

CHAPTER 4.00 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

4.17

CHALLENGED MATERIALS

POLICY:

The following procedures shall be followed when the appropriateness of District-adopted books or materials is questioned:

- (1) School-community citizens may register their concerns with the Superintendent or principal of the school where material is being challenged.
- (2) All concerns shall be presented in writing on a printed form that is available in each school office, the Superintendent's office, or on the District website. The written objection must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the adoption of the material. A complainant who does not complete and return the form within the required time shall receive no consideration. The statement shall include the following information:
 - (a) Author, compiler, or editor;
 - (b) Publisher;
 - (c) Title;
 - (d) Reason for objection;
 - (e) Page number of each item challenged; and,
 - (f) Signature, address and telephone number of person making the complaint.
- (3) Within thirty (30) days after the initial thirty-day period has expired, the School Board shall conduct at least one public hearing on all petitions received during the thirty-day time period. The petitioner(s) shall be notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing.
- (4) The contested material shall be made available to the public online at least seven (7) days before the hearing.
- (5) The decision of the School Board, after convening a hearing, shall be final and not subject to further review or petition.

CHAPTER 4.00 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The following procedures shall be followed for other objections to instructional materials:

- (1) A parent, as defined by Florida Statutes, may object to his/her child's use of a specific instructional material or an adult student may object to the use of a specific material in his/her instructional program. The parent or adult student may request a conference with the principal or principal's designee to discuss the use of the material.
- (2) The complainant will be provided with the District's policies and procedures for the selection of instructional materials. The principal or designee will explain the use of the material in the instructional program and answer questions from the individual.
- (3) If the issue is not resolved at the conference, the complainant will be provided with the form to file a written objection and an explanation of the process that will be followed.
- (4) Appeals
 - (a) A committee of parents, community members, and others shall be appointed annually by the School Board to evaluate the challenged materials and to make recommendations of any changes to the School Board. The chair of the committee shall notify the School Board when a committee is convened.
 - (b) Challenged materials shall not be removed immediately; however, such materials shall not be available for student use pending a final decision.
 - (c) Challenged materials shall be read and re-evaluated by the committee, considering the specific objections raised. The committee shall report its decision within fifteen (15) working days.
 - (d) The complainant shall be informed in writing concerning the committee's recommendations.

CHAPTER 4.00 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- (e) The committee's review shall be treated objectively, unemotionally, and in a business-like manner and shall be conducted in the best interest of the students, the school, and the community. Efforts shall be made to meet with citizens who register concerns to consider their objections.
 - (f) The complainant shall be informed, in writing, in fifteen (15) working days after the committee's recommendation is received by the Superintendent.
- (5) A School Board appeal may be requested by the complainant when the appeals does not satisfactorily resolve the concerns. The School Board shall review recommendations from the committees and shall render the final decision on the complainant's concern.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY : 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 1000.21, 1001.41, 1001.43, 1006.28 F.S.

History:

Adopted: January 14, 1999 Revision Date(s): October 7, 2003; August 14, 2007; February 9, 2010 February 10, 2015; March 13, 2018 Formerly:
