

Educational Materials/Library Media Materials Review Committee Organization Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2020
4:00 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Because of the current health emergency, this meeting was held virtually, via Zoom. The media and public could access the meeting via the live stream broadcast on the Appleton Area School District YouTube Channel or through remote attendance via phone.

The following committee members were present via ZOOM: Margaret Kubek, Cassandra Toeppler, Dana Mattingly, Nicole Argall, Kristin Otis, Abby Danforth, Abbie Blood, Joel Cannon, Dave Pynenberg, Carrie Willer, Todd Kadolph, Amy Pritzl, Michael Roush, James Huggins, Ben Vogel, Aubrie Miller, and Kenzie Coonen. Committee members consist of students, staff, administrators, and community members.

The Committee's Chairperson Lynne Devaney, AASD Director of English Language Arts (ELA) & Social Studies (Gr. 7-12), and World Languages & Library Media Specialists (K-12), was also present along with and Sara Wayland (AASD LMC Program Coordinator), and Kimm Smith (AASD Executive Assistant).

Materials were U.S. mailed to all committee members, which included Educational Materials Selection Policy 361.1/361.1-Rule; Library Media Materials Selection Policy 361.2/361.2-Rule; and the Library Bill of Rights.

Lynne had all committee members introduce themselves and briefly share "how" they like to read (paper/digital) as well as "what" they like to read.

Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of the committee is to bring reconsideration request(s) of materials before a district-wide committee. The committee will represent the District, Students, and the Community. The committee is charged with weighing the merits of the request against the educational suitability of the material and then making a recommendation on the suitability of the complaint.

The committee shall comply with the directive of Wisconsin Statute 121.02(1)(h) that each school board shall provide adequate instructional materials, texts and library services, which reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society.

Review of Policies

- Educational Materials Selection Policy 361.1 and 361.1-Rule
 - Consists of textbooks and supplementary materials that we use in the AASD
 - Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction (ACI) administrators select educational materials, which are consistent with the selection of educational materials criteria in the policy
 - ACI administrators work with professional staff in the District to make selections
 - Requests for new textbooks and materials go to the Board of Education for approval
- Library Media Materials Selection Policy 361.2 and 361.2-Rule
 - Consists of library/media materials that we use in the AASD
 - School districts receive an annual distribution of earnings from the Common School Fund, which are used to purchase library books and other instructional materials. State Statutes must be followed when using these funds.
 - LMC Specialists, professional trained and certified in library management with a Masters in their field, work with teachers, students, to develop a process the represents and supports the curriculum.
 - Not every single LMC title is approved by the Board as they are chosen by these professional trained and certified LMC specialists.

Criteria for Selection

- Educational Materials Selection Policy 361.1 and 361.1-Rule
 - Align with the educational goals of AASD regarding District, State and National standards.
 - Developmentally appropriate.
 - High standards of factual content and presentation.
 - Have factual, aesthetic, literary, ethical and social value.
 - Be written by competent and qualified authors representing their field.
 - Represents the pluralistic nature of our society and fosters respect.
 - Represents levels of difficulty with diverse appeal and offers differing points of view.
 - Be judged on the author's intent as opposed to single words, phrases, pictures or incidents taken out of context.
- Library Media Materials Selection Policy 361.2 and 361.2-Rule
 - Consistent with the educational goals of the District.
 - Developmentally appropriate.
 - High standards of factual content and presentation.
 - Have factual, aesthetic, literary, ethical and social value.
 - Be written by competent and qualified authors representing their field.
 - Represents the pluralistic nature of our society and fosters respect.
 - Represents levels of difficulty with diverse appeal and offers differing points of view.
 - Be judged on the author's intent as opposed to single words, phrases, pictures or incidents taken out of context.

Procedures for Handling Objections

As a public school district, each parent has the right to object to specific materials for their child but does not have the right to limit other students' access to the same materials.

- Educational Materials Selection Policy 361.1 and 361.1-Rule

- **Step 1:** Resolve at the school level.
- **Step 2:** In writing, Complainant uses the District's Request for Reconsideration of Educational Materials form. Send to the Superintendent. If the nature of the complaint is discriminatory in nature, the Complainant may also follow the District's Student Nondiscrimination Complaint Procedures (Policy 411.1).
- **Step 3:** The Library Media Materials Review Committee is convened by the Chair (Devaney). Materials are reviewed. Recommendation sent to the Superintendent.
- **Step 4:** The Superintendent reviews the recommendation. The Superintendent ratifies, amends or overrules the recommendation of the Committee.
- **Step 5:** The Complainant may appeal to the Board
- Library Media Materials Selection Policy 361.2 and 361.2-Rule
 - **Step 1:** Resolve at the school level.
 - **Step 2:** In writing, Complainant uses the District's Request for Reconsideration of Library Media Material form. Send to the Superintendent.
 - **Step 3:** The Library Media Materials Review Committee is convened by the Chair (Devaney). Materials are reviewed. Recommendation sent to the Superintendent.
 - **Step 4:** The Superintendent reviews the recommendation. The Superintendent ratifies, amends or overrules the recommendation of the Committee.
 - **Step 5:** The Complainant may appeal to the Board of Education. The action of the Board of Education is final.

Previous Objections

- The last formal objection was in 2010 for the novel, "The Body of Christopher Creed."
- Since that point, any concerns/considerations have been handled without the needs of reconvening the committee(s).

Adjourn

No discussion took place following the presentation; therefore, the meeting adjourned at 4:39 PM.

The meeting in its entirety can be viewed at any time on the District's YouTube Channel. The video is titled "Educational Materials/Library Materials Review Committee Organizational Meeting (October 19, 2020)."