

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUKESHA

----- 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186 -----

## REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

School Wauk. South Department \_\_\_\_\_

Please check type of material:

- Book                      ( ) DVD                      ( ) Paperback  
( ) Periodical              ( ) CD/Audio              ( ) Pamphlet  
( ) Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Title Looking for Alaska Author John Green

Publisher or Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Copyright date 2005

Request initiated by Steve and Ellen Cox (parents)

Telephone 262-391-8001 Address 1915A Maynard Pointe

City Wauk. Wisconsin \_\_\_\_\_ Zip 53189

The following questions are to be answered after the complainant has read, viewed or listened to the school instructional material in its entirety. If sufficient space is not provided, attach additional sheets. (Please sign your name to each additional attachment.)

1. To what in the material do you object? (Please be specific, cite pages, DVD sequence, etc.)

the entire book  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Did you read/view/listen to the entire work?

yes  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this material?

no idea  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What beneficial and/or detrimental effect will this material have on the educational program? On the student?

Program It is a complete waste of time and would only fill the readers mind with information that would

Student bring no positive thoughts. It is nothing short of pornography and filth.

5. For what age group would you recommend this material? I would not recommend it to anyone.  
Why? would not

the book is filled with nothing good

6. Complainant represents:

Self Steve and Ellen Cox

Organization (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of complainant Ellen Cox Date 6.14.14

Additional comments Thank you for taking the time to look into this book and our concerns.

Please return completed form to: Office of the Superintendent  
222 Maple Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186



Good Afternoon. My name is Kari Schulte and I have two girls that go to the Randall Stem Academy. I live at 2019 Avondale Ct, in Waukesha.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak regarding the book, "Looking for Alaska" by John Green.

I first became aware of this book through a friend of mine whose oldest son is in high school. Some of her friends' children were reading this book and were very upset. I decided that I needed to read "Looking for Alaska" for myself.

The first thing that struck me while reading this book was the language. The cursing was out of control. I would not be comfortable reading this book in a group as an adult, let alone as a teenager. I can't imagine that most parents would want their children reading or hearing this type of language, especially in school. It seemed that on an average there were 1-2 curse words per page.

The second thing that I noticed was the sexual content. Constantly discussing or insinuating sex. The kids in the book watch pornography on a regular basis. Again, is this what we want our children reading?

Drinking and smoking are glorified in this book as well. The kids are constantly smoking and are drinking almost everyday. There is some pot smoking as well, but it is not discussed as much. That is to say that it is only talked about two or three times in the book instead of constantly. Good examples for our children?

Then we get to pages 126-128. The main character in the book and his girlfriend try to have oral sex. However, they don't know exactly what they need to do. So, they go and get instructions from a friend. I thought about quoting some of it here today. However, I'm not comfortable quoting it in public. I think that speaks for itself.

I'm not sure why this book was allowed in our schools to begin with. Aren't we trying to educate our children, teach them morals, and how to be good citizens? I'm not sure how this book possibly accomplishes these goals.

We have rules regarding what movies kids can see in school. Permission slips need to be signed for kids to watch controversial things or movies that may be inappropriate for their age group. So, why is it alright for them to read whatever they are given regardless of the content. Just like the things seen in movies can't be unseen, the same goes for our books.

I'm sure that there is a place for this book, but it is not in our schools (especially our middle schools) I am asking for this book to be removed.

Thank you for your time.



## Board of Education

Lindholm Building 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53186

☎ 262-970-1012

Fax 262-970-1021

July 3, 2014

To: Board of Education Members  
Media

From: Todd Gray  
Superintendent of Schools

RE: **Consideration Committee**  
**July 9, 2014**  
**2:00 p.m.**

Please be advised that the Consideration Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Room 109 of the Lindholm Building, 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI.

### AGENDA

1. Call the meeting to order
2. Verification of meeting posting
3. Selection of Committee Chair
4. Policy Step 1: Review of media materials complaint and establish review timetable.
5. Determine materials needed for review
6. Establish date and time for hearing per policy Step 3



July 16, 2014

To: Board of Education Members  
Media

From: Todd Gray  
Superintendent of Schools

**RE: Consideration Committee  
July 22, 2014  
2:00 p.m.**

Please be advised that the Consideration Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Room 109 of the Lindholm Building, 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI.

**AGENDA**

1. Call the meeting to order
2. Verification of meeting posting
3. Comments from public regarding the book *Looking for Alaska*.

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4. Discussion of materials
5. Set date and time for hearing
6. Calendar Considerations



## CONSIDERATION COMMITTEE

July 22, 2014

A meeting of the Consideration Committee was held on July 22, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in room 109 of the Lindholm Building, 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI.

### Committee Members

David LaBorde  
Chris Kluck  
Jill Wickham  
Gina Bailey  
Mary Ann Krause

Stephanie Blue  
Jill Waggoner  
Mary Hill  
Maria Trainor

### Support

Rachel Hermann

1. Chairperson David LaBorde called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.
2. S. Ettinger verified that the meeting was properly posted.
3. Comments from public regarding the book *Looking for Alaska*:
  - Kari Schulte, 2019 Avondale Court, Waukesha, WI 53186 addressed the committee as to why she feels this book should be removed from the schools, citing language, sexual context and drug references.
  - Ellen Cox, 1915A Mallard Pointe, Waukesha, WI, spoke to the committee regarding her issues with the book and reasons for filing the Request for Consideration of Instructional Materials form.
4. Discussion of materials: Committee members discussed the book in depth, considering the policy guidelines. They acknowledged the book, which was not a required reading, did have some crude language and/or mature content. However, they felt that as a whole, *Looking for Alaska* is a strong piece of literature that teaches many valuable life lessons. From a literary perspective they determined the book does have educational value.
5. Set date and time for hearing: The Committee agreed to have the next meeting on Friday, July 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 109 of the Lindholm Building.
6. Calendar Considerations: The Consideration Committee set a date to discuss the next Request for Consideration of Instructional Materials (*Chinese Handcuffs*). The meeting will be on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Room 109 of the Lindholm Building.

Meeting adjourned: 3:20 p.m.

Sue Ettinger, Secretary

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July 23, 2014

To: Board of Education Members  
Media

From: Todd Gray  
Superintendent of Schools

RE: **Consideration Committee**  
**July 25, 2014**  
**2:00 p.m.**

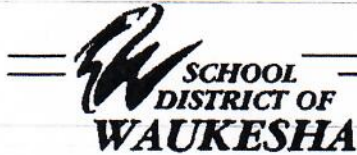
Please be advised that the Consideration Committee will hold a meeting on Friday, July 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Room 109 of the Lindholm Building, 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI.

#### **AGENDA**

- I. Call the meeting to order
- II. Verification of meeting posting
- III. Public hearing regarding the book *Looking for Alaska*.

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- IV. Action Items
  - A. Committee Recommendation for *Looking for Alaska*
- V. Discussion Items
  - A. Kite Runner
- VI. Calendar Considerations



Lindholm Building 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53186

☎ 262-970-1012

July 28, 2014

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Cox  
1915A Mallard Pointe  
Waukesha, WI 53189

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cox:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Consideration Committee of the School District of Waukesha has met and voted on your request to have the novel *Looking For Alaska* removed from school libraries. The decision of the committee was to deny your request.

Because your request was not upheld, you have the right to appeal the committee's decision to the Waukesha Board of Education. If you choose to appeal please do so in writing to Mr. Joseph Como, Board President, with copies to Mr. Todd Gray, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Ryan Krohn, Assistant Superintendent.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 262-970-3910.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D LaBorde'.

David LaBorde  
Principal

Cc: Todd Gray  
Ryan Krohn  
District Consideration Committee



## CONSIDERATION COMMITTEE

July 25, 2014

A meeting of the Consideration Committee was held on July 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in room 109 of the Lindholm Building, 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI.

### Committee Members

David LaBorde	Stephanie Blue
Chris Kluck (excused)	Jill Waggoner
Jill Wickham	Mary Hill
Gina Bailey	Maria Trainor
Mary Ann Krause	

### Support/Resource

- I. Chairperson David LaBorde called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.
- II. S. Ettinger verified that the meeting was properly posted.
- III. Comments from public regarding the book *Looking for Alaska*:
  - Sue Morgan, 7212 Hillcrest Drive, Wauwatosa, WI 53213 addressed the committee in support of the book
  - Dale Ritterbauch, 206 Ritterbusch, 206 Spring Street, Waukesha, WI spoke against censorship
  - Karen Tessman, 2549 Fox River Pkwy, Waukesha, WI 53189, addressed the committee with her issues against this book
  - Paul Reese, 841 Genesee Street, Waukesha, WI is a fan of censorship and is against this book
  - Ellen Cox, 1915A Mallard Pointe, Waukesha, WI, said her goal was not to ban the book but to make parents aware; feels it should be flagged to require parental permission
  - Kari Schulte, 2019 Avondale Court, Waukesha, WI 53186 spoke against the book being in the middle school and feels it should be flagged at the high schools
  - Steve Cox, 1915A Mallard Pointe, Waukesha, WI, spoke to the committee against the book's accessibility to students.
  - Nancy Alt, 615 Cheyenne, Waukesha, WI, as a member of the original committee who designed this policy, she commended the Consideration Committee for their unbiased, critical thinking.
- IV. Action Items
  - A. Committee Recommendation for *Looking for Alaska*: D. LaBorde asked the committee if they had any further discussion or questions. Before taking action, he reminded the committee of the following choices per the policy: 1) Uphold the request thereby granting the relief requested by the complainant, i.e., the removal of the material involved; 2) Deny the request; or 3) Modify the use of the material. Discussion was held as to what would be involved in flagging the material; a reminder that all students have the right to opt out of any assigned reading. *Maria Trainor moved to deny the request to remove the book Looking for Alaska from our school libraries; seconded by Jill Wickham.* Further discussion was held. Motion passed 8-0 in a roll call vote. David LaBorde explained the procedure required to file an appeal.
- V. Discussion Items
  - A. *The Kite Runner*: D. LaBorde told the committee that we have received a complaint wanting *The Kite Runner* removed. He explained that this book was approved by the Board of Education in 2006, so it does not require coming before the Consideration Committee.
- VI. Calendar Considerations: The Consideration Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 in Room 109 of the Lindholm Building to discuss the next Request for Consideration of Instructional Materials (*Chinese Handcuffs*).

Meeting adjourned: 2:50 p.m

Sue Ettinger, Secretary

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## Fwd: Looking For Alaska

Como, Joseph <jcomo@waukesha.k12.wi.us>  
To: Sue Ettinger <settinge@waukesha.k12.wi.us>

Mon, Aug 25, 2014 at 8:51 AM

Good morning Sue:

This was my response to Mr. and Mrs. Cox's appeal request. I'll drop off the letter from the Tessmans this morning.

Thanks,  
Joe

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Como, Joseph** <jcomo@waukesha.k12.wi.us>  
Date: Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 11:03 AM  
Subject: Re: Looking For Alaska  
To: "Cox, Steven" <scox@waukesha.k12.wi.us>  
Cc: Todd Gray <tgray@waukesha.k12.wi.us>, David LaBorde <dlaborde@waukesha.k12.wi.us>

Mr. & Mrs. Cox:

I wanted to confirm the receipt of your appeal to the decision of the Consideration Committee with respect to Looking for Alaska. In lieu of a written letter (as per the Board Policy 6161G), I'll accept your email as your official request and I also cc'd David LaBorde, Chair of the Consideration Committee, per the guideline.

With that said, I'll be begin the appeal process per your request.

Sincerely,  
Joe Como

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On Sat, Aug 16, 2014 at 2:59 PM, Cox, Steven <scox@waukesha.k12.wi.us> wrote:

I am writing to you for the purpose of appealing the decision of the Consideration Committee regarding the novel Looking For Alaska. The fact that the committee chose to not remove the book from our school libraries is extremely disappointing. But what was even more disappointing is the fact that the committee chose to leave the book in the libraries without any restrictions or parent notification of its content. This was an option that was available as explained in their meeting.

Personally, my wife and I believe the book should not be made available to any students (especially those in the middle schools). The recent tragedy in the district shows how young people can be influenced by fictional material. Kids don't process information at the same level as adults.

Also disappointing was the biased makeup of the consideration committee. Parents of students should be deciding on the appropriateness of reading material (not librarians who have already allowed the material into the schools).

Thank you for your time  
Sincerely,  
Steve & Ellen Cox



**REGULAR MEETING  
WAUKESHA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
October 8, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Waukesha Board of Education was held on October 8, 2014 in the board room of the Lindholm Building, 222 Maple Avenue, Waukesha, WI. President Joseph Como called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Board Members

William Baumgart  
Barbara Brzenk  
Joseph Como  
Steve Edlund  
Ellen Langill

Patricia Madden  
Patrick McCaffery  
Kurt O'Bryan  
Karin Rajniecek

Administrators

Lauri Clifton  
Todd Gray  
Christine Hedstrom  
Joe Koch  
Ryan Krohn

**I. General Business**

- A. Pledge/roll call: The pledge to the U.S. flag was conducted followed by roll call.
- B. Verification of meeting posting: S. Ettinger verified the posting of the meeting agenda/notification of the media.
- C. Bright Lights: Kathy Gardner from the Waukesha Education Foundation introduced a presentation by grant recipient Greta Voit.
- D. Recognitions: Dan Domach, Brian Schlei and Kyle LeMieux thanked the Board for their support in making the Fields of Many Dreams a reality. Christine Hedstrom presented the Employee Recognition Award to Lori Roth, principal's secretary at Hadfield Elementary School.
- E. Report by student representatives: West High students Apoorva Dhawan and Brandon Phouybandhdyt reported on the many events happening at West High School.
- F. Opportunity for citizens to speak:
- Malena Koplin, 21020 Bramblewood Tr., Brookfield, WI, supported keeping the books in the libraries.
  - Karen Tessman, 2549 Fox River Parkway, Waukesha, WI, spoke against the books remaining in the libraries or schools
  - Nancy Alt, 615 Cheyenne, Waukesha, WI, commended the Consideration Committee's decision and supports keeping the books in the school libraries
  - Ellen Cox, 1915 A Mallard Pointe Circle, Waukesha, WI, spoke against the book Looking for Alaska and the Consideration Committee's recommendation
  - Paul Reese, 841 Genesee Street, Waukesha, WI spoke against having the books in the schools.
- G. Minute approval: Minutes presented for approval were:
- September 10, 2014 Public Hearing
  - September 10, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Brzenk moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by E. Langill. Motion carried 9-0.*
- H. Communications: T. Gray received a letter from Sally Michalko from Plowshare Center thanking the students who volunteered to help out at a fashion show. Barbara Brzenk reminded everyone to attend the upcoming Celebration of Excellence on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- I. Safety Committee Report: W. Baumgart said the accident reports for students and staff were reviewed and accepted: A discussion was held regarding procedures to be followed for Workers Compensation or Student Involvement injuries. J. Koch will follow up. Another area that J. Koch will be pursuing is the completion of the district's crisis management plans. The target is to have this completed by January.



With the participations of the Fire Dept. Rep. we had a very good review of required practices for fire, tornado and lock down drills. The next meeting will be held in November.

J. Charter School Report: W. Baumgart gave a report on the following charter schools – WEPA & WAHP: Both schools “Significantly Exceed Expectations”. WEPA is number 48 in Newsweek’s “Top High Schools in the Nation”. WEPA had a average of 27.1 on the ACT (Highest in the State of Wisconsin). Summit View: is off to a fine start with a new National Partnership, Summit View is officially a partner with the Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington D.C. Harvey Philip: Students and staff are working on a name change and publishing information to better explain what this school is really about. Flight Academy: Flight now has 90 students in grades 6, 7, and 8. We have hosted two days of visitors from around the state. Quest: Butler held an Open House for their new Quest program last week.

K. Board action on appeal of Consideration Committee’s review of contested books: President Como explained the board has the following choices regarding this issue: 1. Uphold the Consideration Committee’s decision to keep the books; 2. Overturn the decision of the Committee and remove the books; 3. Amend the decision of the Committee. He mentioned there was also another choice and that is to suspend the issue temporarily. The latter would require a two-thirds vote.

A) Looking for Alaska: Discussion was held. S. Edlund moved to suspend the 40 day timeline in Policy 6161G until April 8, 2015; seconded by P. McCaffery. Discussion was held. W. Baumgart moved to amend the date to November 12, 2014; seconded by B. Brzenk. Motion failed with 6 no votes (K. O’Bryan, P. McCaffery, S. Edlund, E. Langill, P. Madden, K. Rajnicek) and 3 yes votes (W. Baumgart, B. Brzenk, J. Como). P. Madden called to question the original motion. Motion failed with 7 no votes (B. Brzenk, P. McCaffery, P. Madden, W. Baumgart, K. O’Bryan, E. Langill, J. Como) and 2 yes votes (S. Edlund, K. Rajnicek). E. Langill made a motion to approve the decision of the Consideration Committee to keep Looking for Alaska in our libraries; seconded by K. O’Bryan. Further discussion was held. S. Edlund moved to amend the motion to place Looking for Alaska in a special section of all libraries within SDW, notifying potential readers of the contents of the book; seconded by K. Rajnicek. K. O’Bryan moved the question. Motion failed with two yes votes (K. Rajnicek, S. Edlund) and 7 no votes (E. Langill, P. Madden, W. Baumgart, B. Brzenk, K. O’Bryan, P. McCaffery, J. Como). Vote was taken on the original motion to approve the decision of the Consideration Committee. Motion passed with 7 yes votes (E. Langill, P. Madden, B. Brzenk, K. O’Bryan, W. Baumgart, P. McCaffery, J. Como) and 2 no votes (K. Rajnicek, S. Edlund).

B) The Kite Runner: E. Langill made the motion to uphold the Consideration Committee decision regarding The Kite Runner; seconded by W. Baumgart. K. Rajnicek moved to amend the motion to have the book flagged; seconded by S. Edlund. Motion failed with 2 yes votes (K. Rajnicek, S. Edlund) and 7 no votes (W. Baumgart, K. O’Bryan, E. Langill, P. McCaffery, P. Madden, B. Brzenk, J. Como). Vote was taken on the original motion. Motion passed with 7 yes votes (P. Madden, B. Brzenk, W. Baumgart, P. McCaffery, E. Langill, K. O’Bryan, J. Como) and 2 no votes (S. Edlund, K. Rajnicek).

C) Chinese Handcuffs: K. O’Bryan moved to accept the recommendation of the Consideration Committee to keep the Chinese Handcuffs; seconded by P. Madden. K. Rajnicek moved to amend the motion to flag the book; seconded by S. Edlund. Motion on the amendment failed with 2 yes votes (S. Edlund, K. Rajnicek) and 7 no votes (B. Brzenk, P. McCaffery, P. Madden, W. Baumgart, K. O’Bryan, E. Langill, J. Como). Vote on the original motion passed with 7 yes votes (B. Brzenk, W. Baumgart, P. McCaffery, P. Madden, K. O’Bryan, E. Langill, J. Como) and 2 no votes (K. Rajnicek, S. Edlund).

## II. Consent Agenda

Steve Edlund presented the Consent Agenda for approval. Earlier this evening the Human Resources Committee approved of 2 resignations and 4 new or modified contracts for the 2014-15 school year. The information was provided in the packet and an addendum was placed on the board members’ desks.

S. Edlund moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended; seconded by W. Baumgart. Motion passed 9-0.

### A. Finance & Facilities Committee

1. General disbursements



a. Accounts payable	\$ 2,022,820.96
2. September payroll	\$ 6,108,936.60
3. Student activities	
a. North	\$ 53,931.67
b. South	\$ 72,045.89
c. West	\$ 51,226.78

B. Human Resources Committee

1. Resignations and Retirements:

- Michelle Hixson, Business Education Teacher at LPMS/eAchieve/BMS, requests to be released from her contract date TBD.
- Amy Belling, Special Education Teacher at Lowell requests to be released from her contract effective 10/7/14

2. Leaves of Absence: None

3. New contracts & contract modifications:

- Michael Karolewicz, Math Teacher at South, 100%
- Katherine McBride, Social Studies Teacher at West, 50%
- Kelly Schleusner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher at Bethesda, 50%
- Ryan Young, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher at Heyer, 100% Limited Term

C. Public Gifts to the Schools:

- Waukesha North

D. Expulsion Panel Action: None

III. **Superintendent's Report:** The Superintendent reported on the following:

- Open House for the Employee Health & Wellness Center on October 29th
- On October 13<sup>th</sup>, North High School will be holding the M.A.D.E. Community & Career Symposium
- There are two meetings that need to be scheduled – a special F&F meeting and a Full Board meeting to adopt the Levy

IV. **Curriculum and Instruction Committee**

Barbara Brzenk, Chair gave an update of the September 30<sup>th</sup> Curriculum & Instruction Committee meeting. Principal Tim Joynt shared news from the Waukesha Academy of Health Professions, as well as the Waukesha Engineering Preparatory Academy. Both academies went through extensive renovations this summer to provide a better space for students to utilize. They both continue to receive high scores on the ACT and School Report Cards, as well as being ranked among Newsweek's Top High Schools. The committee was able to meet and hear from our new Data Coordinator, Dena McCormick. Her role in the district is to gather, analyze and use data in an effective and efficient way that will improve teaching and learning throughout the district.

- A. Action Items: None
- B. Information Items: None
- C. Discussion Items: None

V. **Human Resources Committee**

Steve Edlund, Chair.

- A. Action Items:

1. Approval of Employee Handbook Revisions: S. Edlund stated the purpose of the revision is to update specific sections to reflect current law and practice. The revisions recommended are a change to variable hour employees in terms of definition, clarity in responsibility for payment of benefits while on an unpaid, long-term leave of absence, benefit eligibility changes for variable hour employees, alignment of how comp time is calculated with how overtime is calculated and updates of job classifications for support staff. *S. Edlund moved to approve the Employee Handbook Revisions as presented; seconded by P. Madden. Motion passed 9-0.*

B. Information Items:

1. Revised Calendar: S. Edlund stated the purpose of the revision is to reclassify the exchange day options for teachers that attended the July staff development. Teachers that participated in the three-day summer staff development in July, 2014 are given three days off during professional development days during the year. The identified "exchange days" were March 12, March 13, and May 22, 2015. Due to the potential need for a snow day make up, the exchange days will be changed to October 31, 2014, March 12, 2015 and March 13, 2015. The calendar will be adjusted to reflect this change. Teachers and administrators were given the opportunity to provide feedback and an overwhelming majority approve of this plan. A copy of the revised calendar was provided in the board packet.

C. Discussion Items: None

**VI. Policy Committee**

Patricia Madden, Chair

A. Action Items:

1. Revisions to Policy #4100 – Recruitment, Selection, Discrimination and Harassment: P. Madden explained the language in lines 18-19 should have been removed in previous updates. *P. Madden moved to approve the revisions to Policy #4100 – Recruitment, Selection, Discrimination and Harassment as presented; seconded by B. Brzenk. Motion passed 9-0.*

2. Revisions to Policy #5127 – Graduation: The C&I Committee approved changes to the required credits for Social Studies; these revisions put the policy in line with those changes. *P. Madden moved to approve the revisions to Policy #5127 – Graduation as presented; seconded by W. Baumgart. Motion passed 9-0.*

3. Revisions to Policy #5141.7 – School Wellness: A reference to nutritional guidelines has been added as required by the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. *P. Madden moved to approve the revisions to Policy #5141.7 – School Wellness as presented; seconded by B. Brzenk. Motion passed 9-0.*

B. Information Items: None

C. Discussion Items: None

**VII. Technology Committee**

Patrick McCaffery, Chair

A. Action Items: None

B. Information Items: None

C. Discussion Items: None

**VIII. Finance and Facilities Committee**

Kurt O'Bryan, Chair

A. Action Items:

1. Approval and award of Guaranteed Energy Savings performance contract: K. O'Bryan stated this item has been tabled until a future meeting.



B. Information Items:

1. Monthly Budget Report: The F&F Committee received the monthly budget report for activity through September, 2014. \$7,825,823 was reported in the General Fund revenue and \$8,495,963 was expended during the month. There was no revenue reported in Special Education and \$1,782,544 was expended. The District is operating in accordance with our budget projection.

2. 2014-15 Budget Update: Ms. Clifton presented the F&F Committee with an estimate of the Tax Levy to be adopted. Due to the fact that we are not projecting a cash deficit and do not anticipate a need for borrowing, the District is able to wait for the Equalization Aid from the State and the finalized pupil count to adopt the budget and certify the levy. An additional meeting will be needed at the end of the month to certify the tax levy.

C. Discussion Items: None

**IX. Other Business**

*Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.*

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Meeting Adjourned: 9:52 p.m.

Patricia Madden, Clerk  
Sue Ettinger, Secretary

## CITATIONS

DATE & INITIALS: 5/16/14 cv

**AUTHOR:** Green, John

**TITLE:** Looking for Alaska

**PUBLISHER AND PUBLICATION DATE:** Dutton, 2005

### REVIEWS:

<u>PERIODICAL</u>	<u>VOLUME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<i>ALAN Review</i>	32	3	Summer 2005	36
<i>The Bulletin (BCCB)</i>	58	6	February 2005	252
<i>English Journal</i>	96	1	September 2006	93-94
<i>Horn Book Guide</i>	16	2	Fall 2005	334
<i>Horn Book Magazine</i>	81	2	Mar/Apr 2005	201-202
<i>Kirkus Reviews</i>	73	5	March 1, 2005	287
<i>KLIATT</i>	39	2	March 2005	12
<i>Library Media Connection</i>	24	3	Nov./Dec. 2005	66-67
<i>Publishers Weekly</i>	252	6	Feb. 7, 2005	61
<i>School Library Journal</i>	51	2	February 2005	136
<i>VOYA</i>	28	1	April 2005	39

### AWARDS:

Michael L. Printz Award, ALA, 2006

### DISTINCTIONS:

Los Angeles Times Book Prize, Young Adult Fiction, Finalist, 2005 (not included in packet)

### RECOMMENDED LISTS:

"Best Books 2005." *School Library Journal* 51.12 (December 2005): 45.

Best Books for High School Readers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Westport Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2010, 68.

Best Books for Young Adults, ALA-YALSA, 2006

Best Children's Books, Kirkus, 2005

"Editor's Choice – Books for Youth." *Booklist* 102.9 (January 2006): 12.

Outstanding Books for the College Bound, YALSA, 2011: 129.

Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, ALA-YALSA, 2009

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, ALA-YALSA, 2006

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**Ladies First: Women Athletes Who Made a Difference**

by Ken Rappoport

Peachtree Publishers, 2005, 146 pp., \$14.95

ISBN: 1-56145-338-2

Women Athletes

**In Ladies First: Women Athletes Who Made a Difference**, Ken Rappoport tells the story of more than a dozen famous female athletes. Among those is Mannon Rheume, the first woman to play professional hockey. As goalie for the Tampa Bay Lightning, she had the toughest position on the team. Rheume achieved her dream with hard work, perseverance, and talent.

Twelve more chapters include women who broke barriers: Julie Krone in horse racing, Shirley Muldowney in auto racing, and more traditional sports, Wilma Rudolph in track and Nadia Comaneci in gymnastics.

Readers will find inspiring stories of women athletes who made their dreams come true.

Ruth Prescott  
Manhattan, KS

**The Land of Elyon Book I** by Patrick Carran

Orchard, 2005, 251 pp., \$11.95

ISBN: 0-439-70093-0

Fantasy

This book began as a series of bedtime stories for the author's children and was originally self-published in Seattle, Washington, where, apparently, it did well enough to be picked up by Orchard Books for national distribution. Projected as the first book in a trilogy, the fantasy tale recounts the adventures of 12-year-old Alexa, who lives within a complex of walled cities unable, along with her compatriots, to experience the world outside. Alexa, in the spirit of fantasy protagonists everywhere, is too curious and bold to be held back from exploration of the forbidden by rules, guards, culture, and custom. Indeed, she finds her way beyond the walls to discover talking animals and a plot to destroy the kingdom. She is, of course, with the aid of her animal allies, ultimately able to save the day by bringing down the walls. However, her adventures are apparently to be continued. . . . Young fantasy readers will enjoy this story of a small female heroine although the adventures are far from as engaging as those in *Narnia* or *Hogwarts*. The underlying message that sneaking around leads to great deeds may be disturbing for some adults, yet it taps into the covert desire of all children to have a hand in saving the world.

Myrna Dee Marler  
Lisle, HI

**The Last Universe** by William Sleator

Amulet Books, 2005, 214 pp., \$16.95

ISBN: 0-8109-5858-9

Life-threatening Illnesses/Generation Gap

William Sleator's new novel for young adults is a riveting tale of psychological suspense. This suspense is heightened by the first-person narrator, also the main character. Susan is so unwilling to enter all the dangerous situations in the garden behind her house that she makes you as the reader want to go there even more. Sleator paints a convincing picture of what it is like to be a 14-year-old girl in a world of confusing twists and turns. The mysterious maze in the middle of the garden is a metaphor for the labyrinthine mind games Sleator plays with his readers. There is just enough science in this book to interest the intellectually inclined. This is a truly engaging science fiction thriller where all the action takes place in a seemingly innocent garden behind an old house. There are no light sabers or wookies, but this story will take you on a psychological journey as you wonder if the universe really makes any sense at all. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in alternate realities.

Kenan Metzger  
Shawnee, KS

**Looking for Alaska** by John Green

Dutton Books, 2005, 256 pp., \$11.99

ISBN: 0525475060

Relationships/Loyalty/Death

Based on the last words of Francois Rabelais, narrator Miles Halter leaves Florida to attend his last two years of high school at Culver Creek boarding school in Alabama because "I go to seek a Great Perhaps." He finds this potential both in his new group of friends and in the discussions of his World Religions class, taught by Dr. Hyde.

Green's book is a thrilling novel that lacks chapters, but is divided by headings that are counting down to a life-changing event in Miles's life, and later by headings that count days after the event. It is a tribute to Green's capabilities as a writer that the event is open to multiple possibilities that make it unpredictable until it happens. Throughout the novel, Green challenges the reader's perceptions of friendship, loyalty, relationships, sex, life, suffering, and death. The book is filled with scenes that are both laugh-out-loud funny and bury-one's-head-and-cry tragic.

A warning to readers: Green's novel contains a lot of explicit language, some drug use, and explicit sexual situations. However, each of these situations is handled with depth and maturity and is vital to the development of plot and character.

John Ritchie  
Manhattan, KS

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**Clip & File YA Book Reviews**