

Over the last couple of months, Mrs. Hilburn, the high school librarian; Mrs. Conn, Collins/Middle School librarian; a counselor; and certified English and History teachers have set to the task of reading in their entirety the books from the concerned parents' list that were found in Bristow Public Schools. Decisions on whether a title should stay in the library were based on Selection Policy #6300. After a thorough evaluation of the list of books submitted by the community group, Bristow Public Schools would like to share the following findings and decisions regarding the books listed.

Out of 47 titles on the list, 9 were not found anywhere within Bristow Public Schools.
8 books have been removed from circulation.
30 books will remain in circulation.

At the HIGH SCHOOL

4 books being kept are on the AP suggested reading list 2 of which will be moved to the AP English classroom which consists of Juniors and Seniors. 1 additional book that isn't on the AP list is also being moved to the AP classroom.

AP students take a test for college credit that includes essay questions in which students are asked to discuss literature they have read. The books that have been moved to these classrooms, *The Bluest Eye* and *Brave New World*, are on the AP suggested reading list. These two specific books are not taught in class as a whole but are a choice from hundreds of books for students to read.

7 books being kept will be flagged for 16+ content. This means when a student checks this book out a note appears that it has this rating. Also, any student that has opted out of 16+ material has a flag under his or her name in the system.

At the MIDDLE SCHOOL

2 books will be moved to the 8th grade English classroom - *Eclipse* and *The Outsiders*
1 book will be moved to the 7th grade English classroom - *Lord of the Flies*
4 books will be moved to the high school library - *Speak*, *Fairest*, *Dark Descent of Elizabeth*, *Frankenstein*, and *Between Shades of Gray*

The middle school will avoid selecting books with any sexual content.

To clarify some comments that have been made that these books on the community group's list were at Collins, only ONE book *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson was housed in the Collins Library, and it will remain there.

To further clarify comments on these books being taught in classes, only 3 books on the list are being or have been taught in class, 2 of which are on the AP suggested reading list. They are *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Each of these books have been taught for at least 15 years.

A syllabus will be sent home with middle school and high school students listing books that will be read aloud in class each year. As has always been the case, parents can ask for an alternative reading assignment for any book being taught in class.

Books Remaining at the High School

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold - flagged for 16+ content
Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys
The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein by Kiersten White
Fairest: Levana's Story by Marissa Meyer
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
House of Furies by Madeleine Roux
I Was Here by Gayle Forman
Broken Things by Lauren Oliver
Infamous by Elana Arnold - flagged for 16+ content
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley - AP suggested reading list MOVE TO AP CLASSROOM
Crank by Ellen Hopkins - flagged for 16+ content
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Looking For Alaska by John Green - flagged for 16+ content
Burned by Ellen Hopkins - flagged for 16+ content
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison - AP suggested reading list MOVE TO AP CLASSROOM
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark by Alvin Schwartz
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou - MOVE TO AP CLASSROOM
Lord of the Flies by William Golding - AP suggested reading list
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck - AP suggested reading list
A Court of Frost and Starlight by Sarah Maas - flagged for 16+ content
Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher
Suicide Notes From Beautiful Girls by Lynn Weingarten - flagged for 16+ content
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer
Mastiff by Tamora Pierce

Books Remaining at the Middle School

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
For Black Girls Like Me by Mariama J. Lockington
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark by Alvin Schwartz
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

SCHOOL LIBRARY AND CLASSROOM MEDIA CENTERS SELECTION OF MATERIALS (REGULATION)

Materials

The library media centers are the information centers for the school district. The classroom media centers are extensions of the central library media centers that provide additional student learning resources in the classrooms. Therefore, each media center will collect and house information in a variety of formats, herein referred to as "materials." Materials will include books, periodicals, newspapers, cassette tapes, filmstrips, slides, videocassette tapes, computer software, charts, and vertical file materials. Each library media center will also provide the audiovisual equipment as needed.

Responsibility for Selection

The responsibility for the selection of library and classroom media center materials rests with the Board of Education. Authority for the selection of proper materials shall be delegated to the library media staff and classroom teachers. Materials shall be selected in accordance with the principles established by the School Library Bill of Rights as approved by the American Association of School Librarians. Final selection will be made by the media specialist and classroom teachers with the cooperation of the faculty, the administration, and when feasible, the students and subject to approval by the board. The superintendent shall prepare regulations that support this policy.

Method of Selection

1. Selection Emphasis: The selection goal is to provide a comprehensive collection of materials that will support the curriculum, encourage intellectual growth, and develop cultural appreciation. Because of the limited budget, the following emphasis will be made in the selection of materials:
 - a. Curriculum Support: The primary objective of the Bristow School Media Centers is to implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school. The media center materials will augment basic classroom texts. Teacher requests, subject bibliographies, and basic collection guides will be used to meet this goal.
 - b. Extracurricular Interest: A second, and equally important, function is to provide materials of extracurricular interest for both students and teachers. These materials will encourage independent growth in information retrieval skills, foster positive attitudes for independent reading, and provide background information which will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives. Student requests, teacher suggestions, and basic collection guides will be used to meet this goal.
 - c. Professional Support: A third objective is to provide a limited professional library of curriculum development materials, discipline handbooks, and other materials in the library media center that identify current educational trends. Teacher requests and basic collection guides will be used to meet this goal.
2. Criteria for Selection of Instruction Materials
 - a. Reviewing Tool: Professional, unbiased, and respected reviewing tools and selected bibliographies will serve as the guide for selection. Both retrospective and current tools will be used when available and appropriate.
 - b. General Criteria: Materials will be selected that will meet the varied needs, interests, and instructional and maturity levels of the students. Materials will be selected to represent all sides of issues, beliefs and ideas to provide a comprehensive collection. Materials will not be excluded because of race, nationality, religion, or political views of the author. Books and materials of sound factual authority will not be removed or banned from the collection because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. Evaluation will be made on the whole book rather than on any part taken out of context.
 - c. Specific Criteria: The following criteria will guide the evaluation of materials
 - (1.) Overall purpose of the material and how well the purpose is accomplished.
 - (2.) Reputation and significance of author and publisher.
 - (3.) Authoritativeness and accuracy of the material.
 - (4.) Timeliness and currency of material.

- (5.) Relationship to other items in the collection.
- (6.) Quality of writing and illustrations.
- (7.) Fairness of ethnic and sex-role representations.
- (8.) Readability and popular appeal.
- (9.) Format and price.
- (10.) Favorable review in at least two reviewing tools.

Gift Books and Materials

1. Gift books and materials are accepted with the understanding that they must meet the same selection criteria as materials purchased with Board of Education funds. The practice of a donor's purchasing new books or materials as media center gifts is discouraged. It is preferable that donors make monetary gifts for the purchase of books and materials because the school receives a discount and can purchase more books for the same amount of money.
2. Gift books and other materials, once accepted by the Bristow Public Schools, become the property of the Bristow Public Schools.

Procedures for Reconsideration of Materials

It is recommended that a student or the student's parent should have this right to reject the use of library and classroom media center materials which seem incompatible with the student's value or beliefs. It is further recommended that classroom assignments involving library and classroom media center materials provide for alternative choices. This procedure is consistent with the National Council of Teachers of English Statement on Students' Right to Read, which is endorsed in its entirety. However, no parent has the right to determine the reading matter for students other than his/her own children. Books and other materials shall not be removed or banned solely because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

If the public makes an objection to a selection, the procedures are as follows:

1. Be courteous and inform the patron of the process of media review. Make no commitments.
2. Invite the complainant to file his/her objectives in writing on forms provided through the principal's office.
3. Completed forms are to be returned to the principal.
4. An informal conference with the principal will be held.
5. If unable to satisfy the complainant, refer the complaint to the Review Committee.
6. Material is not to be withdrawn without referring to the Review Committee, which determines whether the material should be withdrawn.
7. The Review Committee will consist of five members: affected media specialist, affected grade level teacher, community representative, media specialist from another building, another grade level teacher, and the affected building principal as the facilitator.
8. Material is reviewed and judged by this committee as to conformity with selection criteria and instructional goals.
9. The committee will reach a decision by simple majority vote.
10. The decision of the committee is submitted to the complainant, and the library media specialist and/or classroom teacher and the principal keep a file of the objection and decision.
11. In the event that the complainant does not accept the decision of the Review Committee, he/she may appeal to the Board of Education through the superintendent.
12. Final decision rests with the Board of Education.
13. The material under consideration will not be reconsidered again for a period of five years.

Weeding and Discarding

Worn or missing standard items will be replaced periodically.

Out-of-date or no longer useful media will be withdrawn from the collection.

Approved: July 1, 2002
Revised: February 14, 2011
August 13, 2018
November 8, 2021

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIAL

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone _____

Type of material _____

Title _____ Author _____

After reading the entire book or listening to/viewing the entire material/resource, please answer the following questions:

State specific objections (please cite pages or portions) _____

State any merits noted in the material _____

What do you believe might result from using the material? _____

What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this material? _____

Have you reviewed the entire material? _____

What is the judgment/evaluation of this material/resource by professional critics? _____

Date _____

Signature