

Dear Colleagues,

Division policy provides a protocol for review of challenged controversial materials that involves a step process for examination of such resources at the School and Division levels. If further action is requested by the complainant once these levels have been exhausted, present Regulation 7-12. 1, Section B(8) states:

"If the complainant desires further action, the complainant shall submit a request in writing to the Chairman of the School Board within five (5) days of receipt of the decision. The Chairman will determine the review and/or hearing process to be employed by the School Board in each case."

With respect to the Book *Gender Queer*, I was contacted by the complainant Mrs. Manning with a request to appeal the decision of the Chief Academic Officer. This was the first time in recent memory of such a request to the Chair.

In the absence of any established precedent for this Board, I convened a workgroup of three of our colleagues deemed representative of our collective body. Their charge was to read the book, deliberate, and provide their written findings and recommendation. The workgroup met twice, on April 6 and most recently May 3. Their recommendation has been submitted, and reads as follows:

I as the Chair have accepted the recommendation of this workgroup. I will therefore direct staff to remove the book *Gender Queer* from School Division libraries.

I thank our three colleagues Mrs. Riggs, Mrs. Weems and Ms. Owens for their time and attention to this matter.

In closing, work is underway to assess our policies and regulations pertaining to the matter of challenged controversial materials. If you have any input to share in this regard, kindly reach out to me, Dr. Robertson or Dr. Rogers.

Respectfully
Carolyn Rye