

TREYNOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence is Expected - Excellence is Achieved
Agenda for the Reconsideration Committee
High School Flex Room
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 - 5:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call - meeting started at 5:02 p.m.**
 1. Shirley Chambers - present
 2. Carla Christensen - present
 3. Jennifer Eitmann - present
 4. Julie Funkhouser - present
 5. Bret McVey - present
 6. Jeff Koenck - present
 7. Jennifer Nelson - present
 8. Rick Nickerson - present
2. **Amend and/or Approve Agenda**
 1. Motion: Julie Funkhouser
 2. Second: Carla Christensen
 3. Vote: 8-0 to approve
3. **Selection of Chairperson and Secretary**
 1. Nomination for Chairperson
 1. Motion - Julie Funkhouser made a motion to nominate Carla Christensen
 2. Second - Shirley Chambers
 3. Vote - 8-0 to approve
 2. Chairperson will ask for nominations for Secretary
 1. Motion - Julie Funkhouser made a motion to nominate Jen Nelson (volunteered)
 2. Second - Shirley Chambers
 3. Vote - 8-0 to approve
4. **Board Policy 605.3**
 1. Associated Exhibits and Regulation
 1. Dr. Beyenhof clarified and explained the policies in the packet/handouts - there were not any questions
5. **Review Complaint**
 1. C. Christensen had the members review the complaint and asked what questions they might have for Mr. Nielsen. The committee asked "is the complaint for the classroom or for the library also?" There are two copies of the book in the library. Jeff provided an overview of the curriculum review process. Rick added that the excerpt from The 57 Bus was not used by the previous 9th grade English teacher last school year. Jen provided a quick overview of the circulation data for the book: checked out 16 times in 7 years.
6. **Presentation from Complainant**
 1. Mr. Dan Nielson (complainant) arrived at 5:30 p.m. and presented his concerns about passage in the 9th grade ELA curriculum from The 57 Bus by D. Slater
 1. He shared things like

1. it targeted fringe beliefs and is edgy material
2. Wondered why this material was needed? Other options could have been used that do not include political, religious, hot topic issues, etc. Our community is more conservative.
3. Believed the teacher selected the passage intentionally.
4. Wasn't sure this was the crime to select, what about speeding tickets, shop lifting, etc. Is crime part of the ELA curriculum?
 - a. Mr. Nickerson shared the the HMH curriculum had a unit (#3) that was centered around "crimes."
5. He stated that these topics: hate crimes, setting a student on fire, transgender, etc. isn't appropriate for high school students
6. Used holidays as an example of something that has been removed from schools because of the connection to religion and beliefs
7. Wondered why there was not notification to parents?

7. Discussion and Recommendation on Complaint

1. Mr. Nickerson and Mr. Koenck explained more about the HMH unit and the different options for text in the unit that had a crime theme that included a poem, pod cast, etc. most all were non-fiction selections
2. Mr. Nickerson explained curriculum resources are made for students across the US, high interest topics and text selections
3. Mr. Koenck and Mr. Nickerson shared that teachers have professional choice to assign or not assign certain pieces of the curriculum
4. Local schools (CBCSD, LC, Riverside, and Underwood) all have the book The 57 Bus in their libraries

605.3E1

The committee will listen to the views of all interested persons before making recommendations. In deliberating its recommendation, the committee should remember that the school system must be responsive to the needs, tastes, and opinions of the community it serves. Therefore, the committee must distinguish between broad community sentiment and attempts to impose personal standards. The deliberations should concentrate on the appropriateness of the material. The question to be answered by the committee is, "Is the material appropriate for its designated audience at this time?"

The committee's final recommendation will be (1) to remove the challenged material from the total school environment, (2) to take no removal action, or (3) to agree on a limitation of the educational use of the materials.

5. The committee discussed options #1 to remove and #3 on limitation from the exhibit from 605.3E1. The committee voted with the community in mind, as well as the student age (9th grade)

Motion by J. Funkhouser to go with option #3 to a limitation of the educational use of the materials, second by J. Eitmann and 8-0 vote in favor of the motion

Motion from C. Christensen: Recommendation is a limitation of the educational use of the material in question (excerpt from "The 57 Bus"), specifically that it will not be a mandatory selection offered to the student body in the Treynor School District. This

decision is based on the age of the students and the appropriateness of the topics.
Second: J. Eitmann and 8-0 voted in favor of the motion.

C. Christensen will send the recommendation to Dr. Beyenhof

8. **Adjourn at 7:15 p.m.**

1. Motion R. Nickerson
2. Second B. McVey
3. Vote 8-0 to adjourn the meeting