



Instructional Materials

By Dr. Liann Hanson, Director of Standards-Based Instruction

Decision Regarding Baby Olivia Video

Fargo Public Schools wants to update its community, parents, and staff on a recent review process regarding educational materials, specifically the Baby Olivia video by Live Action. As part of our commitment to ensuring the appropriateness and accuracy of instructional resources, FPS thoroughly reconsidered this material.

The process began when we received reconsideration forms from concerned parents regarding the Baby Olivia video. This computer-generated animation depicts the development of a human fetus from conception to birth.

We take all reconsideration requests seriously, diligently following Policy 4250 to address concerns and ensure a fair and comprehensive review. Following the procedures outlined in Policy 4250, a committee was formed to review the material. The committee meticulously examined the video against rubrics and criteria designed to evaluate its educational value, accuracy, relevance, and appropriateness for our students.

After careful consideration, the committee found that while the Baby Olivia video met or exceeded expectations in many areas, it fell short in key areas of concern. Specifically, the video contained significant inaccuracies in its depiction of fetal development, including misrepresented timelines and inaccurate information about major organ development.

Medical experts, including the American Medical Association, have identified these inaccuracies as potentially misleading. Furthermore, the video's limited appeal and lack of research-based data on its effectiveness raised additional concerns about its suitability for classroom instruction within Fargo Public Schools.

Based on these findings, the committee decided to deny the use of the Baby Olivia video within our school district. This decision reflects our unwavering commitment to upholding educational standards and ensuring that our students access factually accurate and developmentally appropriate instructional materials.

Moving forward, we will prioritize selecting high-quality educational resources that align with curriculum standards, promote critical thinking, and provide students with a well-rounded education. We truly appreciate your dedication to our students' well-being and education. We remain committed to fostering a learning environment that values accuracy, inclusivity, and excellence.

