

Presentation on the HCPS Library Planning Workgroup

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Library Planning Workgroup

A Library Planning Workgroup formed in 2023-2024 to:

- Review the existing practices of the evaluation and selection of library materials.
- Review the existing practices of the reconsideration process of challenged materials.
- Draft an Administrative Procedure: Evaluation and Selection of School Library Materials.

Library Planning Workgroup Membership

The membership of the workgroup includes:

- Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent
- Aaron Penman, Harford County Councilman
- Lauren Paige Strauss, HCPS Board of Education
- Mary Hastler, CEO, Harford County Public Library
- Dr. Martha Barwick, HCPS Supervisor of Innovation in Learning
- Annmarie Steltzer, HCPS Assistant Supervisor of Reading, English, and Language Arts
- Christina Davis, HCPS Librarian
- Tracy Papinchock, HCPS Librarian
- Danita Lawrence, HCPS Teacher
- Christy Larkin, HCPS Parent

Evaluation and Selection Procedure

The purpose of the procedure is to:

- Outline the process of evaluation, selection, and reconsideration of library materials.
- Provide an overview of the principles that govern the development of library collections in Harford County Public Schools.
- Ensure library materials support curricular goals, general interest, information, and inquiry.
- Ensure commitment to free access to ideas and information in library media collections reflecting various viewpoints.

Library Collection Guidelines

School library media collections:

- Contribute to the fulfillment of the curriculum, thereby meeting the instructional needs of students and teachers.
- Provide general interest materials that promote literacy and build reading skills.
- Are well-balanced and are consistently re-evaluated.
- Provide a robust range of materials, representative of the needs of all readers.
- Are under the district oversight of the Division of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Evaluation and Selection Process

School library media specialists are responsible for the review, evaluation, and selection of materials to develop the school library media collection utilizing guidelines found in the procedure:

- Two favorable reviews and age and grade recommendations from industry-accepted professional review sources.
- Consideration of the community standard relevant to HCPS students.
- Collaborative discussions among library media specialists.

Reconsideration Process

The reconsideration process exists to address concerns or objections regarding specific items in the library collection. If, after an open dialogue with the school library media specialist, the need for a formal request persists, an employee, parent, or student within the school system may submit a reconsideration request.

Reconsideration Process Timeline

- **May:**
 - Application for reconsideration committee membership available online.
 - Reconsideration submission form available.
- **June:**
 - Reconsideration Committee members selected and notified.
- **August-September:**
 - Reconsideration Committee members receive training.
- **September-December and March-May**
 - Reconsideration sub-committee members read and discuss works.
 - Reconsideration sub-committee members reach a consensus and issue a report.
 - The Superintendent issues a decision.

Questions