

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY INFORMATIONAL REPORT PRESENTATION ON

HCPS Library Planning Workgroup

March 18, 2024

Background:

The Annotated Code of Maryland (COMAR 13A 05 04) Public School Library Programs specifies that the school library media program provides students access to “appropriate materials and technologies to support the instructional programs of the local school systems.” Research studies consistently demonstrate that students in schools with robust libraries perform better academically than their peers without access to such resources. With the support and oversight of the Harford County Public Schools Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Division, school library media specialists with specialized knowledge in collection development of library materials review, evaluate, and select library materials that support curricular, instructional, and literacy needs of students and educators. The Library Planning Workgroup, which included a variety of stakeholders including representation from the Board of Education, the Harford County Council, Harford County Public Schools Central Office, Harford County Public Schools, and the community was formed in September 2023 to review the existing practices of the evaluation, selection, and reconsideration of library materials.

Discussion:

This presentation provides an overview of the work of the Library Planning Workgroup in reviewing the existing practices of the evaluation and selection of library materials and the reconsideration process of challenged library materials. The recommendations of the Library Planning Workgroup will be shared through the presentation of a proposed administrative procedure addressing the evaluation, selection, and reconsideration of library materials. The procedure provides an overview of the principles that govern the development of library collections in HCPS and outlines the specific process of evaluating and selecting library materials that support curricular goals, student interest, information, and inquiry. The reconsideration process is also outlined to address concerns or objections regarding specific items in the library collection.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the Board of Education accept this informational report outlining the procedure that will guide the evaluation, selection, and reconsideration of library materials.