

Board Policy

Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

BP 1312.2

Community Relations

The Governing Board takes great care in adoption of instructional materials, but it is aware that all adopted materials may not be acceptable to all students, student's parents or guardians, or other district residents.

The Superintendent is directed to develop a regulation which will permit proper consideration of any complaints against use of any instructional materials, including textbooks, supplementary textbooks, library books, and other instructional materials and equipment.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final, unless the complainant has not been advised of the Superintendent's decision within thirty (30) days after a district administrator receives the written complaint or the complainant is not satisfied by the Superintendent's decision. The complainant may then request that the matter be placed on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. The Superintendent shall present to the Board a complete statement of the circumstances concerning the complaint at that meeting. The Board may either confirm the Superintendent's decision, direct further review by the administration, or take other action it deems appropriate.

The Board will not allow political party affiliation, racial prejudice, a desire to suppress ideas, or an intent to deny students access to ideas with which the Governing Board disagrees, to influence its decision in any such case.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

18111 Exclusion of books by governing board

35014 Power of governing board to adopt rules for its own governance

60003 Power of governing board to select instructional materials

60040-60047 Content requirements for instructional materials

60200 et seq. Elementary school material - selection and adoption

60260 Legislative intent for ordering instructional materials

60400 et seq. Secondary school textbooks - selection and adoption

Board of Education of the Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico (1982) 102 Supreme Court Reporter 2799

Policy ALPINE COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: 12/10/85 Markleeville, California

Administrative Regulation

Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

AR 1312.2

Community Relations

The following procedures have been established to provide a system for receiving, considering and acting upon written complaints regarding instructional materials used by the district.

Complaints must be presented in writing to the Superintendent. Complaints regarding printed material must include the name of the author, title, publisher, and the objection by pages and items. In the case of non-printed materials, written information specifying the precise nature of the objection shall be given. The statement must be signed and identified in such a way that a proper reply will be possible.

When a complaint is received by a Superintendent, the Superintendent will acknowledge the receipt of the complaint, and will answer any questions regarding procedure. The Superintendent, or designee, will determine whether the complaint should be considered an individual request or whether a district level review committee should be activated to reevaluate the material.

An individual student may be excused from using challenged materials after the parent/guardian has presented a written complaint. The teacher will then assign the student alternate materials of equal merit.

The district level review committee shall be under the direction of the Superintendent. It shall be composed of the Superintendent or designee and three (3) or more staff members. These shall be selected by the Superintendent from the administrative and instructional areas directly concerned with the subject of the complaint.

The use of challenged materials by class, school or district shall not be restricted until final disposition has been made by the appropriate review committee, but as above individual students may be permitted to use alternate materials.

In deliberation of challenged materials, the review committee shall consider the educational philosophy of the school district; the professional opinions of other teachers of the same subject and of other competent authorities; reviews of the materials by reputable bodies; the teacher's own stated objectives in using the materials; and the objections of the complainant.

The findings of the district review committee shall be summarized in a written report and be sent to the Superintendent or his/her designee, who will determine how interested parties shall be notified.

If the Superintendent believes that the material challenged and the circumstances around the

challenge are likely to produce public controversy, the report of the review committee together with the Superintendent's recommendation may be brought to the Governing Board for consideration and final decision.

County or State Adopted Material

If the challenged material has been adopted by the County Board of Education, the Superintendent may forward the complaint, without action, to the office of the County Superintendent of Schools for reevaluation and decision.

If the questioned material has been adopted by the State of California, the Superintendent may forward the complaint, with- out action, to the office of the State Department of Education for reevaluation and decision.

Regulation ALPINE COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
approved: 12/10/85 Markleeville, California

Exhibit

Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

E 1312.2
Community Relations

Citizen's Request For Reconsideration Of Instructional Materials

Date: _____

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

PUBLISHER: _____ DATE OF EDITION: _____

Request received by: _____ Title: _____

Citizen's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Citizen Represents: Himself/Herself: _____ Organization or Group:

1. To what do you object? (Please be specific: cite pages, tape sequence, video frame, and words)

2. What do you feel would be the result of reading/viewing this material?

3. For what age group would you recommend this material? _____

4. Did you read/view the entire selection? _____

5. If not, what percentage did you read/view, or what parts?

6. Is there anything good about this material?

7. What would you like the school to do about this material?

_____ Do not assign it to my child.

_____ Withdraw it from all students.

_____ Re-evaluate it.

8. Are you aware of how this work has been assessed by literary critics?

9. What do you believe is the thesis of this work?

10. In its place, what work would you recommend?

Signature of citizen

Action taken: _____ Date: _____

ALPINE COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Markleeville, California