

Issue Date	November 16, 2015
Revision Date	
Review Year	2020

Objective:

To support implementation of Board Policy on controversial issues and materials.

Responsibility:

School Principals and Superintendent regarding appeals.

Regulation

1. When offering programs that are controversial in nature, the Principal is responsible for:
 - a. Reviewing program content and materials to ensure conformity to Board policy.
 - b. Communicating to parents the nature of the program and holding a parent meeting to review program content and materials, responding to parental concerns, and informing parents of their right to exclude their children from certain program elements.
 - c. Ensuring that staff are adequately in-serviced to ensure effective program delivery.
 - d. Ensuring that alternative learning activities are provided for excluded students.

2. In the event of a parental challenge to the use of a particular learning resource the following procedure will be followed:
 - a. A meeting will be arranged between the parent and the Teacher with the Principal to discuss the nature of the concern.
 - b. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level, the Principal will advise the parent of their right to formally challenge the use of the resource. Such a challenge is to be directed in writing to the Superintendent outlining the specific content of the resource that is found objectionable and the specific reasons for the objection.
 - c. The Superintendent will meet with the person challenging the resource and the school Principal to review the challenge.
 - d. The Superintendent will conduct a hearing at which the challenger and the teacher may present their respective cases.
 - e. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved by the Superintendent's decision, the matter may be appealed to the Board by either party.
 - f. A review committee will be set up by the Board. This review committee will consist of equal representation from parents, educators, trustees and students (where applicable). The mandate of this review committee will be to report back to the Board on recommendations for controversial issues and materials.

References:

BP 7230 Controversial Issues and Materials