

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 7

Date 1/19/23

Name of Novel Milk and Honey by Kaur, Rupi

Directions: After reading the selected novel, review the material using the below criteria. Note upon review of the book the following Beaufort County School District Non Discrimination will be taken into consideration:

Non-Discrimination. The BCSD affirms the right of all individuals to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm, and/or harassment. The BCSD is committed to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all students, parents/legal guardians, staff, visitors, applicants for admission and employment, personnel, and community members who participate or seek to participate in its educational programs or activities. Accordingly, the BCSD does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, sex, pregnancy, childbirth, or any related medical conditions, color, physical or mental disability, age (40 or older), ancestry, genetic information, national origin, or any other applicable status protected by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX or any other local, state, or federal law.

EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	✓
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: <u>English 4 ELA</u> ★ <u>Inquiry (I) 3,2</u> → Examine historical, social, cultural or political context to broaden inquiry + create questions. ★ <u>Fundamentals</u> → integrate an informational system that includes meaning, structure, visual + pragmatics to make meaning from texts. ★ <u>RL: M+C</u> standard 6 + 7 + 8 ★ <u>RL: L, C+S</u> 9, 10, 11 + 12	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to: i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal.	✓
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	✓
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
Please fix this! Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	?
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader. 4 Sections	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY: Page 183, 185, 197 ★ Empowering message in literacy + highly styled poetry. ★ Rare for poetry to become a #1 bestseller ★	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	✓
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly ^{subjective} offensive way.	?
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	High School
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	X
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: Book does contain descriptions of sexual activity + there are illustrations that are sexual in nature → Esp pg 13, 35, 73, 101, 105, 129 6 pages out of 204 ≠ Pervasive vulgarity.	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.			✓ 11+12
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.			✓ 11+12
The novel is appropriate to the content area.			✓ 11+12
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.			✓
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS: Sexual assault is an issue girls in high school face, this book contains an important message regarding the feelings of shame and the ability to heal. Could also help provide a sense of empathy w/ differing perspective. Finally, the last section is a powerful affirmation on the beauty of self acceptance			

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:

I cannot check any of these boxes with a right conscious. This book is describing in detail illegal sexual activity (rape) and therefore has no educational value. These inappropriate sexual descriptions make anything that could possibly be educational for students null and void. We do not provide illegal drugs for student consumption, nor should we provide books with descriptive sexual illegal activity for student consumption.

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
<p>The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal. 	X
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	X
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	X
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	X
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	X
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	X
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	X
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	X
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p> <p>Please see my notes for educational significance. I cannot mark that this book is a quality book when it makes many references to sexual activity in a very descriptive way.</p>	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	no
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	no
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	no
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	no

Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:

p. 13 - graphic depiction of sexual activity (illegal)
 p. 15 sexual conduct - offensive
 p. 31 sexual conduct - offensive
 p. 36 graphic depiction of sexual activity
 p. 38 sexual conduct - offensive (illegal)
 p. 57 descriptive sexual conduct - offensive
 p. 75 descriptive sexual conduct - offensive
 p. 77 top - sexual conduct - descriptive - offensive

Ch. 1 - the hurting - this is illegal activity

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.	no	no	no
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.	no	no	no
The novel is appropriate to the content area.	no	no	no
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.	no	no	no

Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS:

Same as above. Everything listed under "Avoidance of pervasive vulgarity" is considered inappropriate for minor children.

→ p. 13 - The drawing further shows the explicit sexual content unacceptable for children that may be triggered by sexual abuse

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	✓
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: <i>This is a book of poetry that tells of hurting, breaking, healing, & loving. It tells a person that they are not alone & can overcome pain & abuse</i>	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to: i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal.	
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	✓✓✓
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓✓
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: <i>Chapter 1</i>	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel is appropriate to the content area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS:			

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: -text addresses complex and relevant issues that lend themselves to analyze. The book starts with the trauma of being sexually assaulted ^{and an abusive father} through the process of growing/healing and then overcoming heartbreak when separating from a partner later. She is able to find strength within herself through powerful reflection	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
<p>The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal. 	✓
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	✓
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	✓
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p> <p>The novel is written in prose and written in a style that brings the reader through the emotions of the narrator. On page 89 the metaphor of black coffee offers an example of the complexity of emotions that the text dissects. It is very relatable to anyone that has suffered intense heartbreak from separation with a partner. The simple ink drawings complement the simple language that portrays complex emotions.</p>	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	
<p>Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:</p> <p>If someone were to focus on only the beginning when the narrator's trauma causes her to view sex very negatively, ^{and is explicit,} one might make the mistake of finding the text overly offensive. When taken as an entire text the themes unravel the healing process the narrator endured to find peace. It was an intensely powerful text. While the text refers to/hints strongly, it is not explicit.</p>	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12 ^{11/12}
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.			✓
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.			✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.			✓
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.			✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS:</p> <p>Concepts of love, heartbreak, and sexual relationships would not be appropriate below high school pages 12-13 (really the whole first chapter) depict the emptiness and trauma of the narrator's early experiences.</p>			

10 committee's 4 black person

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	✓
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: <i>multiple texts</i> <i>figurative language / symbolism / theme</i> <i>see female statement inside cover</i>	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
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Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	✓✓✓
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p> <p><u>4 parts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Hurting ② Loving ③ breaking ④ healing 	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY		Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.		✓
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.		✓
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.		✓
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	X	✓
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: pg 77 pg 101 pg 129		

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.			✓
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.		✓	
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.			✓
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS: pg 95 Times of suicide after a break up pg 165 emporium pg 177 (penis) The section The Healing makes everything else irrelevant			

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE		Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.		no
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance) <i>read for enjoyment</i>		✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.		no
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.		no
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.		✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection		no
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.		no
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:		
educational significance	<p>The material may appeal to the interests of some students in the school, however, student interest in this case does not merit the District supplying the material due to the obscene/graphic/suggestive content that, if one student were to text, communicate, or distribute to another student would be a direct violation of the Progressive Discipline Plan. If an adult were to text, communicate, or distribute to another person, it would be a violation of SC State Law Section 16-15-250 (Communicating obscene messages to other persons without consent). While reading for enjoyment is aligned to SC State Standards (e.g. Reading and Complexity), a reasonable person would not be able to equate reading of this text to improved academic achievement.</p>	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to: i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal.	no
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	no
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	no
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	no
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	no
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	no
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓

Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:

<i>high standard of quality/excellent quality</i>	While there are introspective, expressive poems in the text, quality is at best, subjective, and is overshadowed by the preponderance of obscene/graphic/suggestive depictions of sexual conduct that are used unnecessarily to make a point.
<i>high literary style</i>	The writer's voice and tone clearly come through in this descriptive work. This alone, however, does not necessarily meet a threshold of high literary style.
<i>well written</i>	Analyzed for the mechanics of writing, the book is written in a style of free verse poetry which exempts it from conventional rules of grammar and punctuation. Some of the poems are truly heartfelt, and if included in a book absent the obscene/graphic/suggestive depictions of sexual conduct, may be acceptable and appropriate for a 14+ audience.
<i>high artistic quality</i>	The illustrations in the book do not meet the threshold of high artistic quality, rather, they are reminiscent of pen-on-paper sketches one might create while listening to a lecture that doesn't engage the mind enough for the listener to take notes. It should be added that some of the illustrations are obscene/graphic/suggestive.
<i>reputation and significance of author</i>	The author is a 21-year-old college student. Simply because a book is nominated for an award (a Shorty Award Finalist) does not automatically merit reputation of the author. In fact, the work cheapens the value of poets, artists, and authors who worked at great lengths to hone their craft. Time will prove that this text will not become one of the cornerstone pieces of literature in the likes of authors such as Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Mark Twain, John Steinbeck, or Beverly Cleary.

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY		Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.		no
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.		no
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.		no
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.		no
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:		
<i>pervasive vulgarity</i>	Throughout the text, there are at a minimum, 27 obscene/graphic/suggestive descriptions, and depictions of sexual conduct. Some of the content is in relationship to rape and violations of the female body while other content pertains to what would otherwise be described as a mutual physical relationship. What the author calls love, however, is not true love in the sense that people who have been married for a long time understand love, rather the author's depiction is more akin to worldly lust, a concept often misconstrued for love. Illustrations on pages 13, 55, 101, 105, 113, 128, and 177 are unnecessary and would circumstantially be violations of the Progressive Discipline Plan and SC State Law.	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12				
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.	no	no	no				
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.	no	no	no				
The novel is appropriate to the content area.	no	no	no				
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.	no	no	no				
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS:							
<table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>suitable material for minors (appropriateness)</i></td><td colspan="3">The intended audience for the text is 14+. Prevailing community standards would not allow for the obscene/graphic/suggestive depictions of sexual conduct in this book to be considered suitable material for minors. SC State Law Section 16-15-305 (Disseminating, procuring or promoting obscenity unlawful) states that it is a violation of state law for [paraphrased] <i>a person to knowingly provide or offer any obscene writing, picture or other representation or description of the obscene</i>. The law goes on to define <i>obscene</i>, and <i>sexual conduct</i> in ways that are aligned to IS – 38, appealing the <i>average person</i> and <i>community standard</i>.</td></tr> </table>				<i>suitable material for minors (appropriateness)</i>	The intended audience for the text is 14+. Prevailing community standards would not allow for the obscene/graphic/suggestive depictions of sexual conduct in this book to be considered suitable material for minors. SC State Law Section 16-15-305 (Disseminating, procuring or promoting obscenity unlawful) states that it is a violation of state law for [paraphrased] <i>a person to knowingly provide or offer any obscene writing, picture or other representation or description of the obscene</i> . The law goes on to define <i>obscene</i> , and <i>sexual conduct</i> in ways that are aligned to IS – 38, appealing the <i>average person</i> and <i>community standard</i> .		
<i>suitable material for minors (appropriateness)</i>	The intended audience for the text is 14+. Prevailing community standards would not allow for the obscene/graphic/suggestive depictions of sexual conduct in this book to be considered suitable material for minors. SC State Law Section 16-15-305 (Disseminating, procuring or promoting obscenity unlawful) states that it is a violation of state law for [paraphrased] <i>a person to knowingly provide or offer any obscene writing, picture or other representation or description of the obscene</i> . The law goes on to define <i>obscene</i> , and <i>sexual conduct</i> in ways that are aligned to IS – 38, appealing the <i>average person</i> and <i>community standard</i> .						

