

The following guidelines are adopted by the Executive Council to help clarify and therefore avoid situations in which an administrator's expression could conflict with the school's interests. In situations in which an administrator is not engaged in the performance of professional duties, s/he shall:

recognize that as an administrator his/her comments will be commonly viewed as representative of the school.

state clearly that his/her expression represents personal views and not necessarily those of the school.

not direct his/her expression toward any individual(s) with whom s/he would normally be in contact in the performance of duties, in order to avoid the disruption of cooperative staff relationships.

refrain from expressions that would interfere with the maintenance of student discipline.

refrain from making public expressions which s/he knows to be false or made without regard for truth or accuracy.

not make threats against co-workers, supervisors or school officials.

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Violations of these guidelines may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.