

Instructional Materials Reconsideration Committee

March 2, 2022

Meeting Called to Order: 4:32 p.m.

Meeting attendees: John Rice, Michelle Kruse, Sean Neilly, Danielle Wigg, Megan Heims, Andrea Sherron, and Jessica Siepman

Absent: Keren Mwilarhe and Samantha Zaruba

The Instructional Materials Reconsideration Committee met on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 to discuss the graphic novel, *Watchmen* (1986) by Alan Moore, and the NPR Adverse Childhood Experiences Article and Survey.

The complainant objected to the entire book, specifically to the same scenes and specifics as the *Watchmen* movie that was reconsidered in February. The *Watchmen* graphic novel was taught in an English Language Arts Perspectives course her student had taken at Kennedy High School. The complainant also objected to the entire NPR article and the associated quiz.

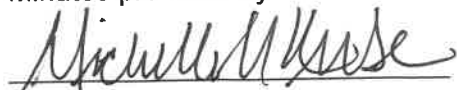
Committee members discussed the merit of the graphic novel, article, and quiz in relation to the curriculum and the Iowa Core English Language Arts standards that are being prioritized in this particular course, including: 1) making strategic use of digital and visual media; 2) integrating and evaluating multiple sources of information presented in different media formats; and 3) determining an author's/creator's point of view. We also discussed the graphic novel in relation to the board selection policy (402.2). We reviewed the course description for the ELA Perspectives in Literature and Composition course in the Course Catalog 2021-2022, as well as the prerequisite courses required. The role of academic advising was a significant factor in our discussion also.

The committee voted unanimously on the following statements:

1. *To insert a language change in the course description (for Perspectives in Literature and Composition). "...Students in this class will study recurring themes in **potentially controversial** texts from the United States and around the world..." The Perspectives course will retain the Watchmen text.*
2. *NPR article and quiz are optional materials. It will not be done as a required class activity. Students can not be required to submit ACEs score to teachers or peers.*

Meeting Adjourned: 6:11 p.m.

Minutes provided by:


Michelle Kruse

Date: 3/9/2022