



District Review Committee Report

11/07/2023

Dear Complainant, D5 Superintendent, and D5 Board of Trustees,

Per D5 Board Policy KEC and AR KEC-R, the District Review Committee report, reflecting the majority opinion, is outlined below.

Throughout the process, the District Review Committee kept in mind the instructions to the evaluating committee which are as follows:

The board directs the evaluating committees to bear in mind the principles of the freedom to learn and to read. The committees must base their decisions on these principles rather than on defense of individual materials. Freedom of inquiry is vital to education in a democracy.

The committee should study all materials thoroughly and read available reviews. The committee should check the general acceptance of the materials by consulting standard evaluation aids and local holdings in other schools. The District Review Committee did not pull passages or parts out of context and weighed the values and faults against each other. The District Review committee based its opinions on the material as a whole.

Committee Member School or Community Representation:

CHS, CRIS, DFHS, IHS, SHHS, DO

A list of committee members and their positions First & Last Name, position:

Carol Lunsford (District Supervisor of Library Media Services), Margaret Adams (Secondary Lead Librarian/SHHS), Elisa Westfall (District Teacher of the Year/CRIS), Gerald Gary (Secondary Principal/DFHS), Tracey Werts (CHS PTO), April Alsop (IHS PTO), Mohamad Azhar (DFHS SIC), Richard Coffy (SHHS SIC), and Molly Lauder (CHS SIC)

Title of the Book Being Challenged & Author:

A Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah Maas

A statement ensuring that each committee member read the material in its entirety:

Each member of the committee has read the book A Court of Mist & Fury by Sarah Maas in its entirety.

A list of review source(s) consulted:

SC Department of Education Standards for School Library Resource Collections, Goodreads, Amazon Reviews, Common Sense Media, Kirkus Reviews, Publisher's Weekly, The Department of Defense MWR Teen Library, School Library Journal, Barnes & Noble, Bookweb, NY Times Book Review: Young Adult Best Seller List, The New York Times, JuJu, BookLooks, The Children's Book Council, Miller vs California court case, SC Article 3, The Authors Guild, The Daily Beast, Fox43, Literary Hub, Public Library (Lexington, Richland, Harris), Follett, Booklist, Horn Book Magazine, EBSCO: The Island Packet, Bookshare

A statement of majority opinion:

In accordance with School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties Board Policy KEC, the District Review Committee met on November 7, 2023, to discuss the challenge to A Court of Mist & Fury by Sarah Maas. The Committee came to a consensus that the book is acceptable and appropriate for School District Five high school libraries.

The committee's final decision:

As a result of the committee's review, all copies of Court of Mist & Fury will be returned to circulation immediately.

Committee Member Signatures:

<u>Carol Lunsford</u>	<u>Mona Azhar</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>April Alsop</u>	<u>Molly Rowden</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Elisa Wooten</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>