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Purpose

The Pequea Valley School Board shall provide instructional and evaluative materials to implement and support the district's and the schools' educational goals and academic standards.[2][3][6]

Definitions

Resource materials shall include reference books, supplementary titles, multimedia materials, maps, library books, book fairs, software and instructional material.

"Excessive or Gratuitous Profanity" – the pervasive use of profane, vulgar or other language that offends good taste or propriety contained within materials, such that the materials taken as a whole does not offer serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for the intended student audience.

"Excessive or Gratuitous Sexuality" – the description or depiction of human genitals in a sexual manner or the fondling or touching of the human genitals, buttocks or breasts in a sexual manner contained within materials, such that the material when taken as whole appeals to prurient interests in sex and does not offer serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for the intended student audience.

"Excessive or Gratuitous Graphic Violence" – the pervasive description or depiction of violence in a vivid, brutal or realistic manner contained with material, such that the material, when taken as whole, does not offer serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for the intended student audience.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent, after consultation with the administration and teaching staff, shall be responsible for the selection, recommendation, and maintenance of all resource materials. No adoption or change of materials shall be made without the Superintendent's recommendation, except by a two-thirds vote of the Board.[3]

The Superintendent shall implement the following procedure for resource materials.

Guidelines

Selection procedures for resource materials shall be developed which:

1. Appoint appropriate administrative and instructional staff to select resource materials, subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

2. Ensure that the Board's budgetary allotment for resource materials is spent efficiently and distributed equitably throughout the instructional program.

3. Ensure an inventory of resource materials that is well-balanced and well-rounded in coverage of subject, types of materials, and variety of content.

4. Evaluate the effectiveness of resource materials presently in use.

5. Direct staff to consult a variety of media sources before selections are made.

Resource materials shall be selected in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. All resource materials, including internet, YouTube videos, documentaries, etc., shall be suited to the varied interests, abilities, reading levels, and maturation levels of the students to be served. These selections will not contain excessive or gratuitous profanity, excessive or gratuitous sexuality, and excessive or gratuitous graphic violence, such that the material taken as a whole does not offer serious literary, artistic, political, historical or scientific value for the intended student audience.

2. Wherever possible, materials shall be selected to provide opposing views on controversial issues so that students may develop critical reading and thinking skills.

3. Wherever possible, materials shall represent varied religious, ethnic, gender and cultural groups and their contribution to American heritage.

4. Materials shall be factually accurate and of genuine literary or artistic value.

5. Materials shall be of a quality and durability appropriate to their intended use and longevity.

6. Materials shall relate to, support, and enrich the courses of planned instruction adopted by the Board.[4]

A listing of all resource materials shall be made available for the information of the professional staff, Board members, students, parents/guardians, and community.[5]

Weeding Resource Materials

Weeding is the continuous process of withdrawing and discarding materials that are no longer suitable for the resource materials collection. This process maintains the high level of quality and relevance of resource materials.

Resource materials that meet the following criteria may be discarded:

1. Poor physical condition.

2. Contains outdated content that is obsolete, inaccurate, or misleading.

3. Superseded by new or revised editions.

4. Seldomly circulated.

5. Duplicates (once popular but no longer in demand).

6. No longer suitable to the age group or interests of the readers.

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Resource Materials

Whenever a ~~citizen~~ parent/guardian has a complaint or question concerning resource materials, the following steps will be taken:

1. Conference with the teacher and/or building principal.

2. If the matter is not resolved within fifteen (15) days, a complaint form shall be filed with the Superintendent.

3. If the matter is not resolved within the next fifteen (15) days, a request shall be made to the Board Secretary to place the item on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting. The decision of the Board will be rendered, in writing, to the interested parties.