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TO: Principals
Central Services Administrators

FROM: Del Burns
Superintendent

DATE: August 5, 2009

RE: School Board Elections

On October 6, citizens will vote for incoming Board members. In the next few weeks, we will hear more information from the public and the candidates regarding these elections. It is important for you to be aware of the policies and procedures related to political campaigns.

Employees may choose to support or oppose the candidates on their own personal time and with personal resources. They may not spend work time or school system supplies promoting candidates. Employees may place campaign signs in their yards or place campaign bumper stickers on their cars.

PTAs, like any private entity, have discretion regarding their communications about candidates. The school system, as a public entity, cannot provide PTAs with supplies or other direct or indirect support in their efforts to promote candidates. PTA materials may be distributed only as allowed under Board Policies 2420 and 2701.

The PTA can distribute campaign materials or have a candidates' forum at a PTA meeting when the group is using the school facility after school in a meeting that the participants voluntarily attend. Likewise, any group could rent a school facility after school hours through the Community Schools program and have speakers or distribute literature. Please review the following Board Policies for additional information:

- Board Policy 2420 - *Distribution of Publications by Non-students*,
- Board Policy 2701 - *Employee Mailboxes*,
- Board Policy 7400 - *Community Use of School Facilities*, and
- Board Policy 7410 - *Classification, Fee Schedule, Procedures and Guidelines for Facility Use*.

This information is intended to provide clarification of the parameters between the rights and obligation of citizenship and using public resources to endorse candidates. Thank you for your attention to this information. Please feel free to call area superintendents with questions concerning this information.

Attachments: Board Policy 2420, *Distribution of Publications by Non-students*
Board Policy 2701, *Employee Mailboxes*
Board Policy 7400, *Community Use of School Facilities*
Board Policy 7410, *Classification, Fee Schedule, and Guidelines of Facility Use*

cc: Board Members
Superintendent's Leadership Team
Candidates for the Board of Education