File: IJLA-R

RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The Webster School Committee will only consider a challenge to library materials if the challenge is submitted via the appropriate district form by an individual who is a staff member employed by a school overseen by the Webster School Committee, a parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled in such a school, or a student currently enrolled in such a school.

Upon receipt of such a challenge, the Superintendent will notify the School Committee, who will provide public notice such a challenge was received. The School Committee then shall hold a public hearing regarding the challenge.

The Superintendent will, in consultation with the School Committee, appoint a Review Committee of school personnel to review the material challenged. The committee shall include personnel with expertise in library acquisition and curation and in age-appropriate pedagogy. The review committee shall meet as required by the Open Meeting Law to consider if the material has educational, literary, artistic, personal, or social value and is age appropriate for the students of the school where the library is housed. Only if the material is void of any such value or is not age-appropriate for the students at the school shall the material be found by the review committee to be considered for removal. Such removal only may take place by majority vote of the School Committee.

The decision of the School Committee to remove materials from a school library may be challenged by a student, parent, or guardian of the school in supreme or superior court.

During the period of time the challenge is being considered, such material shall remain on the shelves of the school library and in circulation.

If the decision of the School Committee is that the questioned instructional resource be retained, the District will not convene a Review Committee relative to the same complaint for a period of three years. If a substantially different point of view is advanced, it will be investigated. The period of three years does not apply in this instance.

After the School Committee has adopted new materials or approved certain methods, that decision will not be reconsidered for a period of three years beginning with the end of the school year when the adoption is made.

LEGAL REFS.: MGL Ch. 30A; 71, sec. 82A, B, C; 249, sec.5

603 CMR 26.00

CROSS REFS.: BDF: Advisory Committees to the School Committee IB: Academic Freedom

NOTE: The Massachusetts Library Systems have created resources aligned with this policy for use by Massachusetts Public Schools.

SOURCE: MASC 2026

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