

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 78 (FRASER-CASCADE)**

**POLICY**

NO: 5110

DATE: 98-01-27

REVISED: 2013-11-19

SUBJECT: **CHALLENGING CONTROVERSIAL MATERIAL**

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The Board of Education recognizes that any person in the District may challenge (on the basis of appropriateness), learning resources used in the District's educational programme.

This policy is to provide a procedure for considering the opinions of those persons in the community and schools who are not directly involved in the selection process.

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**REGULATIONS**

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1. General

- 1.1 Individuals have a legitimate concern for what their children read and study. Therefore, an orderly procedure must be established so that an individual may bring his/her concern for consideration and study.
- 1.2 No parent/guardian has the right to determine reading, listening or viewing material for pupils other than his/her own child.
- 1.3 No group of individuals has the right to determine reading, listening or viewing material for pupils.
- 1.4 Access to challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
- 1.5 The major criterion for the final decision is the appropriateness of the material for its intended use.
- 1.6 A decision to sustain a challenge shall not be interpreted as a judgment of irresponsibility on the part of the professional involved in the original selection or use of the material.

2. Request for Formal Reconsideration

- 2.1 No matter how much care is taken in the selection process, there will be occasions when students, teachers, or citizens in the community will object to an item in the collection. If material is challenged, the following procedures should be followed:
  - 2.1.1 Always receive the complaint courteously but make no commitments.
  - 2.1.2 If mutual satisfaction cannot be reached at the school level, invite the complainant to file the objection in writing and provide the complainant with a copy of Policy 7525 Learning Resources for Classroom Use and Policy 5110 Challenging Controversial Materials.
- 2.2 Upon receipt of the completed Form 5110 (Request For Reconsideration of Learning Resources), the Superintendent shall refer the request for reconsideration to a Review Committee.
- 2.3 The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish a Review Committee with rules and procedures to be followed when materials are challenged. The

committee will be an advisory group reporting its recommendations to the Superintendent.

- 2.4 The Review Committee should be made up of the following people:
  - i. A nominee of the Superintendent;
  - ii. A member of the Board of Education;
  - iii. A school administrator other than the one involved in the dispute;
  - iv. A nominee of the complainant; and
  - v. A teacher from a school other than the one involved in the dispute.
  
- 2.5 The committee should review the challenged material at the earliest opportunity.
  - 2.5.1 Materials must be read and examined.
  - 2.5.2 Look at general acceptance of materials by reading reviews.
  - 2.5.3 Judgement of the item must be made on the whole item and not on passages taken out of context.
  - 2.5.4 Have both the complainant and teacher present their views.
  - 2.5.5 Reach a decision and prepare a report.
  
- 2.6 The written report shall be forwarded to the Superintendent, with a copy to the principal of the school involved.
  
- 2.7 The Superintendent shall discuss the report with the questioner.
  
- 2.8 The decision of the Review Committee is binding to the individual school.
  
- 2.9 Notwithstanding any procedures outlined in this policy, the questioner shall have the right to appeal any decision to the Board of Education in accordance with Bylaw #21.

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**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LEARNING RESOURCES**

Title of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Author/Publisher/Supplier: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Material: \_\_\_\_\_

Request initiated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant represents:

\_\_\_\_\_ himself/herself

\_\_\_\_\_ name/organization or group \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did you read, view or hear the entire work? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, which parts? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. To what in the work do you object? Please be specific; cite pages or selections:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Is there anything of value in this work? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you feel might be the result of reading, viewing or using this work?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What age group, if any, would you recommend this work? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this work? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Are you aware of critics' judgement of this work? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What would you prefer the school do about this work?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not recommend or assign it to my child

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_