



Background

Students should have classroom experiences that cover a wide range of issues and areas of study. However, it is important that the issues and material used within the school are consistent with the standards, beliefs and values of the parents and the community.

Procedures

1. The principal is responsible for the following when programs that are controversial in nature are offered in the school:
 - 1.1 To discuss the programs and materials with the Local School Board Committee and get approval for their use in the school.
 - 1.2 To communicate to the parents the nature of the program and the materials and if necessary, hold a parent meeting to review program content and material, respond to any concerns and inform parents of their right to exclude their children from the program.
 - 1.3 To ensure that alternative learning activities are provided for excluded students.
 - 1.4 To ensure that staff are prepared to provide effective program delivery.
 - 1.5 To ensure that the information dealing with controversial issues should:
 - 1.5.1 Represent alternative points of view.
 - 1.5.2 Reflect the maturity, capabilities and educational needs of the students.
 - 1.5.3 Reflect the provincial *Program of Studies*.
 - 1.5.4 Reflect the community in which the school is located.
2. In the event of a parental challenge to the use of a particular learning resource within the school, the following steps will taken:
 - 2.1 The principal will arrange and facilitate a meeting between the parent and the teacher to discuss the nature of the concern.



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- 2.2 If the issue cannot be resolved at the school level, the principal will advise the parent of their right to appeal directly to the superintendent in writing.
- 2.3 The superintendent will conduct a hearing in the community at which the parents and the instructional staff may present their case.
- 2.4 The superintendent shall make a decision and advise the parent and the principal of the decision within five school days of the hearing.
- 2.5 The parent shall be advised of their right to appeal to the board in accordance with Board Policy 13 – Appeals.