File: IJ-R

**RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES**

Material that is challenged usually belongs to one of the three basic categories: religion, ideology, or profanity/obscenity. Board policies regarding these areas shall be as follows:

**Religion -- Factual, unbiased material on religions has a place in school libraries.**

**Ideologies -- Libraries should, with no thought toward swaying reader judgment, make available a balanced collection of primary and factual material, on the level of their students on various ideologies or philosophies which exert or have exerted a strong force, either favorably or unfavorably, in government, current events, politics, education and other phases of life.**

**Profanity/obscenity -- Materials shall be subjected to a test of literary merit and reality in context using the criteria established from Common Sense Media and the 7 forms of Bias In Instructional Materials.**

When a problem concerning instructional resources in a school arises, the disposition of the problem will be made in a reasonable period of time using District adopted procedures:

**District Adopted Procedures for Handling Issues with Instructional Resources in Schools:**

* **Identify the Problem:** All concern(s) must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent/Principal.
* **Document:**  Keep detailed records of the problem, its impact, and affected areas.
* **Notify Stakeholders:** Inform teachers, administrators, and school committee.
* **Assess Impact:**  Determine urgency and temporary solutions if needed.
* **Resolve the Issue:** Investigate the concern(s) and come to a resolution.
* **Communicate the Outcome:** Keep stakeholders updated on solutions.
* **Evaluate and Follow-Up:** Ensure effectiveness of solutions and prevent recurrence.
* **Document Resolution:** Record steps taken, costs (if any), and outcome.
* **Review Procedures:** Periodically update procedures.

In accordance with the statement of philosophy, no questioned materials shall be removed from the school pending a final decision. Pending the outcome of the request for reconsideration, however, access to questioned materials can be denied to the students of the parents/guardians making the complaint, if they so desire.

If the decision of the School Committee is that the questioned instructional resource be retained, the District will not convene a Review Committee relative to the same complaint for a period of three years. If a substantially different point of view is advanced, it will be investigated. (The period of three years does not apply in this instance).

If an individual or a group undertakes action to keep material from the shelves by checking it out and failing to return it, or by taking turns in keeping it checked out so that it is not available for student use, the Superintendent shall request, in writing, the return of the material. If it is not returned within thirty (30) days, a bill for the current replacement cost of the item shall be rendered to the party holding the item.

After the School Committee has adopted new materials or approved certain methods, that decision will not be reconsidered for a period of three years beginning with the end of the school year when the adoption is made.

**1st reading 1/9/2024 2nd reading 4/9/2024**