

RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY#1420

COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULA OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for the purchase of instructional materials. The Board expects District teachers and administrators to select books and other materials in accord with sound educational principles and practices, and to use them effectively in the classrooms. However, the Board also recognizes the right of community members to voice concerns and/or complaints regarding the implementation of a particular curriculum and/or instructional material.

If a student, parent/guardian, District employee, or District resident finds fault with a book or some other educational material and protests its use in class or its availability in a school library, the Principal of the school where the objection has arisen will hold an informal meeting with the complainant and the relevant faculty member(s). It is expected that the complainant will make an effort, prior to the informal meeting, to review the material in question in its entirety, and complete Policy Form 1420-E.

At the informal meeting, the complainant will be asked to make clear his or her objection(s) to the material. The staff member(s) involved will be asked to explain the educational value of the material in question. If this informal discussion fails to satisfy the complainant and reconcile the parties, the complainant may proceed to more formal levels (unless a similar complaint has been reviewed within the last three years and the Board of Education chooses not to act on the issue again).

If this is a new complaint or the Board of Education chooses to conduct another review, the complainant will submit Form 1420-E to the Superintendent of Schools who will refer the matter to the District Leadership Team (as defined in School District's Shared Decision-Making Plan). Once the DLT has received Form 1420-E and copies of the challenged materials, it will consult with faculty and/or administrators knowledgeable of the content area of the challenged material. The Complainant will also be given an opportunity to present to the DLT. The DLT may seek additional consultation, when appropriate, with relevant professional organizations such as the American Library Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the National Council of Social Studies Teachers, as well as with any other parties as may seem necessary or desirable. The DLT will then render a written decision on whether the material in question is appropriate or inappropriate given the students' ages and instructional objectives involved. The DLT's decision shall include a rationale for its decision and any other relevant information. In the event the DLT fails to reach consensus, majority opinion shall rule. Dissenting opinions will be noted in the report to the Board.

Copies of the recommendation will be given to the complainant, the Superintendent, the Board, and the professional staff members involved. If either party is not satisfied with the DLT's decision, the matter may be appealed in writing within 20 calendar days to the Board of Education. The final decision regarding material in question shall be made by the Board of Education in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools.

Cross ref: 4511, Textbook Selection and Adoption^[1]4513, Library Materials Selection and Adoption^[SEP]
Ref: Education Law §§1709 (15); 1711(5)(f); *Board of Educ., Island Trees UFSD v. Pico*, 457 US 853 (1982)
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