

The Regional District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met in regular session on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee Members Present: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Konstantino, and Mr. Roraback

Committee Members Absent: Mr. DelVecchio and Mr. Simmons

Board of Education Members Present: Mrs. Petrella

Administration Present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools

Regional School District 13 Library Media Specialist: Mrs. Lussier

Mrs. Cowan called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Konstantino made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the agenda as presented.

All in favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Konstantino, Mr. Roraback, and Mrs. Petrella. Motion passed.

Approval of minutes – December 17, 2025

Mr. Konstantino made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the December 17, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

All in favor of approving the December 17, 2025 meeting minutes as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Konstantino, Mr. Roraback, and Mrs. Petrella. Motion passed.

Policy Review

A. Library Collection Development and Maintenance

Dr. Leggett provided a brief overview of the newly required policies which were mandated by recent Connecticut legislation. The district had the option of adopting one policy or three separate policies. The decision was made to adopt three separate policies rather than one combined policy to improve clarity,

detail, and usability, particularly for collection development. The policies meet the legal minimum requirements while adding greater specificity where the law was vague. The three separate policies were drafted by the district's library media specialists, with significant input from Jenny Lussier, who was involved in both drafting the legislation and the policies.

Mrs. Petrella questioned the policy provision that prevents a new request to reconsider library materials for three years after a decision is made, asking why three years was chosen and whether exceptions are possible. Ms. Lussier explained that this requirement is set directly by Connecticut law, not by the district, and is intended to prevent repeated or bad-faith challenges that can overwhelm staff and boards, often from individuals outside the community. Mrs. Petrella also questioned if the proposed library collection policy allows for a broader reimagining of the library's role, including expanded functions like maker spaces. Dr. Leggett established that the policy does not restrict innovation or new uses. Mrs. Petrella also inquired about who oversees that collections represent divergent viewpoints. Dr. Leggett and Ms. Lussier clarified this responsibility lies primarily with trained library media specialists, not the superintendent, and that the policy applies only to voluntary student selection of materials and not curriculum.

Mr. Moore also addressed how outdated or inaccurate materials are removed, emphasizing the careful use of data such as circulation reports to guide decisions, especially for nonfiction, and the importance of transparency through logs and reports.

Finally, members discussed the disposal process for removed materials, noting concerns about donating outdated information, and sought clarification on policy language related to data collection and formatting.

Mr. Moore inquired about the process of removing library details, as well as further explanation of data collection. Dr. Leggett reviewed the policy for removing materials, which is to sell first, then donate, and finally give away. Ms. Lussier noted that outdated or inaccurate nonfiction should not be sold or donated, while fiction is treated more flexibly. Ms. Lussier also clarified that data collection was the intentional use of circulation and management system reports, such as identifying books not checked out in many years, to guide thoughtful, non-arbitrary removal decisions, with care taken not to remove curricular materials. The importance of transparency was emphasized through maintaining logs and reports that can be shared with the Board or public. Mrs. Cowan noted that while the policy itself is solid, the accompanying regulations may need minor formatting or revisions, which can be amended more easily than the policy.

B. Library Displays and Programs

Mrs. Lussier established the language for this policy mirrors the statutory language with minimal district-specific additions. Mr. Moore clarified that approval would be needed for specific display requests.

C. Library Materials Review and Reconsideration

Technical edits were identified, including correcting inconsistencies about who may submit reconsideration requests by aligning language to state, "individuals with a vested interest," defining the

review committee within the policy through cross-referencing the regulations, spelling out the American Library Association, and adding legislative citations for consistency.

The appeals process was clarified as a review of whether proper procedures were followed, not a re-evaluation of the material itself, highlighting the importance of a clear, up-to-date collection development policy. Board members expressed strong support for the policies, noting their role in protecting districts from costly litigation, providing access to information for all students, and ensuring fair, transparent processes.

Ms. Lussier concluded her policy discussion with a reflection on the purpose of the legislation: safeguarding student access to diverse, representative materials so all students can see themselves in libraries and learn about others, reinforcing the district's educational mission.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Konstantino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Cowan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Konstantino, Mr. Roraback, and Mrs. Petrella. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio