

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WORK SESSION MEETING FOR DISCUSSION OF
THE LIBRARY BOOKS' POLICY/AR**

JANUARY 5, 2022

**Carl T. Secor Administration Center – Board Room
and Via Zoom
7:00 P.M.**

Notes

- I. **The Board President**, Richard Schlameuss, called the Work Session meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **The Board Secretary**, Patricia Rosado, called the roll. Members present were: George Andrews, Rebecca Bear, Dr. Damary Bonilla, Jason Gullstrand, Debbie Kulick, Steven Lurry, Wayne Rohner, Richard Schlameuss and Lisa VanWhy. Also present was Christopher Brown, Solicitor.
- III. **School Personnel Present In The Administration Center Board Room:** Jesse Curry, Brad Fitzpatrick, Marjory Gullstrand, Frederick Mill, William Riker and Catherine Schroth.
- IV. **School Personnel Present Via Zoom:** David Krupski, Jennifer Marmo and Patricia Rosado.
- V. **Community Members Present in The Administration Center Board Room:** Justyne Carnes, Tiffany Davis, A. Giles, J. Giles, Maria Hopkins, F. Lopez, Kerri Wilson, Ron Wilson and T. Wood
- VI. **Community member presents via Zoom:** Douglas Burney, Jessie Castaldo, Alyssa Eaton, Carrie Gardner, Lauren Langdon, Rae Lorenzo, Keleisha Phillip Stringer and Andrew Xie.
- VII. **NOTE: BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS IN ATTENDANCE, REQUEST SIGN IN BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND OTHERS**
- VIII. **ITEM FOR DISCUSSION – Library Books**

Mr. Schlameuss said we do not have an agenda to approve; however, I did pass out a document to help guide our discussion. We are going to take a moment to review it to see if there's anything to add or change. There are bunch of questions I'm going to ask us all to talk about. We are not limited by this. It is just a way to guide us down the discussion. If everybody feels okay about it, we can move on. I'll start.

To the public here, I just want to state that this is a working meeting of the Board. There is no public participation tonight as decisions that we will want, we are not making tonight. What we are doing is having informing ourselves through discussion, illustration and staff about what these issues are. If

there are things that we need to do, i.e., make decisions, they will be done at a subsequent Regular Board meeting, Policy Review Committee meeting and/or Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting and directed to those committees that are responsible for them. The intent of this meeting is to understand the district's process and policy regarding the selection of student library research material and how literature with explicit content will be treated. Tonight no books are going to be banned. We are not changing anything. This is not the point of tonight's meeting. Also, we want to ensure that caregivers have the option to express their approval for content for their students to have access to or not have access to, such as an opt in or opt out that will be attached to their library account to alert Librarians when they are checking out books. We'll discuss that a little bit later. The idea here is that we want to be focused on parental consent.

What I want to do first is read the ESASD Mission Statement:

The East Stroudsburg Area School District fosters within all students a commitment to excellence, service and life-long learning which prepares students to be creative, productive and responsible citizens with a global perspective.

This is the mission of our organization and that is what we do. That is what we as a Board are responsible for. I just ask that, as part of our thinking, as we have our discussion tonight, we reflect upon not only the mission statement, but the students that we serve. We are here for the students, so we need to be keeping this at the top of our mind.

With us tonight we have Mrs. Marjory Gullstrand and Ms. Catherine Schroth, Librarians from High School South and High School North as well as Dr. Riker and Dr. Vitulli.

One of the things that were provided to us was the ESASD Library Book Selection document. Dr. Riker would you like to walk us through this so that we all have an understanding of what the process is. We are not from this world, so we need to have a sense of what is going on.

Dr. Riker said the one-page document was shared with Dr. Vitulli from our Librarian Chairs, who are with us this evening. This goes through some of the criteria that the Librarians have used and would use when selecting books and resources for the library. It would be items that are related to curriculum to support what is being taught in the classroom, any notes they have taken from previous years with working with classroom teachers where sufficient materials may not have been available, students' interest, and the replacement of any lost, damaged or worn materials that are requested or needed to be replaced. Then they look at some of the resources that have been used for many years in education, i.e., American Library Association's Best Books for the College Bound, Young Adult Library Services Association (ALA's booklist) and a number of award winners throughout. We also look at the Reading Olympic Titles, starred suggestions from School Library Journal, The Horn Book and the Kirkus Review. They also look at blogs from industry experts and any information that the Librarians may obtain by attending conferences, such as the ALA, BEA and PSLA to hear about cutting edge trends and meet authors and publishers. Often times when they go to conferences, they also receive hundreds of free books that allow us to learn about new authors. This is the procedure that was provided to Dr. Vitulli regarding the library book selection process.

Mr. Schlameuss said what was proposed by Administration is the idea of a reserved collection for explicit literature, so creating a space that is not directly in the hands of the students but available through the hands of the Librarians.

Mr. Schlameuss said what I would like to do first is have our Solicitor, Chris Brown just remind us what our responsibility as Board members are in this regard.

Mr. Brown said number one, it is always the Board's obligation to create policy. You have Policy 109 about resource materials and how resource materials are selected. To the extent if we are not satisfied as a Board with how that policy is being done, then it would be the Board's obligation to revise the policy. Never is it the Board's prerogative to go from shelf to shelf and book to book and say this book is out and this book is in, that is what you have Administrators and Librarians for. If the district is going to have a reserve collection of books, I think that direction should come from the School Board and be part of the policy.

Mr. Schlameuss said the next question, unless someone has something else to say, let me know, is when selecting books for inclusion in the library, what are the key considerations. I am going to direct this question to the Librarians. Are there many considerations that, in addition to the book selection, that you keep in mind during this process?

Mrs. Gullstrand said one item that was not in their selection process document was that we came up with a more formal process. This was just something we put together when asked for the process in the past. She handed out some materials for the Board to review in hopes for the Board to review Policy 109 to help make it as clear as we feel it needs to be able to delineate the role of all stakeholders and steps that should be taken to address issues that may arise for future materials being reconsidered. The handouts provided to the Board were: Library Science Department Collection Development Policy, Draft Update of Board Policy 109, Library Materials – Code of Conduct and Library Resource Restriction Parent Permission Form. Mrs. Gullstrand said that she is hoping that these materials would replace the one-page document regarding the library book selection process. Another thing that was mentioned was about parents having the right to approve what their student takes out at the library. It would be a permission form, where a parent or guardian would be able to indicate what materials they do not want their son or daughter to have access to. Specifically, what title or titles, what author or authors and what subject or subjects. We would then be able to put a note on that student's account so that, when they come up to select materials, we would be able to see immediately, no matter who the person was checking the book out. Whether it is a paraprofessional or librarian, we would know what material that student has access to take out.

Dr. Riker asked when were the documents that Mrs. Gullstrand is handing out created. Mrs. Gullstrand said I don't know the exact date but it was after meeting with Dr. Vitulli. Dr. Riker said so these documents were created after this discussion started. Mrs. Gullstrand said, yes. Dr. Riker asked is it also correct that in your summary that you indicate that parental permission to check out library materials is problematic for three central reasons; however, but I thought I heard you say that this was something you were in support of. Mrs. Gullstrand asked Dr. Riker to repeat his questions. Dr. Riker said he has a document from Mrs. Gullstrand that she shared with Dr. Vitulli that says "In summary required parental permission to check out library materials is problematic for three reasons. One, this process violates the constitutional rights of students' access to information guaranteed under the first amendment. Two, creates barriers and negative connotations to subject matter and propels prejudice towards marginalized groups and topics. Three, it would be detrimental to the social emotional well-being of students, because of the negative connotation of a restricted label causes embarrassment for students requesting that material. Dr. Riker said I am just confirming; because, I thought I just heard you say you were supportive of parental permission. Mrs. Gullstrand said that is a permission slip to be permitted to borrow a title. The permission form that we created is a form that limits what their students has access to. Instead of having to ask for permission to have a book, they are telling us what their student cannot borrow. Ms. Schroth said this is opt out versus opt in. Mrs. Bear said this is

similar to opting in or out of masks. Dr. Riker said that there is a big difference because the expectation is that parents know every author and every book in order to decide which author or which book to opt out of. I think, through your own admission, you do not even get to read every book that are in our libraries. How can we expect parents, to know what books and authors, they want to opt their children out of? Dr. Bonilla said that is a good point. Mrs. Gullstrand said the parent can indicate specific subjects. Ms. Schroth said this is a process that already exists in the School District. During the ten years that I have been a librarian in this district, parents have always had the opportunity and have always had the option to reach out to their building librarian to opt their children out of materials which they do. Mrs. Gullstrand said for example, at the elementary level, there are some parents that do not feel comfortable with their son or daughter reading R.L. Stine, a horror Novel. They say they would like to opt out of having their son or daughter read R.L. Stine. So that student is not permitted to check out those books. They have access to the rest of the library collection. Dr. Riker said the assumption is that every parent in our district is going to know that. I think what we need to decide as a Board is a process, whereby we need to be proactive, so that parents who do not know they have access to this information that informs them of the content of books that may be explicit. Mr. Andrews said where would a parent find this information. Mrs. Gullstrand said that is why she was proposing to add this statement on the district website, so if you look at the second to last page in the packet that I gave to you, it's a statement that would make that now available on the district website. Mr. Andrews asked if this is not on the website now. Mrs. Gullstrand said no. Mr. Schlameuss said he would like to separate out two things. There is a well-designed idea of where we need to be going. Is this something that we need to pass off to the Education P & R Committee or Policy Review Committee and say this is something we need to develop. This is not in the final format. It doesn't look like it is something that is going on right now. Mr. Andrews said the librarian is saying that it is already going on right now. Mrs. Bear said it is not formally being done. My question is what you think is explicit may not be what I think is explicit. How do we determine what is explicit? How about if a parent does not want their child to read about a certain religion, is this explicit? This is vague. Mr. Schlameuss said before we get to this part of the discussion, I just want to separate the fact that this is a policy that you are looking to say we want to adopt. This is great to look at it with committees.

Mrs. VanWhy said she wants to piggyback on what Dr. Riker is saying is correct. We have roughly 7,000 students and parents. Not every parent is necessarily checking the website or knowing what books or what are in the books. To be honest, I didn't know what was in the book until somebody told me. Dr. Bonilla said we are not talking about any specific books. Mrs. VanWhy said I am just speaking in general. I am assuming that more than 100 parents may not know what is in these books. It could be religion or what we are talking about tonight. Every household is going to be different of what they should be able to allow their student to read.

Mr. Schlameuss said we need to push this item over to a committee to respond. This is bigger than just his committee, as we are not going to do this as well.

Mr. Gullstrand said he would like to mention this point moving forward. You seem to be so concerned about the opting in an out of the forms and so forth. Of course I am not an attorney, he would probably know better than I would, but we already have a precedent at the Federal and Supreme Court level that opting out is a violation of a child's or student's constitutional rights. By doing what we propose about opting out or into books, would be acceptable. By everybody having to submit a form that says that they can opt into reading that book, it's a violation of their first amendment rights in Counselor Cedar Hill School District and that was a Harry Potter issue. I think moving forward saying that we need to have letters of consent to take out books is counter to the argument that is here. What we should be saying is having letters to the Librarians or whomever that

say, these are the subject matter, this is the title and so on for each individual title. We have 7000 students. How do we keep track or does it not matter? According to the case's determination is that students should have unfettered access to books. By saying you cannot look at these books, unless we have a form from your parent that says you can, has already been declared unconstitutional. The issue here is whether there is a violation of your constitutional rights or that it is the letter of the law. Mrs. VanWhy said there is a lot of stuff in question regarding federally or legally.

Mr. Brown said he would like to clarify before you continue. The notion that it is unconstitutional to opt in. You are saying that it would be unconstitutional to require the parent to opt into prior to having the student opt in. That depends entirely on what you are requiring them to opt into. Mr. Gullstrand said it is when taking out of any material which is considered restrictive. That is the court case. Mr. Brown said that is not what the Harry Potter case says.

Mr. Schlameuss said I do not know if we are discussing opt in. I think we are really talking about opt out. I think that is where want to go. A parent would have to say they do not want their child to see it. Mrs. Bear said and if they do not say anything they can take out whatever is in the library. Mr. Gullstrand said they would have unfettered access to the books.

Mr. Brown said that the other point we are making is that students now do not have unfettered access to books. They have access to books that the Librarians chose to purchase. Mr. Gullstrand said because it is specifically unfettered access to the materials within the library, that is where the case was situated around and not books in general but within the library.

Ms. Kulick asked do we have an inventory available online by subject matter for every title that is within the district. Mrs. Gullstrand said yes. Ms. Kulick said this is the first step. Mr. Andrews asked if the list is easily accessible to the parents. Mrs. Gullstrand said the parents can select books with their student from the card catalog from home and select books with them prior to them coming to the library. They can make a list of what they are going to pick up and parents can approve the books prior to them going to the library. If you want further information anyone can search in Google to see if it meets the parameters of their beliefs.

Dr. Riker asked how many books do you have in circulation. Mrs. Gullstrand said there are thousands of books. Using the online catalog, you can make the selection prior to going to the library. Mrs. Bear asked if they can be sorted online by subject. Mrs. Gullstrand said yes, you can do a search by subject, author, title, etc. Mrs. VanWhy said to your point, I see where you are trying to go with this but titles of books do not necessarily depict the content. Dr. Bonilla said the Librarian said there is a summary. Mrs. VanWhy said there are about 10,000 books in the library. Mrs. Gullstrand said the parents can pick and say the list of books they approve for their child that week. Dr. Bonilla asked if we can create a resource that provides guidance. We have language, literacy and other barriers. If we already have this information, is there a resource we can create that would give some of that information. Mrs. Gullstrand said we can create a pamphlet. Dr. Bonilla asked is there an opportunity for some of our personnel to support parents that need assistance because some parents could not navigate the system. I think putting on our thinking caps, how can we partner with our families to ensure they understand what is available and how to access it. I think more information would be better. Mrs. VanWhy said it does not go into the whole content. Dr. Bonilla said it would require doing some homework. Mrs. VanWhy said that is a lot of homework about 10,000 books worth. If certain books would not have been brought to my attention, I would not have read them. Dr. Bonilla said you keep referring to the two books and we are not talking about them. We are talking in general content. Mrs. VanWhy said I did not say the names. Regardless of that, I would not have known what the books contained. Just by the summary, I would have not known the content.

Parents should have the right for their children to do what they chose. Dr. Bonilla said the Librarians are saying parents have the right to choose. Mrs. VanWhy said parents are a little crippled in this sense because they do not know the content of all books, no matter what it is unless they read it. If we have roughly 10,000 books and about 7,000 parents, this is a huge thing to consider. It is not just as simple as putting a notification somewhere. Dr. Bonilla said that Mrs. VanWhy has talked about the problem several times. I think we understand the problem. I want us to think about what are the actions that we are going to take to address those challenges. Mrs. VanWhy she is not trying to attack anyone but wants to get her point across. Mrs. Gullstrand said their plan is to protect the children of the East Stroudsburg Area School District. We all have the same goal. I just want to make sure that all students are protected equally as much as you want to protect your student. I am thinking about that student that might want access to a book but the parent is upset by it and makes it not available to everyone else. Mrs. VanWhy said I am not trying to do that. Dr. Bonilla said and this is not just a Librarian's issue because we are in this together. I don't want you to feel like you have to explain everything. Mrs. Gullstrand said I am not just talking about the books that started all of this. I want to make sure that because of those two books, we look at the whole picture to make sure that we are handling it appropriately for any book in question.

Dr. Riker said you, Mrs. Gullstrand, mentioned if they went through the card catalog, they could select three books that they want their child to be able to sign out and indicate that somewhere and they would know to do that. Mrs. Gullstrand said they can place it on a piece of paper. Ms. Schroth said the Board has the information on how the parent would do that. Dr. Riker said let me ask you the reverse as part of the process. Can they use the same process to choose books that they do not want their child to have? Mrs. Gullstrand said yes.

Mr. Andrews asked if there is a way that we can get the books beyond the synopsis because it seems that the synopsis is uncertain. If there were more details you might get a better feel for the books. Can we get better details of the books? Mrs. Gullstrand said when we go to purchase a book, I can check mark certain boxes. I check for reviews in professional journals. If it is a professional review, that has a higher likelihood that it is quality material. If it is star review, the material may be even better. By reading the review of the professional, I get more information than the summary from the author. The reviewer is an unbiased review, so I get to see if it is of quality material. If the reviewer feels it is inappropriate, then we won't purchase it. It is a lengthy process. On occasion, I have done my due diligence and a student brought something to her attention that will have her take it off circulation.

Mr. Lurry asked how possible is it for you to read every review on a book like that. Mrs. Gullstrand said she reads as many as she possible can. Mr. Lurry said I mean the reviews. There are many and not all are from parents. Mrs. Gullstrand said what I try to do is read the review from people who I trust and value instead of just bloggers. I value Joyce Valenza, Professional Librarians' reviews. There are certain reviews that hold more wait as well.

Mrs. Bear said years back, I had an issue as a parent, not as a Board member, but as a parent with a book that my son took out. He came home with a book for a book report. He read it and he said mom this topic is really heavy. I read it with him. I then emailed the Librarian in the middle school because she recommended it to him. I was kind of concerned that the Librarian would recommend such a topic like this to a sixth grader. When I emailed the teacher, she asked if he wanted another book. I said we already read it together and discussed it. If there is not a parent home or available to discuss a heavy topic like that, should the Librarian be recommending a topic like this regardless of what it is. Mrs. Gullstrand said she had a similar experience. Mrs. Bear said this book was about suicide and it made me uncomfortable as a parent, especially since it was around the time that suicides

were occurring. When I spoke to the Librarian, she said she did not know it was about suicide. Mrs. Gullstrand said she cannot speak about a specific situation. Mrs. Bear said do they know what they are recommending to their specific audience. Mrs. Gullstrand said she cannot speak to what they are recommending. Mrs. Bear said that is my point, you do not know everything that you are recommending.

Mr. Schlameuss said let's refocus here back on to what we are trying to do. You presented to us the Policy. Ms. Kulick asked for the Librarians to walk them through their handouts and give them the information on where you got it. Mr. Schlameuss said you may want to take this information to the Policy Review Committee. You, Ms. Kulick, can have them come to the meeting. It's an open public meeting. Talk about it there. The Education Programs & Resources Committee will also have some discussion. We should not be here all night. This is awesome but let's pass it on to each committee. The Board members agreed. Mrs. VanWhy said about one year or a year and a half ago when signing checks to pay the bill of the books that were purchased, I noticed that some of the titles do not let us know anything about the books. I wonder how we select them? It is not just what was brought to our attention but other things. Who am I to question and I don't have children in the schools. I am not being specific. It is not new. Mr. Schlameuss said we are here tonight to write a recommendation which will be made by Administration to create a reserve collection for explicit literature. Dr. Riker is looking for clarification on two titles that we are aware of. Dr. Riker said I am not looking for specific titles. Mr. Schlameuss said it is about the content of the books. The Board needs to give direction if we want to create a reserve collection where a parent can opt out. The book is by the circulation desk and not in general circulation. If they want to take it out, the librarian would need to check to see if they were opt out of it. Mrs. Bear said the whole part about that is, if the child does not have an opt out and they are embarrassed to ask the Librarian for it due to the nature of the subject, the student is being put in a bad spot. Ms. Schroth said no matter what the content of the book that is placed in the reserve shelf is, what you are creating is a psychological barrier. It is going to cause embarrassment and problems. The child will not want to ask for the book even if it is something they need. Dr. Riker said what you are creating is the opportunity for the parent to have a say in what their child gets to see or not. That is important. Ms. Schroth said this also creates a disadvantage to some of our student who do not have that parental support. Dr. Bonilla said some students may not have parents, so we need to also specify guardians' decisions, too.

Mr. Brown said I want to clarify about if the Board is going to endorse a reserve collection, what would qualify to go into the reserve collection. This is the debate that Mr. Gullstrand and I were having about the court case of a school in Arkansas who tried to do a reserve collection for the Harry Potter books. They said it was because it has witchcraft and stuff like that and parents do not like that. They wanted the parents to have to opt in and that is not okay. The reason that is not okay is because the Board or Administration or whoever put the Harry Potter books in there did not like the ideas expressed in the Harry Potter books. The Administration, Board or the Librarians cannot do that. You cannot say that you do not like the things that they are saying and want to place it in reserve. The way you would determine what content would qualify for it is if that content meets the definition of what is obscene or vulgar. Mrs. Bear said obscene and vulgar are also an opinion. Mr. Brown said it is not a black or white question but are the ideas expressed in the book good or bad. Mr. Andrews said that would mean that the Librarians would need to read the book to see if they are vulgar or obscene. Mr. Brown said what makes this challenging for everyone is that the court has put them in a challenging spot by saying that Librarians have total discretion about what goes into the libraries. So if they decide to purchase only books from Democrats they can, which is crazy, but the court said it is okay. The court also said once you pick a book you cannot take it out unless it is obscene. That puts them in a tough spot where they think it is a good book like about suicide but then want to take it out, you cannot just because you do not like the ideas. Dr. Bonilla asked if you would be able to place the

book at the high school level vs. the middle school to make it more age appropriate. Mrs. VanWhy asked Mr. Brown to describe what is obscene. Mr. Brown said I can read to you what the courts have said to be obscene. Dr. Bonilla said I would like my question answered first. Mrs. Bear asked if they can send the book about suicide to the high schools. Mr. Brown said if you have a middle school parent that takes issue to that, you would have a difficult time at court. Dr. Riker said I think the key is that the idea cannot be the reason for removing the books or putting them on a reserve collection. That is the misconception that has occurred around this topic so far in our district. It is not about the idea but about the sexually explicit content. It cannot be based on an idea. It either is or isn't. That is where Mr. Brown is saying when you select what is the reason a book would go into a reserve collection. It cannot be based on an idea. It has to be based on an idea. It has to be based on something that is obscene or vulgar. Mr. Gullstrand said if we go by a definition of obscene, like Mr. Brown said earlier, when we have the definition of what is considered obscene and if it meets those criteria, then obviously it would be obscene. If it didn't meet the criteria, how would we make that determination. Would we create some sort of committee that determines this? Mr. Brown said, no, I would not recommend that. That is what you have staff for. Mr. Gullstrand said if we had a reconsideration process, from that point that we would not want those books, would we at any point get individuals to get together to read the books, discuss them and come to determination to give to the Board. The Board would then make a decision on that or have a reconsideration that is filled out and the Board makes the decision. The logical step is that we put the book into a committee and they read the book to determine and bring their findings to the Board. The Board can read the book as well and then the Board can make the decision based on their recommendation. Then we are not making the decision based upon our own bias that we may have based upon the content that is being presented. Mrs. VanWhy said it needs to be a little bit more specific in the way we are vetting them and bringing the books in because once they are in here, now we have to have discussion on how to undo it. We need to vet them for specific content when they are coming into the school district. Do we want to allow whatever? We will take sex out but do we allow subjects on drugs? This should be done prior to coming into the library. Mrs. VanWhy asked the Librarians if they knew the content about the certain books in question, probably not? You cannot tell by a title or what someone says. Mr. Schlameuss said this conversation is good to help the Policy Review Committee to help them review and address this. We need to decide how to define explicit. What is the definition that it falls into? How do we get this discussion into the implementation in order for Administration to go forward with it? We have obscene and vulgar. Mrs. VanWhy said that is not defined enough. Some books have some vulgarity and obscenities. Mr. Gullstrand asked Mr. Brown do we go by the standards that have already been established in the Supreme Court of what is considered obscene. Mr. Brown said that is what would guide me when I am asked. Mr. Gullstrand said we cannot justify when we make the discretionary choice to say that I feel that is obscene, even though it does not meet the criteria that was set in place. We can remove a book with a vote but individually if I have an inherent bias towards a particular topic, my bias is going to say that it is obscene even though it does not meet the criteria about obscene. Does the district have the right to redefine obscene from what the courts have already established? Mr. Brown said the simple answer is no. The real answer is you are going to vote the way you want to vote. If there is a situation where a book is before the Board, which I would recommend that the Board never put itself in a position where an individual book is before you, which is a separate topic, and you are making a decision on a particular book, I would review it before the meeting. I would place it in the context of what the courts have said this can be or cannot be banned and where does it fall within the spectrum. I would give you my advice and 95 out of 100 times, I am going to tell you it is not obscene. It maybe unpleasant and you do not like it, but it is not obscene. It is a fairly high standard. If you vote contrary to my advice, you are exposed to potential litigation if a parent is bothered by that. Dr. Riker said I would like to draw a parallel between what is in the library and what a school district does to filter or block students' access to sites that may contain similar content. Mr. Brown said this is the crazy trap that the Supreme Court has set up with its case laws

about student libraries. You can ban or prohibit access to any website you want. You can refuse to purchase any book you want. Once the books are in here, it becomes a big complicated morass to get it out. Mr. Andrews said he understand that but what we are trying to sort out is the difference between content and subject. I don't think the argument is the subject but the content in the books. That is where we are having the issues. We said we should have the capability to monitor the content. We should be allowed to have the subject but not the content. Mr. Brown said that is what is wise about the reserved collection idea. That reserve book collection would only be classified for obscene or inappropriate books for schools. You do not want to throw it out due to the idea and put it in a reserve collection. Dr. Bonilla said would we go through all of our books. We do not want a reserve collection with three or five books. Mrs. Bear said or place them in there due to one certain subject. Dr. Riker said you would end up there though. Once you define what is the criteria for reserve collection, you are also saying to the Librarians do not purchase any additional books that contain that type of content. It is limited to what is currently in circulation. Dr. Bonilla asked if it is going to be everything that is in circulation now. Mr. Gullstrand said the remedy is, when you get a reconsideration 109.1 form request, you can go through it. We establish what we determine to be obscene. Mrs. VanWhy that is then inappropriate. Ms. Schroth said it is not inappropriate because then parents have their own thoughts. Mr. Brown said let's use the term obscene. Dr. Bonilla said this is going to take longer to get these forms. I am not okay with the reserve section. Mr. Brown said if an Administrator came to him to put a book in reserve on a certain topic, I would not recommend that. Mr. Schlameuss said it would have to come from a parent. Dr. Bonilla said I would agree if we got 100 of them and then only 25 would be in reserve. Mrs. Bear asked how long have the books in question been in the library. Ms. Schroth said they were purchased in 2020. Mr. Gullstrand said in the past 20 years, how many reconsideration forms have we received. Dr. Riker said I have not seen any. Dr. Bonilla said that is her concern. Mr. Gullstrand said we may get many forms for the two books. Mr. Brown said he is not aware of any other book that could reasonably be classified as obscene. I'm not saying that there aren't any. Mrs. VanWhy said she agrees with Mr. Andrews when he said it is not about the subject but the content. The extra that is in it that could be anything, sexual or drug related. Mr. Schlameuss said it has to fall under obscene. It is about that definition of obscene. Do we accept the definition from the Supreme Court? Mr. Brown said that is what I recommend we use. Mr. Schlameuss asked Mr. Brown if he has that definition.

Mr. Brown said "material that appeals to the prurient interest in sex or that portrays sexual conduct in a patently offensive way and which, taken as a whole does not have serious literary artistic political or scientific value".

Mr. Gullstrand said his question is if it is decided in whichever way they wish to go, whomever presents to the Board a book any time, we would take it under your advisement whether it falls into the definition you just read to us. Mr. Brown said I would give you the best guidance I can based upon what the Courts have said yes to and no to. Mr. Gullstrand said he would then make a decision upon that because I would not take my own advice. Mr. Brown said a step before that is the Librarians can get in touch with the principals or central administration and they get in touch with me and I can advise them, too.

Mrs. Gullstrand said if I could find other books that could cover that topic that do not have that one page, I will happily get rid of that book and replace it with other books. Mr. Schlameuss said you cannot do that because it may be a topic that is not known much about. Mrs. Bear said it is a unique and new topic. Mrs. Gullstrand said if she can find books for students and tell them to choose a pictorial or novel, they probably would not take the novel. It is a topic I know very little about and it is extremely difficult. Dr. Riker said we are not talking about the topic. Mr. Schlameuss said we need to reset because it is getting complicated. Mr. Rohner said I have no problem with the policies that

are already in place. It's pretty clear that the staff has the ability to choose these books, with the Superintendent's recommendation that eventually comes before us. The policies that currently are in place, I don't have a problem with. Mrs. Bear asked if Mr. Rohner is going to look at the books. Mr. Rohner said I am not interested in reading books. Dr. Bonilla said he trusts in Administration. Mr. Schlameuss said he likes to hear that. Mr. Rohner said he is not interested in banning books. He said to the Librarians, I don't blame you for choosing the books. Ms. Schroth said thank you and I can't speak for Mrs. Gullstrand but I stand by our selections of both of those materials. Dr. Riker said we are not talking about those two books. Ms. Schroth said then I stand by all of the library materials for their curricular and representation of the students. Mrs. Gullstrand said we have to value parental rights, too. We have to find a way for them. Mr. Brown said this can be done with a direct reconsideration form. Dr. Bonilla said we have not received any direct reconsideration form. Are we going to meet in the middle; otherwise, let's follow the process. Mr. Gullstrand said we may need to do a better policy. Dr. Bonilla said Administration is saying we do not have to. Mr. Rohner said the policy is citing specific sections of the school code and school law. Mrs. VanWhy said our policies are very vague in everything. Mr. Schlameuss said he would like to circle back to the obscenity piece that Mr. Brown read to us. I am trying to gauge here if an item meets the guidelines under the Supreme Court of obscenity rule, should there be a separate place for those book or should they remain in general circulation. We are not setting policies or making recommendations. Dr. Bonilla said we are not talking about any specific books. Mr. Schlameuss said if there is a book in the library that meets the requirement of obscenity, what do we do? Mrs. Bear asked are we going to make the Librarians go through each topic and books or do we wait to get the form? Mr. Schlameuss said we have to wait to get the form to see if it meets the obscenity rule. Mrs. Bear said that would mean a parent taking it out and then the parent gives it to the committee. The committee will remove it from general circulation to a reserve circulation. Mr. Andrews said but the child would have already seen it, so it defeats the purpose. Mrs. Bear said it may help another child from seeing it. Not every parent will be as involved as they were in the past. Dr. Bonilla said not every parent will be upset by the same content. Mrs. Bear said just because I opted out does not prevent another child from showing it to my student or any other student. Mr. Schlameuss said I want to focus on one thing regarding all of the books existing in the library and that is addressing the definition of obscenity.

Mr. Lurry said legally there are not that many options. One option may be with the consent form and placing it into a new area. We don't have much choice here since we are not removing any books that are obscene whether we know about it or not.

Ms. Kulick said it sounds like we already opened the door and we cannot go and undo it because the books are already in the libraries. Mr. Andrews asked if there is an age limit on having parents sign a form. If the student is 18 or over, do they need permission from their parent? Mr. Brown said you can make that determination because they can be 18 but are students. Mr. Schlameuss said how about if the student is emancipated. Mr. Brown said the student can make the decision but the group would be very narrow.

Mr. Schlameuss said what we are learning, is that some of you are saying that this is somewhat complicated and some are saying it is very simple. We have the books there in the library, and it should be as it is. Going forward we should look at this policy a little bit more. Dr. Riker said we can review the policy or create an Administrative Regulation (AR). Mr. Lurry said we need to look at this policy a little bit more. We have two options of what we are going to do. It is really about going forward, we cannot prevent what already happened. Dr. Bonilla said I think in terms of being proactive and some further purchases people ask me about, that is where the review with the Education Committee can help in terms of where we are headed for access. When we talk about the mission statement and global perspective, we want to be careful with the limitations that we are

setting on the books we have in the library. The Education Committee can partner with the Policy Review Committee. Dr. Riker said that would only work if the committees bring their recommendation to the full Board for a decision. The committees itself aren't going to be able to make that decision for the Board. Dr. Bonilla said both committees would have to do that. Ms. Kulick said we would need to get together to decide.

Mr. Schlameuss said the two steps we need to see is that Dr. Riker would need to review this document, digest it, process it and then send it to Policy Review Committee for processing. Dr. Riker said I can already make a recommendation the policy already speaks for itself. It gives the authority to the Superintendent to create an AR on this guidance. It does not need to be in the policy other than what Mr. Brown already spoke about. If the Board makes a recommendation for a reserve collection, then it would need to be in the policy. Mr. Gullstrand asked could this document be presented as an AR and be used for the library to follow through instead of making it part of the Policy. Dr. Bonilla said it is just having them document what they are doing. Dr. Riker said these handouts are not what their current procedures are but rather their recommendation. These recommendations to change Policy 109 are not what is going on. The handouts include committees that they are recommending to start with the building level, Central Office, and then the Board with a whole appeal process so that is not what currently occurs. Mr. Gullstrand said I am not talking about that. I am talking about the selection process. Mrs. VanWhy asked if Policy 109 stays as is now. Dr. Riker said it says that the Superintendent, after consultation with the teaching staff, shall be responsible for the selection and recommendation of all resource materials. The Superintendent shall develop and implement selection procedures for resource materials. What I was hoping to get from the Board is some direction and guidance on any limitations or criteria that would be part of that selection process, such as obscene content. Mrs. VanWhy asked if right now that's the only guidance we would need to give you. Dr. Riker said that is correct. Mr. Schlameuss said there is only two pieces in the library now and what to do with them. What are we doing? Mrs. VanWhy asked do we need to define obscene to Dr. Riker. Mr. Andrews said we need to let him know if we have a separate selection with obscene material. Mr. Gullstrand said we need to put in the policy that definition. If you deem something to be obscene based on the definition that is presented by Mr. Brown. What happens if we say the legal definition of a particular title that has been proven to not be obscene but we view it as obscene. Mr. Brown said no, the person does not come into court saying we believe it is obscene. Mr. Gullstrand said if a parent said we did not purchase a book because we based it on obscene, but it did not meet the criteria of being obscene. Mr. Brown said you can deny a purchase of any book. Dr. Riker said we do not need a reason. It is different when the book is already here. Mr. Gullstrand said what if a book comes through that no one deemed to be obscene and then it comes to our selection process. It cannot be black and white. Mr. Brown said I would assume that anything that is found in the library that is obscene would find its way to the reserve collection. I make that assumption, because I assume that your Librarians purchased it for a reason that it has some merit, which can contain some obscenity. I would think if the Librarians outright purchase a pornographic magazine subscription, you would not object to having it canceled. The problem is when you have material with obscenity but also have some educational merit. What do you do with that? You have three options put it in a reserve collection, leave it on the shelf or ban it. Mr. Gullstrand said I just want to make sure that we are not in a bind to say that we are putting up a firewall for anything obscene. Mr. Brown said that is unrealistic. Dr. Bonilla said we do not have a reserve collection, so do we have books that you consider to be obscene. No, because we do not have a reserve collection. Mrs. Gullstrand said in our policy it says what we do to select material. There is a lot we consider besides just obscenity. We consider if it is appropriate for the subject area and age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, socially emotional and intellectual development for students who the material is selected for. What I am proposing is that the committee who is looking at the material after they look at its entirety, not just a page, if they feel that it doesn't meet this criteria, the majority of the committee then feels

that perhaps that book does not belong in the library. Now obviously because I've selected it and read the whole thing, I have come up with my points to support it. I would be voting to retain it but if the majority of the committee feels that it does not meet the criteria, then perhaps that book does not belong in the library. Dr. Riker said the problem with the committee is that there is one parent, and everyone else is an educator in the school. Mrs. Gullstrand said but not all educators have the same opinion. Dr. Riker said that is the problem, they are not to have any opinion. They are supposed to be representing parents of both perspectives. I think a committee structure is one of the proposals you have in the proposed system. I think it can be tweaked. As presented, it is where it needs to be but you need to have more parental involvement. Mrs. Gullstrand said I would love to have that. Mr. Schlameuss said the whole point of this meeting is to have dialogue, discussion and understanding of the totality of this issue. Like Mr. Brown said, this is huge and not just black and white. We all come with different perspectives and different lenses. Mrs. VanWhy asked are we defining obscenity now. If you find porn in a magazine, who is defining this as obscenity? Mr. Brown said different topics would have different measures. Something comes to the Administration's attention by a parent or student. Dr. Riker would look at it and see why you do not like it but it is not obscene then it goes back on the shelf. Otherwise, he will call Mr. Brown to look over and make a decision. You can pull that out of his hands into committee. The concern is that I believe Dr. Riker does what is in the best interest legally of the school district likelier than a committee would. Mrs. VanWhy said then why are we not doing this right now. Mr. Brown said we are and that is my recommendation. Dr. Bonilla said we are looking at the process to see if we want to change it. Mrs. VanWhy said we need to definitely look at this for the future. Mr. Brown said I am telling you my prospective of what is already in place. Mrs. VanWhy said there are books in question. Dr. Bonilla said we did not get a reconsideration form so they are not in question. Mrs. VanWhy said sometimes the Board supports the Administration's decision and sometimes they do not. Dr. Bonilla said our job is to implement the policies. Mr. Schlameuss said our job is to determine the policies for Administration to follow them. Mrs. VanWhy asked if what Mr. Brown said happens, happened with the books in questions. Mr. Gullstrand said in order for Dr. Riker to get the book to review, we need to have the Form 109 Reconsideration Form first. Mrs. VanWhy said if anyone has a problem with book, they must fill out the Reconsideration Form. It then goes to Dr. Riker and then to Mr. Brown. Dr. Bonilla said that is why we took time to make this determination. Mr. VanWhy said if anyone has an issue with anything, they should follow policy. Mr. Gullstrand said if someone comes to me and they say they have an issue with a book, I would tell them to fill out the Reconsideration Form. I am not going to say I agree with them. Mrs. VanWhy said when everyone from the public that comes to speak about it, they do not know what to do. Mr. Gullstrand said I have seen Board members as well as myself that have assisted parents with issues.

Ms. Kulick said the policy does not point people to the forum; therefore, the one addition that needs to be made is something that says here is the form that you fill out if you have an issue with something and that might just be simply our solution to the whole evening. Mr. Schlameuss said it may almost be the whole solution but not quite. Ms. Kulick said that is a solution for the Policy Review Committee. Mr. Schlameuss said the other question is, are we considering or not considering accepting the recommendation of a reserve collection. Ms. Kulick asked if this would be the AR. Mr. Schlameuss said it would be within the policy. We are going to kick it back to the committee. What do we do with the content that may already exist? Where does that go at the moment? Ms. Kulick said now we are going to publish the information that says if you have an issue then follow this so that it can come to the Board. This may allow us to create the reserve collection. Dr. Riker said that would be like having our community fill out a form that says I am in favor of masks or I am not in favor of masks. That is what you are going to get and it will bring you back to where you started. You can have anyone you want fill out a reconsideration form. Some will and some won't and now what? Where will that leave you? It is no different than if you want them to fill out a form to wear a mask or

not wear a mask or should we get vaccinated or should we not be vaccinated. That is what this is if they fill out the form. You made no decision. Mr. Gullstrand said if a reconsideration form is being filled out, do we pull the book until the whole process has been completed? Mrs. VanWhy said the book has already been pulled. Mr. Gullstrand said it should not have been because there was no reconsideration form. If that is the policy and procedure, then that makes sense. Mr. Andrews said the reconsideration form is only going to be filled out once the book is already in the library. Mr. Schlameuss said the books have to be put back in circulation until they fill out a reconsideration form. Mr. Andrews said it may need to go in that separate area but some kids may be intimidated by us doing that. It may be the best way to go when we are separating that material that we do not think it is appropriate for the general public. Mrs. VanWhy asked if all material is assigned appropriately by age. Mrs. Gullstrand said at the elementary level, the collections are separated. The kindergarteners are not permitted to check out what the other levels can. Mrs. VanWhy asked if the books in question are in circulation in the appropriate age level. Ms. Schroth said they are just at the high school level. They were selected for the high school collections based on who they were created for and reviewed for. Mrs. VanWhy asked if any of the books were in the intermediate level. Mrs. Gullstrand said one of the titles was at the intermediate school and that was removed. Mrs. VanWhy said this is important to know, too. She said that Mr. Andrews brought up that point to her almost right after all of this surfaced. I did not have the answer to his question. Age appropriate material is first of all. Mrs. Gullstrand said publishers will say what target age the material is meant for. We are part of the consortium and one challenge of any book is whether the book is age appropriate for middle school students so we moved it to high school. Mr. Andrews asked if it is suitable for 8th graders. Dr. Bonilla said the students start in 9th grade at the high school. Dr. Riker said I want parents to have the opportunity to select whether their child is able to read a book or not. What mechanism exists or can we create so that if we were to pull certain things in books in question we can place them back in circulation tomorrow? I received many emails to today and over the past month from those who are appalled with the items in certain books. These parents want to have the opportunity to say I don't want my child having access to that book. I think we need to come up with a mechanism that allows a parent to make that decision. Even with these books in question, if there is a parent, and I know there are, that don't think these books should be in our school library, they need to have a sense of confidence in knowing that they can say to you my child/children cannot sign this book out. Mrs. Gullstrand said in the packet that we gave you, we added a blurb to add to our Code of Conduct that every parent gets in the beginning of the year. It outlines what our library services are and what we provide in our collection both digitally and in print. In that packet, there is a permission slip specifically for you to say what they do not want their child to have. Dr. Riker said the challenge of that is, as we said a long time ago, that there are so many books. I think as families become aware of books, they may have concerns with them. We have to do a better job of informing our families of books that may contain topics that are sexually explicit. I think that helps our families that are saying that it is important for them to have a say.

Dr. Bonilla said I would like to counter that and be transparent and say that, at the last Regular Board meeting, we had a lot of people that were in favor of the books in question. We want to look at things from a well-rounded perspective. Dr. Riker said that is right it is still available to those parents. Mrs. VanWhy said they were picking at a separate subject now. Community vs sexual content is different. Dr. Bonilla said that is part of what they looked at, too. Mrs. VanWhy said so I have to worry about if I am sharing certain content with a Board member and that I am putting something that could be considered pornographic. Dr. Bonilla said I was not going to go into details. Don't put words in my mouth. What I did want to clarify is that Dr. Riker made a point that we received several emails from families who were against the said books, which we said we were not going to go into detail about them and we did. I countered that by saying we also had a lot of people that were in favor of the

books that emailed and showed up at the last Board meeting. Dr. Riker said as board members you have an obligation to represent both sides.

Mr. Gullstrand asked the Librarians if they mentioned earlier that a parent can go through the course catalog and then pick a book and say they do not want their child to see a specific book. Mrs. Gullstrand said the parent can pick the book and reserve it before the child arrives at the school. Mr. Gullstrand asked can they somehow reserve books they do not want their child to read. Mrs. Gullstrand said they can. Mr. Gullstrand said then there are two options; you can have the parent fill it out online or go in person to indicate their choice on the course catalog.

Mr. Schlameuss said he would like to circle back to Ms. Kulick since she is the one that led this, so I am clear on what I am hearing. What I am hearing is that perhaps we should withhold the books from the library at the moment and develop a paper process that allows parents to opt out of the content. Once this is done and available online and ready to go, we can put that book back in circulation. We can also have digital paperwork available, too. What I am hearing is that it might be an option to have this content put back on the shelf. Now to Mr. Andrews' point, do we put it back on the shelf or do we have a reserve collection? Dr. Bonilla said I suggest no, to a reserve collection and it sounds like we should not have ever taken them out of circulation. Mr. Andrews said how many parents will fill out the card saying that they do not want their child to see it. Many parents do not do any reading and need assistance. Dr. Bonilla said we can create a tool to provide some more information and guidance. Mr. Andrews said you still cannot get them to read. Mr. Schlameuss said maybe a video can be created. What I am hearing is that we are going to develop a process that allows parents to opt out then we can put it back on the shelf. Dr. Bonilla asked what content. We should have not taken them out in the first place according to what Mr. Brown said. Ms. Kulick said I disagree. Mrs. VanWhy said it was up to Administration. Mr. Schlameuss said we are going to withhold the material until we have the process for parents to opt out. Dr. Bonilla said no because Mr. Brown said it has to meet a standard. If it met a standard then, it should not be there at all. Mr. Schlameuss said we should wait until we have a process for parents to opt out. I hear what you are saying. The books should be back on the shelf tomorrow. Dr. Bonilla said they should be back on the shelf today according to the legal standards that Mr. Brown read to us. Dr. Riker said according to the Court of Public Opinion, a lot of people would disagree with you. Dr. Bonilla said it is about both sides. Mr. Brown said the question before the Board is not about particular books. It is about if a book contains obscene material does it go on the shelf, out of the library entirely or in a reserve collection? Dr. Bonilla said Mr. Schlameuss was referring to two particular books. Are we going to keep dancing around them or not? We need to decide. Mr. Brown said the Board is not deciding on any particular books tonight. Dr. Bonilla said but in the meantime, those books are not in circulation so that is a problem. If we are saying we cannot take books out, then we cannot take them out. Mrs. VanWhy said Mr. Brown is saying what are we doing with obscene content is correct. Dr. Bonilla said but this is not related to those two books but just in general. Mrs. VanWhy said we are talking in general but we can go through every book if you want. Dr. Bonilla said that is not what I am asking. I asked very specifically to the definition that Mr. Brown gave. Should those books be back on the shelf? We have to stop dancing around. Mr. Andrews said we do not know if they meet the definition. Dr. Bonilla said if they do not meet the definition, then we need to wait for the proper forms to be followed according to the policy that is currently in place. Mr. Andrews said they should not be on the book shelves right now. Dr. Bonilla said that is not what the policy says because we did not receive the formal form. Mr. Schlameuss said that is why this is complicated. Dr. Bonilla said the policy is already in place. Dr. Riker said the policy does not indicate that a form has to be received before a book is removed. Dr. Bonilla said we discussed that there is going to be an updated policy. Dr. Riker said it does not say it now. Mrs. VanWhy said the policy says that it is at the discretion of the administration. Dr. Bonilla said to Dr. Riker you made the decision to take the books off the shelf and it is staying off. I need clarity on

where we are. Dr. Riker said I am asking the Board to make that decision. Dr. Bonilla said that is why I am pushing the Board to make that decision. Mr. Schlameuss said that the challenge here is that some of us might say this book is obscene and others of us here might say that is not. Dr. Bonilla said what I am saying according to the policy today and according to the legal definition, we have the responsibility to make the decision. Mrs. VanWhy said it is for Dr. Riker to decide because that is what it says in the policy. Dr. Bonilla said but now Dr. Riker needs the Board to decide. Mr. Andrews said we cannot make a decision tonight. Dr. Bonilla said we are not voting tonight but providing some guidance. Dr. Riker said the direction I am looking for from you as a Board is whether you wish to have resource material in our libraries that contain sexually explicit content. Mrs. VanWhy said we are not voting but my answer is, no. Dr. Bonilla asked where does that leave us. Mr. Schlameuss asked does the content of that book meet with the guidelines that was presented from the Supreme Court. Mr. Brown said if you are talking about the books that were taken off the shelf, the answer is, yes. Mrs. VanWhy said if it meets the guidelines then that is the decision. Mr. Schlameuss said I am not comfortable with saying let us get rid of those books. Mr. Brown said that is why these options were presented to the Board. Mrs. VanWhy what do we do because they are already here. Mr. Gullstrand asked Mr. Brown to read the definition for obscene again. Mrs. VanWhy said it is very vague

Mr. Brown said, “material that appeals to the prurient interest in sex or that portrays sexual conduct in a patently offensive way and which, taken as a whole does not have serious literary artistic political or scientific value”.

Mr. Gullstrand said the definition of prurient would be arousing for the sake of arousing purposes. As a whole that is the content of the book. Mr. Brown said not always. A Playboy Magazine has a lot of material that is not obscene. Mr. Gullstrand said but, as a whole, it is the definition of obscene. Mr. Brown but now you are starting to weigh ideas. Mr. Gullstrand asked does it have literary value. Mr. Brown said a Playboy Magazine easily has met the definition of obscene because of the individual pages/sections that are obscene. I am saying that these books are akin to that because a portion of them has value. Mr. Gullstrand said it is the overall construct of the book. Mr. Brown said that is not the question. Dr. Bonilla said although it was in the second part of the law. Mrs. VanWhy said this definition is vague. I read both of the stories. You can read the whole story and it is great. You do not have to put in the sexual content. Dr. Bonilla said that is what Mr. Gullstrand is saying that the content is great without that once piece. Mr. Gullstrand said we should not have to make that decision. Mrs. VanWhy said we do not have to make that decision. Mr. Gullstrand said that is what Dr. Riker is asking us to do. Mrs. VanWhy said Mr. Brown is defining it as obscene based on the court documents. Mr. Brown said I am saying that courts that have found things that are far further away from the line than these books are. Mr. Schlameuss said the problem is right now if we say let us assign it to Dr. Riker, the books come off the shelf as per policy. Dr. Riker said I am not interested in banning books. That is not what I am saying. Mrs. VanWhy said let’s follow what is already there. Dr. Riker has the right to make that decision. He has discussed it with Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown says it meets the criteria. It is already part of our selection. Are we going to put it in a private selection or have parents sign off on it? The other stuff we will develop later. Give guidance because he already made the decision per policy. We do not have to make the decision until the next meeting. Mr. Schlameuss said perhaps we should allow the committees to make a recommendation to the Board that way we can have something at the next Board meeting. Mrs. VanWhy asked are we allowing the Education Committee to give the recommendation. Ms. Kulick said I thought it was going to the Policy Committee, too. Mr. Schlameuss said it is. You can discuss policy for any new books. Ms. Kulick said I am taking about amending the current policy. Mr. Schlameuss said you can do that, too. Right now it is about what to do with books in the current collection that meet the content. Ms. Kulick said her opinion is to have a reserve collection. Mrs. VanWhy said we are not making

decisions tonight. Mr. Schlameuss said we are not making decisions but we can make recommendations. Mr. Andrews said we should not get rid of the books. Mr. Schlameuss said it did not go through the process the way we expected it to but we are here right now. We need to make a recommendation that comes back to the Board through the Committees. At the next Board meeting, a final determination will be made. Mr. Gullstrand said with reference to the policy, we know we need to amend them because currently there is nothing that says about a reconsideration form that needs to be filled out first. Mrs. Bear said or if an item is deemed obscene, we do not have a policy for that. Mr. Schlameuss said that Ms. Kulick will have new things to work on. Mr. Andrews asked if at this moment, will the books stay off the shelves. Mr. Schlameuss said everything will stay as is. We have a plan for the Education Committee and Policy Committee to review, create and recommend. Mr. Andrews asked when do we have to have this done by. Mr. Schlameuss said it is going to the Education Committee for the only thing that is pressing right now. It then goes to Policy Committee for future preparation. Mr. Andrews asked when do we vote on it. Mr. Schlameuss said the only thing that we will vote on is the recommendations from the Education Committee at the next Board meeting. Dr. Vitulli said he is part of the Education Committee and he is not understanding what the Board is asking them to do. What are you asking of us? I don't want to leave with a vague understanding. Mr. Schlameuss said you should decide whether we are going to consider a reserve collection. At the next Board meeting, we can accept it or modify. Ms. Kulick said the second part to that is an Administrative Review, which will allow a mechanism for opting out. Mr. Schlameuss said this would be for all books. Mr. Andrews said it will be for books and digital items, too. Mr. Schlameuss said Policy Committee will work with Administration. This was a very good meeting.

Mrs. Gullstrand asked some guidance on how to proceed with current orders. Mr. Rohner said just follow the policy. If you follow the policy, you are on the right track. Dr. Bonilla said we should wait until the Board meeting. Dr. Vitulli said there is only one purchase order pending right now. Ms. Schroth asked if her elementary orders should be placed, too. Mrs. Gullstrand said she also has orders from Amazon and will be canceled automatically if they are not approved. Mr. Schlameuss asked if her order goes to the Superintendent. Dr. Vitulli said he approves them and is was waiting to approve one purchase order pending any changes that may occur tonight. I have not heard anything solid. I have no idea about all of the titles. Mr. Schlameuss said let's follow the process and use your discretion. It was a long evening and I appreciate everyone for coming out. Mr. Rohner asked when do the books go back on the shelves. Dr. Bonilla said after the Board meeting in January.

ADJOURNMENT 8:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia L. Rosado,
Board Secretary