

RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Recognizing that opinions about resources may differ, the Fall Mountain Regional School District adopts the following procedures for the review of resources about which concerns have been raised. Any resident, employee, parent or guardian of a child or student in the Fall Mountain Regional School District may express concerns about the resources in the district's educational program. On an informal level, the Principal or other appropriate staff will explain the selection procedures and criteria and the use of instructional resources in the educational program to those questioning the instructional materials. Individuals who wish a particular material to be reviewed must submit to the Principal a "Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials." The request forms are available at the school office.

The Principal, upon receipt of a "Request for Reconsideration" will acknowledge receipt to the complainant and list anticipated steps to be taken. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will be notified. The Principal will convene a Materials Review Committee, and schedule meetings as necessary to review the complaint and write a report. The Materials Review Committee may consist of teachers, students or parents and for textbooks and supplemental classroom materials should include the Assistant Superintendent and the Department Head whose department is using the material or a member of the curriculum committee, or for library materials should include the Director of Information Technology Services and the professional library staff.

The Materials Review committee shall review the challenged resource and decide whether it conforms to Instructional Materials Policies IIA, IIAB or IIAC by consulting with people with related professional knowledge, reading critical reviews of the resource, weighing the values and faults to form opinions on the material as a whole rather than on passages or sections taken out of context, discuss the educational content and prepare a report.

The final report will be forwarded to the complainant and the Superintendent of Schools. The written report, once filed, is confidential and available for examination by board members and appropriate officials only. The decision of the Materials Review Committee is binding on the individual school, pending any other action by the Fall Mountain Regional School District School Board. If the complainant is dissatisfied, the next step is to submit their request to the Superintendent of Schools for action. If the complainant does not accept the Superintendent's decision, the complainant may request a review by the Fall Mountain Regional School District School Board, whose decision will be final.

The decision to sustain a challenge shall not be interpreted as a judgment of irresponsibility on the part of the professionals involved in the original selection and/or use of the resource. Professional personnel shall not be punished or have their employment affected by decisions reached as a part of this review process.

During the investigation the library or classroom materials will remain in use unless the Materials Review Committee desires to remove or restrict the textbook until a final decision is made.

FMRSD

Adopted: 2/26/01

Reviewed 7/21/2008