



# Appleton Area *School District*

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November 10, 2011

Dear AASD Parents and Guardians:

At the Board of Education meeting on October 24, 2011, changes to Board Policy 361: Educational Materials Selection were unanimously approved by the School Board. A complete copy of this new policy (now referred to as Board Policy 361.1: Educational Materials Policy and Board Policy 361.2: Library Media Materials Selection) can be accessed on the AASD website, [www.aasd.k12.wi.us](http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us). You may also request a copy of Board Policies 361.1 and 361.2 from your building principal.

While there were a number of revisions to Board Policy 361, significant changes occurred in Section V: Procedures for Handling Objections to Educational Materials and Textbooks. Last school year, an objection was made to one of our district's approved 9th grade communication arts novels. This objection brought to light our need to consider changes to our existing policy. While parents have always had the right to "opt out" their child from educational materials they find objectionable, revisions to Section V have helped to clarify the procedures a person will follow when requesting that Board approved educational materials be reconsidered.

Section V also outlines changes made to establish two district materials review committees: one for reconsideration of School Board approved educational materials used at grades pre-kindergarten to 6th grade (elementary) and a second for reconsideration of School Board approved educational materials used at 7th through 12th grades (secondary). There will be four parent member positions and three community member positions chosen by lottery for each materials review committee. This format will provide balanced committees that fairly represent our community. Parents that are interested in being considered for the parent member positions may access an application form on the district website or from your building principal as early as December 1, 2011.

Revising Policy 361 has initiated healthy discussion and dialog. In addition to the revisions made to Policy 361, the AASD is also in the process of reviewing novels which support the 9th grade communication arts curriculum. It is anticipated that in February 2012 a committee will bring forward to the Board of Education recommendations for a revised list of educational materials to support the 9th grade communication arts curriculum. Any changes would be in place for the 2012-13 school year.

As always, we appreciate your commitment and ongoing support of our students!

Sincerely,

Judith Baseman  
Assistant Supt.

Valerie Dreier  
Assistant Supt.

Kevin Steinhilber  
Chief Academic Officer

Ben A. Vogel  
Assistant Supt.