

Sauk Prairie School District

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Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
Phone: 608-643-5990
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May 19, 2017

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Enerson
S9979 Exchange Rd.
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Dear Scott & Lisa:

Sauk Prairie School District Policy 9130 and Administrative Guideline 9130 apply to a complaint like yours regarding instructional materials. The Policy and Administrative Guideline describe the steps a Complaint Review Committee is to take to review a petitioner's concerns and make a recommendation to me as the District Administrator. The policy states that the District Administrator will advise the individual petitioners, in writing, of the committee's recommendation and advise the School Board of the action taken or recommended.

A Complaint Review Committee was formed to review your concerns about *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. The first meeting of the committee was held on April 5, 2017. The second meeting was held on April 19, 2017. During the second meeting, the Complaint Review Committee took a written and confidential vote. Below you will find the outcome of the committee's vote:

5 votes = Remove the challenged material from the curriculum at Sauk Prairie High School.

8 votes = Do not remove the challenged material from the curriculum at Sauk Prairie High School.

1 vote = I abstain from voting.

0 votes = I did not read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* in its entirety and therefore do not qualify to vote.

I had the special opportunity to read and consider the contents and opinions of many e-mail messages, voicemail messages and share in conversations in person or by phone. Each one of these interactions and communications represented opinions that included dissent to continuing to use the book as a part of curriculum or supported the continued use of the book. Following my interactions with our Sauk Prairie School District students, families and staff, I created opportunities to contact fellow leaders in other school districts, which included the Badger Conference, CESA 5 and Dane County.

I, as District Administrator, concur with the committee's recommendation and in accordance with Administrative Guideline 9130 I will report the Committee's recommendation to the School Board. My decision is based on the work of the Review Committee and the above described experiences and interactions.

The complaint review process provided a unique opportunity for the school district to engage parents and community members and to review our communication and teaching practices. Beyond the recommendation stated above, I am directing the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction to work with the school principals and teachers on two areas:

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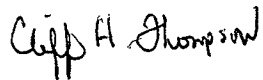
- Including information about text and media resources in course syllabi to provide ample time for parent and student review.
- Developing consistent practices for students to read or view alternative resources while remaining within the classroom with their peers.

It is my heartfelt hope that the professional conversations that have taken place so far in this process and the suggestions/recommendations that I have provided will serve as a starting point for new and additional conversations as we strive to work together as home and school to instruct and care for our students in the Sauk Prairie School District.

Under District Policy 9130 and Administrative Guideline 9130, you have a right to appeal this decision to the Sauk Prairie School Board. The policy requires that a written appeal must be submitted to me within 30 business days after you receive this letter. The Board would review an appeal, all materials considered by the review committee and the committee's minutes and would advise you in writing of its decision as soon as practicable.

I also want to be sure that you are aware of District Policy 2240 and Administrative Guideline 2240B. They allow all parents to request that their child not participate in a particular instructional activity if the subject matter (like the content of a book) conflicts with their religious or value systems. In those situations the parent's request is to be honored and the teacher will offer an alternative activity.

Sincerely,



Cliff H. Thompson
Superintendent

CHT:bas

cc: Richard Judge, Randy Mack, Laura Breunig, Jodi Wilson, Shane Been, Aaron Andres, Betty Koehl, Bob Dreps, Michele DeBock, Angelia Doyle, Laura Moher, Lynn Frick, Brian Weigel, Tom Betley, Susan Paulson, Chad Harnisch, Scott Mirkes, Lynn Evarts, Maribeth Baker, Jeff Wright, Ryan Jesberger, Richard Talmage, Carol Baier, Mary Ann Marx and Steven Sprecher