

## **LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION**

### **Legal Responsibility:**

As the governing body of the school district, the Berlin Board of Education is legally responsible for the selection and approval of all printed and published materials used in the school district. As the policy making body, the Board of Education delegates authority to the professional staff for the selection of print and non-print library resources.

### **The Board accepts the following assumptions:**

1. The Board recognized the student's right to study a controversial issue which has political, economic, or social significance and concerning which (at her/his level) she/he should begin to have an option.
2. The Board defines high quality materials as those which: present the subject matter in the most effective manner consistent with the Board's philosophy of education: promote pride, confidence and trust in democratic principles; refrain from partisan presentation of controversial issues; accurately portray sex roles and minority groups; and, are current and historically accurate.
3. The Board recognizes the right of parents to request that their child(ren) not be given certain material.
4. The Board denies the right of any individual or group to determine what materials may be used for pupils other than their own children.
5. Individual materials will be judged on their own merits.

### **Specified factors considered in selecting materials include:**

1. Literary and/or artistic worth
2. Accuracy and authenticity of content
3. Suitability of content and vocabulary to the age and maturity of the readers
4. Contribution to the balance of the total library collection
5. Level of interest and appeal to students
6. Timelines
7. Scope
8. Format and durability
9. Overall intrinsic value of the item

Materials offered as gifts and commercially sponsored materials will be accepted with the understanding that they will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria set forth for selection, by the librarian, and only those materials meeting these standards are added to the collection.

Challenged Materials Procedures:

1. a. Informal complaint received and librarian notified.  
b. Opportunity for informal conference between complainant and Librarian.
2. If necessary, the Request for Reevaluation of Library materials form is given to complainant.
3. Building Administrator is informed of complaint.
4. The formal complaint shall then be turned over to a Materials Review Committee appointed by the Board of Education. The committee shall consist of a Librarian, a school administrator, a teacher, a parent, and a student (selected by the High School Principal).
5. The committee shall inform the superintendent of its decision.

References

Education Law Secs. 711-712,1709,1711  
8 NYCRR21.4

Bd. of Educ., Island Trees Union Free School Dist. No.26 v.Pico,  
638 F.2d 404, reh'g denied, 616 F.2d 714 (2d Cir. 1980), aff'd, 457 U.S.  
853 (1982).

Bicknell v. Vergennes Union High School Bd., 638 F.2d438 (2d Cir. 1980)  
President's Council v. Community School Bd. No.25, 457 F.2d 289 (2d Cir.  
1972), cert. denied 409 U.S. 998 (1972)