



November 14, 1990

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM NUMBER SEVEN
STUDENT DRESS STANDARDS

The Board of Education of the Granite School District and the administration support the position that parents should oversee the appearance of their children. Schools should not take exception to student apparel if it is safe, modest, clean and doesn't advertise positions contrary to the instructional program of the district. Clothing promoting drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or inappropriate illustrations or language is prohibited.

Insignificant controversy over particular styles of clothing can be a most futile exercise. Length or cut of hair seems to be an expression of individual taste. When hair length is outlandish in style to the extent that it attracts and generates disruptive behavior, school officials should enter into the matter.

Administrators and other staff members are urged to place the matter of student appearance in its proper perspective. An "anything goes" concept is not suggested. If students present themselves at school in attire which makes them appear as buffoons or which deliberately attempts to perpetuate a grubby or suggestive appearance, appropriate action should be taken.

Administrators are encouraged to follow the principles of helping students to learn self-governance. In this light, emphasis must be on teaching and counseling disruptive students whose personal appearance needs improvement. When secondary students are unwilling to heed such counsel or when elementary students are involved, it would be advisable to contact the parents to request their assistance in correcting the problem. In circumstances where principals need to take stronger measures, they should do so with the assurance of support from the district office.

Granite School District should protect individuality that does not harm the educational process, but strikes a proper balance and establishes the best rapport possible with students and parents. This can best be done by talking through problems and seeking to understand youngsters without being either dictatorial or unduly permissive. School leaders must take a strong position on substantive issues.

Student dress problems are usually more easily solved by discussion, persuasion, and administrative compassion that spans the so-called generation gap.

When school dress codes are established, the dress code should be prepared by a committee involving students, faculty, administrators and parents. Dress codes should be reviewed on an annual basis.

/s/

Loren G. Burton
Superintendent