

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 7 c

MEETING OF August 14, 2019

REVIEWED BY:

ITEM TITLE:

PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY
Approval of revised Board Policy 1312.2 - Public Complaints
Concerning Instructional Materials in second reading

Superintendent
 Personnel
 Finance
 Policy Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Beth Lougee, Superintendent

CONTACT PERSON/TELEPHONE:

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

Superintendent Lougee 247-2109
Phone

Superintendent

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Board is being asked to approve revisions to Board Policy 1312.2 - Public Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials.

ISSUE:

This Board policy is part of a series of policies that need updating.

Board Policy 9310 dictates that "the district shall develop or revise policies and regulations in order to reflect new legislation and changing community views." Additionally, BP 9311 calls for the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to "maintain procedures for the continuous orderly review of existing policies at a time allocated for this purpose on the agenda of regular Board meetings... in addition to presenting drafts or suggestions for new policy and policy revisions when changes in law occur or when a specific need arises".

BACKGROUND:

These revisions are being recommended by the Policy Committee.

The School Board held a policy hearing and first reading of the proposed revisions at its July meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the policy revisions as presented.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed revisions to BP 1312.2
- Administrative regulations for 1312.2
- Form for citizen request (E 1312.2)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

"I move that the Board of Education approve the proposed revisions to Board Policy 1312.2 - Public Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials in second reading."

BP 1312.2 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The School Board takes great care in the adoption of instructional materials and is aware that all adopted materials may not be acceptable to all students, their parents/guardians, or other district residents.

(cf. [6161.1](#) - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

(cf. [6161.11](#) - Supplementary Instructional Materials)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which will permit proper consideration of any complaints against the use of any instructional materials, including textbooks, supplementary textbooks, library books, and other instructional materials and equipment.

(cf. [1312.3](#) - Public Complaint Concerning Discrimination)

The School Board believes the Superintendent and staff are well qualified to consider complaints concerning instructional materials. Complainants are advised to consider and accept the Superintendent or designee's decision as final. However, if the complainant finds the decision of the Superintendent or designee unsatisfactory, he/she may request that the matter be placed on the agenda of a regular School Board meeting.

The School Board's decision in any such case will be based on educational suitability and will not be influenced by a desire to suppress information or deny students access to ideas with which the School Board disagrees.

(cf. [6144](#) - Controversial Issues)

AR 1312.2 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Note: The following regulation provides procedures for receiving, considering and acting upon complaints regarding instructional materials used by the district. All parts of the regulation, including specified timelines, may be modified as desired to reflect district practice.

Complaints concerning instructional materials will be accepted only from staff, district residents, or the parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school.

Complaints must be presented in writing to the principal on the appropriate district form. (Exhibit: [Link to form](#)) Complaints regarding printed material must specify the precise nature of the objection. The statement must be signed and identified in such a way that a proper reply will be possible.

Individual students may be excused from using challenged materials after the parent/guardian has presented a written complaint. The teacher will then assign the student alternate materials of equal merit. Use of the materials by a class, school or the district, however, shall not be restricted until so directed by the Superintendent or designee.

Upon receiving a **written** complaint, the principal will acknowledge its receipt and answer any questions regarding procedure **verbally and in writing**. The principal will then notify the Superintendent or designee and the teacher(s) involved of the complaint. The Superintendent or designee will determine whether the complaint should be considered on an individual basis or whether a review committee should be convened.

The use of challenged materials by class, school or district shall not be restricted until final disposition has been made by the district.

A review committee may be formed under the direction of the Superintendent or designee. It shall be composed of five or more staff members selected by the Superintendent or designee from relevant administrative and instructional areas.

In deliberating challenged materials, the review committee shall consider the educational philosophy of the district; the professional opinions of other teachers of the subject and of other competent authorities; reviews of the materials by reputable bodies; the teacher's stated objectives in using the materials; and the objections of the complainant.

The review committee shall determine the extent to which the challenged material supports the curriculum, the educational appropriateness of the material, and its suitability for the age level of the student.

Within 30 days of being convened, the review committee shall summarize its findings in a written report and submit it to the Superintendent or designee for final action. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the complainant of his/her decision no later than 60 days after the complaint was filed.

The report of the review committee together with the Superintendent or designee's recommendation may be brought to the School Board for consideration and final decision.

When any challenged instructional material is reviewed by the district, it shall not be subject to any additional reconsideration for 12 months.

State-Adopted Material

If the challenged material has been adopted by the State Board of Education, the Superintendent or designee may forward the complaint, without action, to the Department of Education and Early Development for reevaluation and decision.

Community Relations

E 1312.2 CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Date: _____

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

PUBLISHER: _____ DATE OF EDITION: _____

Request received by: _____ Title: _____

Citizen's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Citizen Represents: Himself/Herself: _____ Organization or Group: _____

To what do you object? (Please be specific: cite pages, tape sequence, video frame, and words)

What do you feel would be the result of reading/viewing this material?

For what age group would you recommend this material?

Did you read/view the entire selection?

If not, what percentage did you read/view, or what parts? Is there anything good about this material?

What would you like the school to do about this material?

_____ Do not assign it to my child. _____ Withdraw it from all students. _____ Reevaluate it.

Are you aware of how this work has been assessed by literary critics?

What do you believe is the thesis of this work?

In its place, what work would you recommend?

_____ Signature of citizen

Action taken: _____ Date: _____