

6005: CHALLENGING CONTROVERSIAL MATERIAL (AP)

Approved: 85 01 22

POLICY

The Board recognizes that any resident or employee of the District may challenge (on the basis of appropriateness) learning resources used in the District's educational program. This policy is to provide a procedure for considering the opinions of those persons in the schools and the community who are not directly involved in the selection process.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 Any resident or employee of the School District may raise objection to learning resources used in a school's educational program.
- 1.2 The principal should annually review the selection and objection rules with the teaching staff.
- 1.3 No parent has the right to determine reading, viewing or listening matter for pupils other than his/her own children.
- 1.4 Access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
- 1.5 The major criterion for the final decisions the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.
- 1.6 A decision to sustain a challenge shall not necessarily be interpreted as a judgment of irresponsibility on the part of the professional involved in the original selection and/or use of the material.

2.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMAL RECONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The school receiving the complaint regarding a learning resource shall try to resolve the issue informally by convening a meeting where the principal or his designate shall:
 - i) explain to the questioner the school's selection procedure, criteria, and qualifications of those persons selecting the materials;

- i) explain the particular place the questioned resource occupies in the educational program;
- ii) where the questioner is not satisfied that the material should remain in the collection, the principal shall provide the questioner with Form 6004: Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources with instructions to return the completed and signed form to the principal.

3.0 REQUEST FOR FORMAL RECONSIDERATION

3.1 Upon receipt of the completed Form 6004: Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources, the principal shall:

- i) notify the Superintendent of Schools;
- ii) refer the request for reconsideration to a Reconsideration Committee

4.0 RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE

4.1 The Reconsideration Committee shall include:

- i) one member of District Staff chosen by the Superintendent of Schools;
- ii) one member of the school staff chosen by the school staff;
- iii) one member chosen by the school's parent consultative committee chosen by the parent group;
- iv) one teacher-librarian from another school in the District chosen by the Superintendent;
- v) one member from the school administration chosen by the principal.

4.2 The Reconsideration Committee shall proceed within these guidelines:

- i) examine the challenged resources;
- ii) check general acceptance of the resource by reading reviews;
- iii) weigh values and faults and form opinions based on the material as a whole rather than on passages or sections taken out of context;
- iv) discuss the challenged resource in the context of the educational program;
- v) discuss the challenged resource with the individual who selected the resource (when appropriate);
- vi) discuss the challenged resource with the individual questioner (when appropriate);
- vii) prepare a written report

5.0 FINAL APPEAL

5.1 Notwithstanding any procedure outlined in this policy; the questioner shall have the right to appeal any decision to the Board of Education.

AP 6005: APPENDIX I - REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LEARNING RESOURCES

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Title of Resource: _____

Context of Usage: Classroom Resource: _____ Library Resource _____

Correspondence material: _____ Other _____

Author(s): _____

Publisher/Year: _____

Request initiated by: _____

Role of complainant: Teacher _____ Parent _____ Other _____

_____ (please specify)

Telephone No.: _____

Address: _____

1. To what in the resources do you object:

a) pages _____ Specific Objection _____

b) pages _____ Specific Objection _____

c) pages _____ Specific Objection _____

d) pages _____ Specific Objection _____
