

Selection of Library Materials

Purpose

This policy outlines the Board's philosophy related to the selection of library materials, and informs the librarian as to the selection of library materials.

Scope

This policy guides the Superintendent, school administrators and librarian in the selection of library materials.

Policy

1. Freedom to read is an inherent right and a necessity in a democratic society.
2. The primary objective of the school library is to implement, enrich, and support school programs. The library is to provide a wide range of materials with varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and more than one point of view.
3. The librarian is to organize library materials, serve as a resource person to the administration and staff, and to finalize requests from teachers and students for library materials. She/he will also originate requests. She/he shall be involved in the curriculum as a regular staff member.
4. The Board affirms that the purpose of the library is: to provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the pupils served; to provide materials that will stimulate growth and intellectual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards; to provide a background of information that will help pupils make intelligent judgments in their daily lives; to provide materials on more than one side of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, a practice of critical analysis of all media; to provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contribution to our American Heritage; to place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials in order to assure a collection appropriate to the community and the users of the library media center.
5. In selecting books the librarian shall solicit suggestions from teachers, pupils, and others in the community. Items selected shall satisfy most of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is the book needed by this school?
 - (b) Is it, within cost considerations, the best of its kind available?
 - (c) Does it fit into or enrich the instructional program?
 - (d) Is its substance and format suitable for the grades for which it is to be used?
 - (e) Does it have literary merit?
 - (f) Will it appeal to the children or youth for whom it is intended?
 - (g) Does it appear on one or more of the approved lists for this type of materials?

- (h) Does it fulfill the responsibility of the school library?
6. The library stands for communication, intellectual activity, and thought. It strives to provide an opportunity for students and teachers to gain information and be exposed to varying points of view.
 7. The major areas of controversy are race, politics, religion, literature, and economics. In selecting materials on any of the above areas the following criteria shall apply:
 - (a) Materials on controversial issues should be representative of a rational point of view and sincere effort should be made to select materials representing more than one point of view.
 - (b) Materials shall not unfairly, inaccurately, or viciously disparage a particular race or religion. A writer's expression of a certain viewpoint is not to be considered a disparagement with it represents the historical or contemporary views held by some persons or groups.
 - (c) Materials shall objectively project the concerns and build upon the contributions, current and historical, of both sexes and members of the several specific religions, ethnic, and cultural groups. It should be recognized, however, that under certain conditions biased materials may represent appropriate resources in presenting points of view.
 - (d) The materials on religion are chosen to explain rather than convince and are selected to represent the field as widely as necessary for the school purpose.
 - (e) The selection of materials on political theories and ideologies or on public issues is directed toward maintaining a balanced collection representing various views.
 - (f) Materials on physiology, physical maturation, or personal hygiene should be accurate and in good taste.
 - (g) Materials should be selected for their strength rather than rejected for their weaknesses.
 8. Donated materials must meet the same high standards and criteria established for the selection of all library materials.
 9. It is the policy of the Valley School Board to provide textbooks and certain supplies free of charge to each pupil. However, each pupil shall be required to exercise reasonable care in the use of all school materials.

Related Procedures

N/A

Policy Cross References

3521-Damaged or Lost Materials
2160-Policy Statement-Nondiscrimination

Policy Legal References

N/A

Management Resources

N/A

Policy History

Action:	Date:
Approved by the Board	To Be Determined
Revised	
Revised	
Revised	

Previous Policy Number: 7007