

Library Material District Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 16 JANUARY 2024 / 3:30 PM / TRUSSELL HALL

Meeting called to order at 3:33pm

Present Members: Legge-Beekman, Lopez, Timpe, Mokhtari, Graves, Cutchin, Clark, Vitale

Absent Member: Dussia

SSC Members Burroughs, Zdunich, Grassy are not part of the District Review Committee.

Legge-Beekman welcomes everyone and explains this is an open meeting of the SSC's subcommittee, the Library Material District Review Committee, to discuss 19 books in question for the school's library.

Legge-Beekman provides a list of all books in groups according to series. Legge-Beekman begins the discussion with group #1.

Group #1:

Series: 21st Century Skills Library: Racial Justice in America: AAPI Histories

- Angel Island Immigration Station
- Colonization of Hawai'i
- Japanese American Incarceration
- Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement in the US

Group #1 Voting:

- Restricted in the library for Upper Grades only (grade 5 - 8): 6 votes in favor
- Restricted in the library for Special Reserve: 1 vote in favor
- No inclusion in the library collection: 1 vote in favor

Group #1 Decision:

Books are approved for grades 5 - 8, in line with the publisher's intended grade level. The majority of the Committee sees educational value in the books and does not see lack of appropriateness for minors in the material, nor factual incorrectness.

Legge-Beekman introduces Group #2:

Series: 21st Century Skills Library: Racial Justice in America: Asian American Pacific Islander

- What is Asian-Black Solidarity?
- What is the Model Minority Myth?
- What is the Forever Foreigner Stereotype?
- What is Yellow Peril?

Group #2 Voting:

- Restricted in the library for Upper Grades only (grade 5 - 8): 6 votes in favor
- Restricted in the library for Special Reserve: 1 vote in favor
- No inclusion in the library collection: 1 vote in favor

Group #2 Decision:

Books are approved for grades 5 - 8, in line with the publisher's intended grade level. The majority of the Committee sees educational value in the books and does not see lack of appropriateness for minors in the material, nor factual incorrectness.

Legge-Beekman introduces Group #3:

Series: 21st Century Skills Library: Racial Justice in America

- What is Anti-racism?
- What are My Rights?
- What is the Black Lives Matter Movement?
- What Does It Mean to Defund the Police?
- How Can I Be an Ally?
- What is White Privilege?

Group #3 Voting:

On the book "What Does It Mean to Defund the Police":

- Restricted in the library for Middle Grades only (grade 7 - 8): 5 votes in favor
- No inclusion in the library collection: 3 votes in favor

On the other 5 books in this group:

- Restricted in the library for Middle Grades only (grade 7 - 8): 5 votes in favor
- Restricted in the library for Special Reserve: 1 vote in favor
- No inclusion in the library collection: 2 votes in favor

Group #3 Decision:

Books are approved for grades 7 - 8. The majority of the committee sees educational value in these books as they discuss current events. The books in this group deal with more abstract topics than the books in groups 1 and 2, which are mainly describing historic events. Additionally, the books in group 3 have more references to violent historic events than the books in groups 1 and 2. For these reasons the majority of the committee finds the books not appropriate for grades 5 - 6.

The committee recognizes that the book "What Does It Mean to Defund the Police" (in particular its cover) can be offensive to members of the community. The content of the book mainly provides definitions for terms that are used in discussions about police reform and does not endorse police reform. Therefore the

majority of the committee does not want to further restrict the access to this book other than to grades 7 - 8.

Legge-Beekman introduces Group #4 :

Series: Challenges for Democracy

- Clash of Powers: The President Versus Congress
- Media Literacy: Information and Disinformation
- Political Parties: Division and Distrust
- The Supreme Court: Activism Versus Restraint
- Voting: Rights and Suppression

Group #4 Voting:

On the book "The Supreme Court: Activism Versus Restraint":

- No inclusion in the library collection: 5 in favor
- Restricted in the library for Special Reserve: 2 votes in favor
- Abstained from voting: 1

On the other 4 books in this group:

- Restricted in the library for Middle Grades only (grade 7 - 8): 5 votes in favor
- No inclusion in the library collection: 2 votes in favor
- Abstained from voting: 1

Group # 4 Decision:

The book "The Supreme Court: Activism Versus Restraint" will not be included in the library collection, because of the high technical reading level required to understand this book, and for age-inappropriate content in Chapter 3.

The other books in this group are approved for grades 7 - 8. The majority of the committee sees educational value as the books relate to current events and civics. However, these books require a high technical reading level and cover abstract ideas. The majority of the committee therefore did not find these books appropriate for grades 5 - 6.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:34pm