# TEACHING OF MORAL VALUES

Because it has a concern for the teaching of moral values, the Board of Education decrees that in the Fremont Public Schools, education must affirm its neutrality and emphasize the distinction between church and state. That distinction is a matter of philosophical principle, a principle which underlies the thoughts of freedom of conscience, thought, and worship and predicates that the public schools, as organs of the state, must teach values, principles, morals or virtues without reference to a particular religious belief. The school must be careful not to assume a position that is anti-religious, either. In essence, the school must realize the disagreements in regard to the nature of man and the ascertainment of truths, but it has to maintain a neutral attitude with respect to the teaching of specific religious beliefs which attempt to answer such questions. Therefore, the following premises are established:

1. The public schools must accept the responsibility of teaching moral values which are commonly accepted by society.

2. That public schools cannot, either ethically or philosophically, inculcate moral values which are based solely on religious faiths.

3. That the public schools are hospitable to religious opinions and are partial to none of them.

4. That public schools, when teaching moral values, must observe the law, defined as the body of rules for human conduct prescribed and enforced by the representatives of organized society, and the common law, defined as the decisions of the federal and state courts.

**Adopted: November 9, 1987**