BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 35 **Date** _____

Name of Novel Wintergirls by Anderson, Laurie Halse

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
1.	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.	
2.	The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
3.	The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
4.	The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
5.	The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓

Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:

3. Acknowledgments; — reflects needs/interests —
5. Descriptions of content: — cross outs - # calories —
"p7 - "When I was a real girl" — distorted internal logic
2. whole process for Lia —
note on censorship — interview w/Ali
courage to talk about things
parents don't
misleading wisdom from kids —
Readily accessible on internet

	QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
1.	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.	✓
2.	Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
3.	The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	
4.	The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	
5.	The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
6.	Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	✓
7.	The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
8.	The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
	Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY: 1. Acknowledgments re: professionals – 2. Written 2009 – still publishing 5. Have no idea re: – any of these things – 6/7 Reviews talk of reality and clarity – 8. Realistic portrayal of situations easy to visualize p. 69 – "It took her. suicide attempt love for sister Emma	

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: NONE	

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 environment - mixed emotions - crossing out - p. 117. blog entries - p. 111			

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 35 **Date** 3.15.2023

Name of Novel Wintergirls by Anderson, Laurie Halse

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: In my opinion there is evidence that relates to the educational significance that we as a district are looking for.	

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: There are no errors in the text. The text is written in a prose style a great example is on pg 15 paragraph 1 starting at the sentence "For one"	

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 applicable	

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: Starting on pgs 223-238 while beautifully written in my opinion may not be appropriate for a person in this situation. The gravity of the actions on these pages is very alarming and could be hard for someone in high school who has body dismorphica or other disorders to be able to handle. However, it gives a positive message about how to overcome this disorder and how to get the help they need.			

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 35 **Date** 3/15/23

Name of Novel Wintergirls by Anderson, Laurie Halse

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:

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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: Very well written - elements of poetry and stylistic choices that engage the reader (strike throughs repetition block quotes) Tackles difficult subject matter head-on providing perspective of the main character to the reader.	

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:

Incredibly vivid and descriptive story telling
Variety of literary techniques used throughout to heighten emotional content and enhance the plot

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: There are virtually no references to sexual activity	

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: Content Warning: • self-harm/suicide • eating disorders • mental illness Wintergirls provides a detailed descriptive narrative of a young woman (18) fighting for survival wit anorexia. Illustrates the personal struggle, but also demonstrates support from caring family members. Novel will be helpful for friends and family of survivors, but provided with caution to those suffering. There are many reasons this book can be valuable to students at the H.S. Level.			

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 35 **Date** 03-15-2023

Name of Novel Wintergirls by Anderson, Laurie Halse

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:

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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: NONE!	

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
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 35 **Date** 15 March, 2023

Name of Novel Wintergirls by Anderson, Laurie Halse

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:

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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: See attached details	

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: See attached details	

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: See attached details	

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: See attached details			

***Wintergirls* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Educational Significance

1. This novel supports BCSD's mission, vision, and goals by providing a "personalized learning approach" in the selection of choice reading materials and supporting a "diverse community" of students with material that reflects the student body. Lia is a young girl suffering from a life-threatening eating disorder, she cuts herself to cope, finds out her former best friend is dead under what could be suspicious circumstances, and then begins to suffer visions/hallucinations and believes she is being haunted by Cassie's ghost. Body image and friendship are heightened topics in teen years and *Wintergirls* gives students a chance to see what someone suffering from a severe eating disorder is dealing with.
2. The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners due to its being both a realistic portrait of body image issues and a mystery/ghost story since we don't know how or why Lia's friend Cassie died alone in a motel room, why Lia is seeing Cassie's ghost, or why Lia didn't answer the phone when Cassie called her that night. Many students actively seek out realistic fiction, mystery, and ghost stories when choosing books for personal reading and as an academic supplement to assignments, the addition of relatable topics of body image and friendship makes it even more appealing. National School Library Standards VC1 states "learners develop and satisfy personal curiosity by reading widely and deeply in multiple formats" and numerous peer-reviewed research studies show the correlation between improved academic achievement and reading.
3. This novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills because of the real-world scenario and life choices Lia is faced with. Lia has acute body image issues, she has been hospitalized, rehabilitated and attends therapy, but she is still able to hide her continued downward spiral and the cutting she uses to cope from her divorced parents. *Wintergirls* could be an optional companion novel to research projects investigating eating disorders and the impact of divorce on teen health issues which is applicable across all middle and high school ELA curricula, Health Science curricula, and Media Literacy standards.
4. This novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and culture of the community through the inclusion of everyday situations that students face: the characters' response to the loss of a friendship due to parental restriction, the death of a friend, familiarity with eating disorders, cutting as a coping mechanism, drugs, alcohol, bullying, and our shared commitment to protecting students and eradicating this behavior. The subject matter is relevant, highly relatable, and present in our schools today. The traumatic events in *Wintergirls* are not unique and happen across the nation and right here in Beaufort County, they are a direct reflection of some of our student's lived experiences.
5. *Wintergirls* adds value to the school library collection. It has already been vetted and selected by school librarians for inclusion into the collection based on Admin Regulation IS-38 selection criteria. It is also representative of our student body and provides numerous examples of positive behavior and supports in light of difficult circumstances. (I stopped marking them halfway through the book because I might as well have been marking every page!) But a few examples include:

a. Support given/received by siblings and parents (page 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 17, 26, 35, 45, 48, 50, 61, 63, 66, 69, 71, 73, 74, 101, 110, 124, 125, 126, …)
b. Support given/received by friends/groups (page 11, 20, 91, 92, 115-117, 120, 131, 136, 142…)
c. Self-awareness, introspection, and actualizations in dire circumstances (page 4, 6, 7, 9, 56, 62, 64, 74, 78, 83, 103, 147, 161, 164, 165…)
d. Bystander intervention (page 40)
e. Mature observations and expression of feelings or events (page 5, 11, 15, 26, 65, 68, 79, 104, 151, 155, 166…)

Quality, Content, Manner of Representation

1. *Wintergirls* is a highly engaging and suspenseful read, representative of students and student perspectives here in BCSD. It is free of textual errors and is organized in a format that makes it highly desirable for students. The use of crossed-out words to signify what Lia is really thinking but either can't say or says in exchange for what she should be saying is so relatable for teens (the inner vs. outer monologue), as is the language style, thought process, and justification for Lia's continued self-harm.
2. Laurie Halse Anderson is a highly acclaimed author.
    a. New York Times Bestselling Author
    b. Two-time National Book Award nominee
    c. 2023 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Winner (Worlds Largest Children's Book Prize)
    d. 2016 - 2022 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Candidate
    e. 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award, American Association of Community Colleges
    f. 2015 Intellectual Freedom Award, National Council of Teachers of English
    g. 2011 Free Speech Defender Award, National Coalition Against Censorship
    h. 2010 School Library Month Spokesperson for American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA)
    i. 2009 Margaret A. Edwards Award, given by the American Library Association for significant and lasting achievement in young adult literature
    j. 2008 Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) Award, given to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the field of adolescent literature
    k. 2002 Free Library of Philadelphia/Drexel University Children's Literature Citation
3. *Wintergirls* can be found for purchase anywhere for about $10 which is highly valuable with regards to the amount of circulation it would receive and would be cost-effective.
4. It has high artistic quality and an engaging literary style, the text features, continuous chapter headings in succession, dialogue, the hint of a ghost story as Lia battles with the presence of her best friend's ghost (real or imagined) lends directly to English Language standards for decoding text and identifying literary elements and plot devices.
5. *Wintergirls* does not deal with issues of race, sexual activity, religion, or culture. It is highly sensitive in how it deals with issues related to disabilities, mental health, and socioeconomic status in that Lia's parents are affluent and can afford to provide rehab for her disorder but this fact is not flaunted.

6. *Wintergirls* has a high degree of readability as there is both a mystery as to how Cassie died until the last third of the book and then deciding whether Lia is actually experiencing a haunting by her best friend or if it's just a psychotic episode brought on by her eating disorder. Additional discussion questions and acknowledgments by the author tie up any confusion and loose ends.

Avoidance of Pervasive Vulgarity

1. *Wintergirls* does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful or erotic way as sex is not part of the story.
2. There are no sex scenes.
3. *Wintergirls* abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to being suitable material for minors. There are about a dozen curse words. The only reason it is challenged is that someone (who is not a professional review source) gave it an arbitrary rating of 3 out of 5 on booklooks.org complete with out-of-context passages that describe Lia's mental state, her thought process, and actions as she suffers from her affliction. No one is saying Lia's behavior is ok. It shows the misidentified bad and none of the hope that comes right behind it in the form of a family that won't let her continue down that path despite their own problems and Lia's own admissions and thoughts to counter the negative ideas like suicide. Teen girls are suffering from eating disorders, I see them every day. They are taking diet pills, laxatives, and diuretics, eating 1000 calories (if that), and going to extremes to fit into the perfect social media image, they are hurting themselves to cope with the pressures they have not yet learned how to deal with, again, I see it every day so why would we gatekeep this book that may help one of those students realize the end of that path is death and come out of it just like Lia did?
4. There are NO depictions of sexual activity - graphic or otherwise.

Appropriateness

1. Professional review sources recommend this book for ages 12 and up, and after full review of the material, I believe it is appropriate for middle and high school readers. Though Lia turns 18 in this story the problem starts when they are in elementary and bullied, Cassie begins her Belimic journey at the age of 11, then in middle school they discover alcohol and laxatives and vow to be the skinniest best friends ever. These are experiences that middle and high school students encounter and discuss with each other.
2. As for maturity, this novel is appropriate for mature readers in middle and high school. Readers that aren't experiencing body dysmorphia would benefit from learning the psychological mess that occurs to the one suffering. Readers that are suffering can recognize the early signs and may be able to make a change before they end up like Cassie or Lia.
3. This novel easily supports English curriculum and standards (linked below) as a supporting text for analyzing and interpreting meaning and context for each grade level, discovering relationship themes via friends or family/step-family, and is applicable to national school library standards previously mentioned.

4. *Wintergirls* reflects the contemporary standards of a community that seeks to support concerned families as they navigate the many issues with body image and self-harm that young girls are experiencing and prevent the significant risk to health it incurs, we should be that community.

SC ELA Standards via Rubicon Atlas
https://beaufort.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/References/Standards/View/Default?ShowKey=1&AllStatuses=1&localStandards=1&DistrictID=1&FromReferences=1&