

PUBLIC OBJECTIONS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board, though it is ultimately responsible for all curriculum and instructional materials, including library books, recognizes the need and right of students to free access to many different types of books and materials. It also recognizes the right of the professional staff to select books and other materials supportive of the district's educational philosophy and goals.

The Board has approved principles governing the selection of all instructional materials, including library books, and has established policies pertaining to the selection process.

Criticism of a book or other materials used in the schools may be expected from time to time. In such instances:

Individual use:

The Board recognizes the right of an individual parent/guardian to request that his own child not read a given book or be exposed to other materials. When such a request is presented, the parent/guardian, teacher, or staff member and school administrator shall meet to resolve the situation by reviewing the material in question. This may result in the arrangement for use of alternative material meeting essentially the same instructional purpose. This does not apply, however, to basic program texts and materials that the Board has adopted.

School use:

The Board shall not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, but recognizes that at times a reevaluation of certain materials may be desirable. Should an individual or group ask to have any book or other material withdrawn from school use:

- a. The person who objects to the book or other material shall be asked to fill out a Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Form (File: KLB-E), available at each building or the district office, on which he will document his criticism and then return it to the school involved within ten (10) school days. Copies will go to the Superintendent, library/media specialist of the school, school administrator, and curriculum area teacher.
- b. Following receipt of the Citizen's Request For Reconsideration Of Instructional Materials Form and a copy of the material in question, the Superintendent shall provide for a reevaluation of the material in question by forming a committee within ten (10) school days. The purpose of this committee shall be to determine if the material meets the requirements of established policies pertaining to the selection of instructional materials, File: IIA. The committee shall consist of five (5) people including:

1 - school administrator from a neutral (non-involved) school,

1 – library/media specialist

1 - teacher with expertise in the area in the case of curricular materials, to be from a neutral (non-involved) school.

The remaining members to be selected from the community involved.

After reviewing the materials, the committee shall report its recommendations to the Superintendent within thirty (30) days after formation. Before reaching a decision, the committee may request information or further documentation from teachers, library/media specialists and the objector.

- A book shall not be excluded because of the writer's race or nationality or his political or religious views.
 - That the value of any book or other material shall be judged as a whole, taking into account the purpose of the material, rather than individual, isolated expressions or incidents in the work.
- c. The Superintendent or his designee shall inform the objector of the committee's decision. Should the solution be unsatisfactory to the person objecting, he may appeal the decision to the Board within two (2) board meetings following.
- d. If the decision is in favor of the person objecting, then the material will be removed from the school involved for the remainder of the school year.

In summary, the Board assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials it makes available to students; it holds its professional staff accountable for their proper selection. It recognizes rights of individual parents/guardians with respect to controversial materials used by their own children; it will provide for the reevaluation of materials in library collections upon formal request. On the other hand, student's right to learn and the freedom of teachers to teach shall be respected.

Adopted 07/11/77

Revised 01/27/86; 01/25/99; 1/9/17

CROSS REFS.: IIA, Instructional Materials Selection and Adoption
IIAC, Selection and Adoption of Library Materials
KLB-E, Citizen s Request for Reconsideration of
Instructional Materials

School District #1, Sweetwater County, Wyoming