

Policy 1105(a)

Community Relations

Public Complaints

Complaints and grievances shall be handled and resolved, whenever possible, as close to their origin as possible.

Although no member of the community shall be denied the right to petition the Board of Education for redress of a grievance, the complaints shall be referred back through the proper administrative channels for solution before investigation or action by the Board. Exceptions are complaints that concern Board actions or Board operations only.

The Board advises the public that the proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline, learning materials is as follows:

1. Teacher
2. Principal
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

Complaints Regarding Educational Materials

In accordance with its policy, the Waterford Board of Education has established the following guidelines for addressing complaints regarding the utilization of books and other educational materials in the instructional program.

1. A parent and/or legal guardian has the right to request that his/her child not read, view or hear given material provided a written request is made to the appropriate Building Principal.
2. If there is parental/guardian concern about a particular book or instructional material, the parent will be asked to complete a "Request for Review of Book or Other Instructional Material" form. This request will be reviewed by the teacher giving the assignment, the appropriate department coordinator, and the principal. If a question arises concerning the suitability of a library book or other library material, the same form will be used to register parental concern and the form will be reviewed by the librarian, the appropriate Department Coordinator, and the Principal. The Principal will discuss the results of the school's review with the Superintendent of Schools and provide an answer giving the school's position to the parent. If the parent is not satisfied with the answer given by the Principal, he/she may appeal to the Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools.

Policy 1105(b)

Community Relations

Public Complaints (continued)

(cf. 4118.21- Academic Freedom)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

(cf. 6161 – Equipment Books/Materials: Provision/Selection)

Legal Reference: *Keyishian v. Board of Regents* 385 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)

President's Council, District 25 v. Community School Board No. 25 457 F.2d 289 (1972), cert. denied 409 U.S. 998 (1976)

Minarcini v. Strongsville City School District, 541 F. 2d 577 (6th Cir. 1976).

Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982).

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81).

Connecticut General Statutes

10-238 Petition for hearing by board of education.

Policy adopted: April 24, 2003
Policy revised: September 19, 2019

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Waterford, Connecticut