

## **EDUCATION: PROGRAMS**

## **Policy 513.5-R (previously 603.5-R)**

### **Reconsideration of Learning Resources**

#### **Learning Resource Review Committee**

1. Once a complaint has been registered with the Board of Education (Richmond) on the appropriate complaint form, and assuming that the learning resource in question is not one of the prescribed texts authorized by the Ministry of Education for use at a particular grade level, the Committee shall meet at the direction of the Board of Education (Richmond) to consider the resource and to make recommendations concerning it to the Board. The Committee would be expected to make its recommendations prior to the next meeting of the Board following the one at which objections were first raised.
2. The Board of Education (Richmond) will establish the structure of the Committee to act and report as described (ad hoc) in the Board's Special Committee policy, File 203.6.
3. The members of the Committee shall be:
  - (a) A Trustee appointed by the Board of Education (Richmond);
  - (b) A lay person as advisor (one not directly involved), appointed by the Superintendent of Schools and concurred with by the Board;
  - (c) A teacher with expertise in the area required, appointed by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with the appropriate Local Specialist Association;
  - (d) A teacher appointed by the Richmond Teachers' Association. Where a resource (used in the 9th to 13th year of the educational program) is under discussion, the Committee member might be a school coordinator from this instructional level.
4. The Chairperson of the Learning Resources Review Committee shall be a Director of Instruction who would be instructed by the Board about any special circumstances and he would also present to the Board the Committee's recommendations.
5. If a book is under review, the Director of Instruction (Curriculum) will act as a consultant or resource person to assist the Committee in concert with an additional professional appointee, if required.

The role of the Director of Instruction (Curriculum) (and the additional consultant, if required) will be to provide information to the Committee that will assist it in reaching consensus about the work in question. Such assistance might include some or all of the following:

- (a) A summary of the plot, the setting, the nature of the principal characters;
  - (b) A statement about readability - the level of the vocabulary, the complexity of the sentence structure, the level of sophistication of the content, a suggestion as to suitable grade placement based on the interest level and the reading level;
  - (c) Teachability - a look at the book in line with the objectives of the Guide to the Core Curriculum and to the Curriculum Guide for Language Arts or Secondary English. How the book might be related to both general and specific goals and objectives would be considered. Possible topics for class discussion would be considered.
  - (d) Literary Value - a consideration of the writing itself, the structure and development of the plot, characterization, the principal themes including social comment, judgments of major critics where available, etc.
  - (e) A statement as to whether the book might best be restricted to mature students or to above average students, or on the other hand might be best in the hands of reluctant readers, etc.
  - (f) A statement concerning the content of the book as it relates to the outlined goals and objectives of the approved course.
6. If material other than a book is under review, the Superintendent of Schools shall appoint an appropriate professional to act as a consultant or resource person to assist the Committee.