

Hudsonville Public Schools

Concerned Parent Book Review Process

Hudsonville Public Schools values the importance of parents' involvement in their child's education. The partnership between home and school is a valuable component of the quality education we work to provide for each student in our district. One of our core values around books, in particular, is that each parent knows their child best and has unique insight into their child's maturity, life experiences, values and interests. We therefore value parental input on what their child reads for their choice reading experiences, both during book clubs offered and independent reading time. We have designed the below guidelines to honor this core value while still operating within legal obligations surrounding removal of books.

If a parent objects to the availability of a text that was made available to their child, they should submit their concerns in writing – utilizing the Request For Reconsideration of a Text form, developed by the National Council of Teachers of English. This form can be obtained from your child's building principal. Please carefully read and complete the form in its entirety and return it to your child's building principal. Then, the following steps will be taken:

- Your Principal and appropriate teacher(s) will review the Request For Reconsideration of a Text form, in conjunction with the legal guidance stating:
 - The District cannot remove books from the library for the purpose of restricting access to differing ideas, such as those related to religion, politics or social issues. (ex. Books may be shifted or removed due to not being age appropriate based on professional reviews but not because they offend one's religious viewpoint.)
- Your Principal will contact you with further questions and/or next steps if appropriate. (These steps may include, but are not limited to, the book's removal from the library, move to an appropriate grade level or no action being taken.)
- If a parent is dissatisfied with the building-level decision, they may appeal the decision in writing to the building principal.
- At that time a District Book Review Committee will convene.
 - This committee should include the following individuals:
 - Teacher(s)
 - Volunteer parent(s)
 - Building administrator(s)
 - A representative from the HPS Curriculum Department
 - The committee should NOT include any individual(s) raising concern(s) about the book. Their written concerns will be discussed in detail by the committee prior to approval or removal of the book.
- The Book Review Committee will engage in the below process to make a final determination regarding continued access to the text in question.

- Read the book in its entirety.
- Discuss the merits and potential concerns relevant to the proposed book as a whole.
- Give due consideration to the perspectives of a wide range of cultural and personal viewpoints.
- Review and follow district legal guidance regarding removal of books.
- Books requested for appeal will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. Due to the length of the text being reviewed, the process may take up to 30 days for each text reviewed with consideration for school holidays or other unforeseen circumstances. An estimated timeline for the review of a book will be provided upon receipt of the appeal.
- The decision of the Book Review Committee is final and cannot be appealed, though parents always retain the right to prohibit their own child from reading a book.
- The Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction will provide a list of committee reviewed books at a minimum of two times a year to the HPS School Board for review.