

Community Relations

Public Complaints

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it will promptly be referred to the school administration for study and possible solution.

Anonymous complaints provide no avenue for response or redress of the complaint. Therefore, it is the policy of the Board that such complaints will not be pursued. The administration will not act on an anonymous complaint.

Parents should be made aware of the proper channels of communication and appeal. Complaints for which specific resolution procedures are provided shall be directed through these channels. The decision of the Principal regarding a student must include notice to the parents of the next step of the appeal. Any appeal from the decision of the Superintendent to the Board shall be in writing and signed.

Complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible authority. Matters involving the classroom should first be addressed to the teacher. If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of this meeting, s/he would next speak with the building principal. If the complaint cannot be resolved at the building level, either party is encouraged to bring the matter to the attention of the Superintendent of Schools.

If all other remedies have been exhausted and a complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the complaint may be appealed to the Board of Education. No appeal will be heard by the Board and no charges or accusations against an employee will be investigated unless the accusations are reduced to writing, signed by the party making the complaint, and presented to the Board through the Superintendent.

The Board will not consider or act upon complaints that have not been explored at the appropriate level, or complaints for which specific resolution procedures have been established that do not include Board review. If the Board decides to hear the complaint, the Board shall make a decision which will be sent to all interested parties. The Board's decision is final.

Challenged Material

A procedure for processing and responding to criticism of approved materials shall be established and followed. This procedure shall include a formal, signed complaint of standard format and an appointed committee to re-evaluate the material in question.

In all cases, the decision to retain or reject shall be made on the basis of whether the material represents life in its true proportions, whether circumstances are realistically dealt with, and whether the material has literary and social value. Factual material shall be included in all instructional material collections.

(cf. 1220-Citizens' Advisory Committees)

(cf. 5145.2-Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6144-Controversial Issues)

(cf. 6161-Equipment, Books, Materials: Provision/Selection)

Legal Reference: *Keyishian v. Board of Regents* 385 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)
President's Council, District 25 v. Community School Board No. 25 457 F.2d 289(1972),
cert. denied 409 U.S. 998 (1976)

Minarcini v. Strongsville City School District, 541 F. 2d 577(6th Cir. 1976)

Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico, 457 U.S.
853(1982).

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81)

Connecticut General Statutes

10-238 Petition for hearing by board of education.

Policy adopted: January 4, 1993
Policy revised: December 19, 2005
2nd revision: August 6, 2007

Regional School District No. 14
Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut

REQUEST FOR RE-EVALUATION OF MATERIALS

Initiated by (Name)_____

Phone_____ Address_____

Group Affiliation (if any)_____

Have you discussed your objections with the principal, librarian, or a teacher? Yes No

Please list staff members with whom you have spoken. _____

Material in Question

Author_____

Title_____ Copyright Date_____

Format Book Periodical CD-Rom/DAD Film

Other (specify)_____

Publisher_____

Please respond to the following questions. If you need more space, please attach additional pages.

1. Did you read/hear/view/examine the entire work? Yes No

2. If not, which part did you read or view?

3. Specifically, what part of the work did you find objectionable? (Please cite specific passages, pages, sections, etc.)_____

4. For what age group(s) would you recommend this material?_____

5. Have you read our district's Material Satisfaction Policy? Yes No

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

7. Could you find any value in the work? (Please describe)

8. Are you aware of any professional reviews of the work? (Please list)

9. How would students be affected by exposure to this work?

10. What do you suggest the school/library information center do about this material?

11. What material of equal value would you recommend to convey a similar picture or perspective? _____

12. How did you come in contact with this material? _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Received by: _____ Date: _____