Materials, Methods and Issues

The board of education recognizes that it is sometimes necessary for pupils to study controversial issues and topics and that in order to deal effectively with them, teachers will sometimes use materials or methods that might lead to misunderstandings. In considering such matters, it shall be the purpose of our schools to recognize the pupil's right and/or obligation:

1. To study any controversial issue, which has political, economic, or social significance and concerning which, the student should begin to have an opinion.
2. To have free access to all relevant age-appropriate information.
3. To study under competent instruction in an atmosphere of freedom from bias and prejudice.
4. To form and express independent opinions on controversial issues without jeopardizing relations with teachers, staff and administration.
5. To recognize that a reasonable compromise is often an important facet in decision-making in our society.
6. To respect the opinions of others, including opinions of the minority.

Complaints and Challenges to Teaching Methods and Materials

If a school or staff member is challenged on the use of methods or materials, the following procedures will apply:

1. An attempt will be made to resolve the challenge or complaint informally. School personnel shall meet with the complainant to hear the specific concerns and recommendations and to explain how and why the challenged material or method was selected for use in the classroom or library.
2. The complainant may still challenge the material or method by submitting a written statement, which identifies the complainant's specific concerns. No action to review challenged materials or methods will be taken until a written request for review is filed.
3. The review shall be undertaken by the appropriate district curriculum committees. The review process shall always include the opportunity for citizen comment. The superintendent may but is not required to delay use of the challenged materials or methods by students until the entire review process is completed and has been reviewed by the superintendent.
4. The superintendent shall accept or reject the review committee's recommendation and so inform the board. The complainant may again challenge the superintendent's recommendation to the board at this time.

5. The decision of the board shall be final.

Rio Rancho Public Schools
Adopted: August 8, 1994