

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT LIBRARY CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The review of questioned materials will be treated objectively, unemotionally, and as an important routine act. Every effort will be made to consider objections, keeping in mind the best interests of the students, the school, the curriculum, and the community. Since differences of opinion do exist in our society, the following procedure shall be observed to recognize those differences in an impartial and factual manner.

1. All criticism shall be presented in writing to the building principal, who will forward a copy to the school librarian. The Request for Reconsideration form (approved by the American Library Association) shall be used. This form shall be located at the building principal's office.
2. The material in question will be withdrawn from circulation until it is read and discussed by a library committee, which will be convened by the principal and the librarian. This committee shall consist of a member of the teaching faculty of the school, a member of the superintendent's staff, the school principal, the school librarian, and a member of the board of education.
3. The committee will review the questioned material and all critical evaluations available. General acceptance of the material shall be checked by consulting authoritative lists in light of the selection policies of the school district. A thorough review of questioned materials shall be treated objectively. Passages shall not be taken out of context, and material shall be evaluated as an entity.
4. The final decision of the committee shall be implemented by the principal and the librarian and the faculty.
5. The complainant shall be sent a copy of the evaluating report and decision.
6. In the event that the complainant does not accept the decision of the review committee, he/she may appeal to Amber-Pocasset Board of Education through the principal. The final decision then rests with the board. The complainant will be notified by mail of the board's decision.
7. Once an item has been challenged, reviewed and justified by the review committee and the board, and another challenge is raised against it within a five-year period, the complaint may be dismissed without a hearing.