

Due to the discovery of sexually explicit material within our District, the Marietta City Schools Board of Education believes there is an urgent need to address this matter. The welfare, safety, and education of our students remain paramount, and we are committed to ensuring that all content provided to them aligns with our district's educational goals and community standards. The Board of Education does not condone sexually explicit materials within our District and therefore issues the following directive.

Directive to the Superintendent:

Removal of Sexually Explicit Material: We direct you to remove sexually explicit material from our district that is defined collectively as obscene, pornographic, not age appropriate and without substantive historical or academic value.

- **This does not include materials necessitated for sexual education.**
- **If a parent, permanent guardian of a Marietta City Schools student or a certified employee of Marietta City Schools believes that material that has been removed is not considered sexually explicit in nature and has academic value, the complaint resolution process is found in the attached Appendix 1.**

Training: Please develop a training program for all district staff members based on procedures, guidelines and any current and future policies related to this directive. This will ensure that everyone understands and can effectively implement and abide by the new guidelines.

Monitoring and Controlling: Aligned to best practices in continuous improvement, establish a mechanism for reviewing existing district materials for sexually explicit content as defined above and removing what may be deemed sexually explicit as defined above. The Board of Education understands this process will take time as there are over 20,000 books in our largest library with some titles dating back as far as the 1970s and 80s. Implement regular monitoring of the instructional materials being used

in our schools to ensure compliance with any procedures, guidelines, current and future policies related to this directive . Moreover, we request a semi-annual report on the implementation and any challenges faced during this process.

Feedback Mechanism: Implement a clear feedback and reporting system for students, staff, and parents to raise concerns regarding potentially sexually explicit material that exists in our library or that have been previously removed. This system should prioritize swift resolution in accordance with district policies, procedures and guidelines, and offer clear channels for communication and action (refer to Appendix 1).

The Marietta City Schools Board of Education firmly believes that by taking these steps, we can create a safer and more productive learning environment for all students. We thank you for your dedication and anticipate your thorough attention to this matter.

Appendix 1

If a parent, permanent guardian of a Marietta City Schools student or a certified employee of Marietta City Schools believes that material that has been removed is not sexually explicit in nature as defined above and has academic value, the complaint resolution process is found in the attached Appendix 1.

1. Complaints must be submitted in writing by the parent, permanent guardian or certified employee to the principal of the school where the student is enrolled.
2. Complaints must provide a reasonably detailed description of the material that is alleged to not be sexually explicit and has academic value.
3. Within seven (7) business days of receiving a written complaint, the school principal or his or her designee will review the complaint and take reasonable steps to investigate the allegations in the complaint, including, but not limited to, reviewing the material that is alleged to not be sexually explicit and has academic value.
4. The school principal or his or her designee will determine whether the material that is the subject of the complaint is or is not sexually explicit as defined above and has academic value.
5. The school principal or his or her designee will determine whether student access to the material that is the subject of the complaint should be removed or restricted.
6. Within ten (10) business days of receiving the complaint, unless another schedule is mutually agreed to by the parent, permanent guardian or certified employee, the school principal or his or her designee will confer with the parent, permanent guardian or certified employee and inform him or her whether the material that is subject of the complaint was determined to be not sexually explicit as defined above and has academic value, and whether student access to such material will be removed or restricted.
7. Appeals of the school's principal's or his or her designee's determinations is subject to full administrative and substantive review by the Marietta City Schools Board of Education, which shall include the ability of the parent or permanent guardian or certified employee to provide input during public comment at a

regularly scheduled board meeting. Unless another time frame is mutually agreed upon by the parent, permanent guardian or certified employee and the Board of Education, the review and final disposition of the appeal by the Board of Education will be completed within 30 calendar days of receiving the written appeal.

8. On appeal the Board shall review the original complaint filed by the parent, permanent guardian or certified employee, any statements made by the parents, permanent guardian or certified employee, any statements made by the parents, permanent guardian or certified employee as part of public comment at a regular board meeting, any communication between the parent, permanent guardian or certified employee to the principal or designees from the time the complaint is filed until the time of the appeal that is related to the complaint, and any statement in writing submitted to the Board in connection with the appeal by either the parent, permanent guardian or certified employee or the principal or designee by a date set by the Board. The Board shall have the right, but not the obligation, to hear from the parent, permanent guardian or certified employee and the principal or designee at the meeting where it makes its review and to discuss any legal issues raised by the complaint in executive session with the attorney for the school district.
9. The title of the material submitted for appeal that is determined by the Board of Education to be not sexually explicit as defined above and have academic value shall be published to the Board of Education's website within 15 business days from the date of the Board's determination and will remain on the website for a period of not less than 12 months. A parent, permanent guardian or certified employee may request access to appealed materials that are physical in nature and accessible to their student in the student's school media center. A parent, permanent guardian or certified employee must abide by the school's policies and procedures when requisitions and reviewing such material.