

Revised:

606.1L POLICY ON CENSORSHIP

Because our library is maintained and funded for the purpose of providing reading material for every student enrolled in our school, for the explicit goal of enriching the curriculum of New York Mills Public School, and because the instructors require reference work or fiction reading which may include works on political, psychological and emotional aspects of humanity, the following policy is deemed necessary for all library books, textbooks and other written materials within the school:

- A. Books and other reading matter shall be chosen for values of interest and enlightenment of ALL students in the community. A book shall not be excluded because of race, nationality, political or religious views of the writer.
- B. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local. Books or other reading matter of sound factual authority shall not be prescribed or removed from library shelves or classrooms because of partisan, doctrinal approval.

In accordance with Nos. 1 and 2, the Board has adopted the following policy dealing with censorship of books or other materials:

- A. That the final decision for controversial reading matter shall rest with the Board after careful examination and discussion of the book with the librarian or instructor concerned.
- B. Because the library at the high school serves both junior high and senior high students, the librarian may have the right to restrict circulation of certain books purchased specifically for grades 11 and 12 only to students in these grades.
- C. That no parent or group of parents has the right to determine the reading matter for students other than for their own children.
- D. The Board does, however, recognize the right of an individual parent to request that his child not have to read a given book, provided a written request is made to the appropriate principal.
- E. A committee of two teachers and one librarian, appointed by the principal, shall review the material and judge whether it conforms to the principles stated, and shall submit its report in writing, to the principal, with a copy to the superintendent.
- F. If the matter cannot be resolved in this manner, the written criticism, along with the principal's evaluation, should be forwarded to the superintendent and the Board of Education.

(Permission to reprint the following is granted by the NCTE, on "THE RIGHT TO READ")

THE COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

American citizens who care about the improvement of education are urged to join students, teachers, librarians, administrators, Boards of Education, and professional and scholarly organizations in support of the students' right to read. Only widespread and informed support in every community can assure that: enough citizens are interested in the development and maintenance of a superior school system to guarantee its achievement; malicious gossip, ignorant rumors, and deceptive letters to the editor will not be circulated without challenge and correction; newspapers will be convinced that the public sincerely desires objective school news reporting, free from slanting or editorial comment which destroys confidence in and support for schools; the community will not permit its resources and energies to be dissipated in conflicts created by special interest groups striving to advance their ideologies or biases; and faith in democratic traditions and processes will be maintained. (Please see Policy # 605.1L)