

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Policy and Procedures: School Board Rule

Chapter /Section	Title
4	CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
4.30	CHALLENGED MATERIALS

4.30 CHALLENGED MATERIALS

POLICY:

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

- (1) School-community citizens may register their concerns with the principal of the school where material is being challenged.
- (2) All concerns shall be presented in writing on the district "Patrons Request For Reconsideration of Instructional Materials" form that is available in each school office or the Superintendent's office. A complainant who does not complete and return the form shall receive no consideration.
- (3) These procedures shall be followed for school level appeals:
 - (a) A committee of teachers, educational media specialists, and other qualified personnel shall be appointed by the principal to evaluate the challenged materials. All members of the committee must read the entire book, view or listen to the material in its entirety prior to meeting. The committee results will be submitted to the principal on the appropriate School Media Advisory Committee Checklist form. The principal shall notify the Superintendent and the Instructional Materials Manager of the results.
 - (b) Challenged materials shall not be removed during the reconsideration period.
 - (c) The principal shall inform the complainant in writing concerning the committee's recommendations within fifteen (15) working days.
- (4) If the complainant disagrees with the decision rendered from the school-level appeal, a District level committee shall be appointed by the Superintendent to review the appeal. The Superintendent shall designate the Instructional Materials Manager as being responsible for the organization of this review committee. All members of the committee must read the entire book, view or listen to the material in its entirety prior to convening. The committee's recommendations shall be submitted to the Superintendent within twenty (20) working days. A committee member shall not be selected from the school where the challenged materials originated.
 - (a) The following shall serve as a review committee for elementary schools:
 1. The chairperson of the School Advisory Council or designee;
 2. Elementary media specialist;
 3. Elementary principal;
 4. A curriculum supervisor;
 5. Three (3) instructional staff members at the elementary level; and,

6. Two (2) parents of elementary age students.

(b) The following shall serve as a review committee for secondary schools:

1. The Chairperson of the School Advisory Council or designee;
 2. Secondary media specialist;
 3. Secondary principal;
 4. A curriculum supervisor;
 5. Three (3) instructional staff members at the secondary level;
- and,
6. Two (2) parents of secondary age students.

(c) The committee's review shall be treated objectively, unemotionally, and in a business-like manner and shall be conducted in the best interests of the student, the school, and the community. The committee results shall be submitted to the Superintendent using the District Advisory Committee checklist form.

(d) The complainant shall be informed, in writing by the Superintendent, within fifteen (15) working days after the committee's recommendation is received.

(5) A School Board appeal may be requested by the complainant when the school and district-level appeals do not satisfactorily resolve the concerns. The School Board shall review recommendations from the school and district-level committees and shall render the final decision on the complainant's concern.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 230.22(2); 230.23(17), F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 230.22(2); 230.23005(3),(5),(10), F.S.

History: Adopted: 8/21/01

Revision Date(s):

Formerly: New

NOTES:

No Procedure Necessary