BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 45 **Date** 4/5/23

Name of Novel The Truth About Alice by Mathieu, Jennifer

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:

RL 8.1: Analyze how characters or a series of ideas or events is introduced, connected, + developed within a particular context

RL 11.1: analyze + provide evidence of how the author choice of point of view, perspective, + purpose shape content, meaning, + style

anti-bullying

Multiple perspectives - text complexity, high interest to promote literacy

realistic representation of teen life in small town + impact of lies + rumors

many connections to issues teens face (see relevant topics p. 2)

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:

Though the multiple perspectives add to text complexity, the novel is still highly readable & engaging

Literary allusions (The Outsider, Spoon River Anthology)

↗ in author's comments in back of book she wanted to create a high school version

Engaging for reluctant readers, accessible

Relevant topics: bullying, bystanders, death, guilt, blame, shame, regret, rumors, peer pressure, eating disorders, lies, insecurity, body image, community division w/ football, jealousy, believing rumors at face value, popularity contests, slut shaming, social stratification, AND friendship, honesty, trust, resilience, overcoming adversity, kindness, truth, consent, forgiveness, empathy

Ethical values & dilemmas

Negative consequences for poor choices/risky behavior
- accuracy of risks w/ drinking & driving (death) and sex (pregnancy)
- choosing what is right vs what is easy/popular
- impact of bullying

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.	✓

Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:

though sex is clearly alluded to, the only sex that actually occurs in the book is not described in any detail and the characters involved face negative consequences (a common literary trope) (also serves as a "warning" to readers)
many examples of negative consequences for risky behavior (drinking + driving, sex, not questioning rumors/what's heard, etc.)

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:

high school setting, small-town setting ↗ power of rumors & lies to ruin lives: can the damage ever be undone?
lack of excessive profanity
lack of sexually explicit content
realistic situations & setting & characters & language - how teens talk
negative consequences for poor choices & risky behavior
honest portrayal of high school life, for girls especially
ethical values + dilemmas - what's right vs what's acceptable, popular, cool
if kids can empathize w/ characters in stories like these, maybe they will be more reflective & make better choices in their own lives

maybe upper middle school, uncertain about 6th grade

see relevant topics on p2

Publisher: McMillan/Roaring Brook Press (division)

Recognition:
- Good Reads Choice Award - Debut Goodreads Author
- CBC Children's Choice Book Award - Debut Author - Teen Choice
- Amazon list of top 20 teen/YA books (2014)

author:
- HS English teacher
- 4th novel now film on Netflix
- 6th novel re-imagining of The Outsiders (classic, ref w/in text)

Age: School Library Journal recommends grade 7 + up

New Standards (2022) - effective 24-25 (?)

ELA.E1.ACR.1.1 - Analyze how perspective, context, +/or key elements deepen meaning or enhance style
- 3.1 - Analyze how an author creates effects such as suspense or humor through differences in the perspectives of the characters + the reader
- 4.1 - Analyze ~~to~~ an author's perspective or purpose in a text, + analyze how the author's rhetoric contributes to the effectiveness of the text
- 5.1 - Analyze how an author's choices in structuring a text including the manipulation of time, create effects such as mystery, tension, +/or suspense

Skills referenced - critical thinking, problem solving, considering diverse perspectives

ELA.E1.CE.1 - Read + write for a variety of purposes, including academic and personal, for extended periods of time
↳ engaging, high-interest choice for reluctant readers

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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:

Anti bulling – empathy building
Different perspectives thru Chapter Narration

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: Easy to read, Straight forward Young adult author - sensitive to hard subjects	

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.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: Not vulgar or offensive.	

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: Relative and appropnate for high school students.			

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 45 **Date** 04/05/2023

Name of Novel The Truth About Alice by Mathieu, Jennifer

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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:	

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.	✓
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.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:	

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:			

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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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:

The novel allows readers multiple perspectives of the same story which is always what we want books to be for students... windows (so they can see another's perspective) and mirrors (so they can identify with characters or situations in novels).

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: The book has high quality book reviews from reputable contributors.	

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.	✓

Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:

The novel is not vulgar or offensive. It deals with issues that real high school students likely face.

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:

The novel is not inappropriate for the age, grade, maturity level, content area, etc. The novel reflects current communities.

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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. Engaging Foreshadowing	?
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: There are elements of character education that can be pulled from the storyline.

- Engaging/Promotes Literacy
- Anti-bullying elements

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.	✓
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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: Easy to read. Told from perspective of multiple characters. No grammatical or content errors. - Well written - Comprehensible	

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.	✓

Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: Free of graphic depictions. Mention of a minor engaging in oral sex. Verbiage = "blowjob".

Questionable for younger students/children.

Reading Level 12-17yrs
7th & 8th grade rdg level

Not "Pervasive"/ As a whole, Not Vulgar

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

Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS: Some mention of sex, oral sex + teen abortion. (Mature topics) Appropriate for high school/older middle school.