

	ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	NEPN Code: KEC-E
	POLICIES AND REGULATIONS	

CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIAL

The School Board of the Aberdeen School District has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of library/media resources and materials to the school library/media specialists, and has established reconsideration procedures to address concerns about those resources. Completion of this form is the first step in these procedures. If you wish to request reconsideration of school library/media resources, please return the completed form to the building principal.

Type of Material: _____

Author: _____

Title: _____

Publisher: _____

Name of Requestor: _____

Address: _____

City / State: _____ Telephone: _____

Requestor Represents: _____ Self _____ Other Organization

Name of Organization: _____

1. To what do you object? (Please be specific) _____

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

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

4. What do you find good about it? _____

5. Did you read/view the material in its entirety? If not, what pages / part did you read / view?

6. Have you heard or read of criticism of this material from other sources? _____

If yes, where? _____

7. Are there resource(s) you would suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this material?

8. What do you believe is the central theme? _____

9. How would you like this matter resolved?

_____ Do not assign or release this material to my child.

_____ Have it re-evaluated by the Reconsideration Committee.

_____ Other: _____

Date

Signature of Requestor

INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST FOR RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE

Bear in mind the principles of the freedom to learn and to read and base your decision on these broad principles rather than on defense of individual materials. Freedom of inquiry is vital to a democracy.

Study thoroughly all materials referred to you. The general acceptance of materials should be considered by consulting the following checklist for reconsideration of library materials. Include in your recommendation the appropriateness of the challenged material for the various grade levels and buildings.

Passages or parts should not be pulled out of context. The values and faults should be weighed against each other and the opinions based on the material as a whole. Of prime importance is that the material must be read or viewed in its entirety.

The final report, representing both majority and minority opinions, will be presented by the principal/librarian to the complainant at the conclusion of the discussion of the questioned material.

Title: _____

Author: _____

A. Purpose:

1. What is the purpose, theme, or message of the material? How well does the author/producer/composer accomplish this purpose?

2. If the story is fantasy, is it the type that has imaginative appeal and is suitable for children? _____ Yes _____ No; for young adults? _____ Yes _____ No

If both are marked "no", for what age group would you recommend? _____

3. Will the reading and/or viewing and/or listening to material result in a more compassionate understanding of human beings? _____ Yes _____ No
4. Does it offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspiration, achievements, and problems of various minority groups? _____ Yes _____ No
5. Are any questionable elements of the story an integral part of a worthwhile theme or message? _____ Yes _____ No

B. Content

1. Does a story about modern times give a realistic picture of life as it is now?
_____ Yes _____ No

2. Does the story avoid an oversimplified view of life, one which leaves the reader with the general feeling that life is sweet and rosy or ugly and meaningless?
_____ Yes _____ No
3. When factual information is part of the story, is it presented accurately?
_____ Yes _____ No
4. Is prejudicial appeal readily identifiable by the potential reader? _____ Yes _____ No
5. Are concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the potential readers?
_____ Yes _____ No
6. Do characters speak in a language true to the period and section of the country in which they live? _____ Yes _____ No
7. Does the material offend in some special way the sensibilities of women or a minority group by the way it presents either the chief character or any of the minor characters?
_____ Yes _____ No
8. Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, and aberrant behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children? _____ Yes _____ No; young adults? _____ Yes _____ No
9. Is there use of offensive language, is it appropriate to the purpose of the text for children? _____ Yes _____ No; for young adults? _____ Yes _____ No
10. Is the material free from derisive names and epithets that would offend minority groups? _____ Yes _____ No; children? _____ Yes _____ No; young adults? _____ Yes _____ No
11. Is the material well written or produced? _____ Yes _____ No
12. Are the illustrations appropriate and in good taste? _____ Yes _____ No
13. Are the illustrations realistic in relation to the story or subject matter?
_____ Yes _____ No
14. If non-fiction, does the material present information not otherwise available?
_____ Yes _____ No

Additional Comments: _____

Recommendation for Treatment of Challenged Materials:

Date

Signature of Reconsideration Committee Member

(Taken from The School Library Media Program, by Ruth Ann Davies, Third Edition, R. R. Bowker Company, New York, C1979, pp. 104-105)

3/00

POLICY REF: IJNC, IJNC-R

FORMERLY: 3542.2

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