

October 18, 2011

Dear Blaine County School District Board of Trustees,

We come to you as concerned parents of Blaine County students. Blaine County School District (BCSD) has District Policies in place to ensure the best education for its students in the best learning environment. We are pleased to be able to have our children be students in the BCSD. It has come to our attention that the process by which Mathematics textbooks were recently purchased for the BCSD was in violation of BCSD Policy. District Policy being written in accordance with Idaho Legal Code, the process undertaken to purchase the Math textbooks was also in violation of Idaho Legal Code.

From BCSD Policy Number 602.3: Learning Resources Selection - Textbooks:

"Additionally, basic textbooks and textbook programs shall be chosen:

1. ...
2. To contribute toward continuity, integration and articulation of the curriculum.
3. ..."

As no new Mathematics curriculum was written, there was no written basis established for selecting new Mathematics textbooks.

Additionally, the composition of the Math textbook selection committee also violates BCSD Policy Number 602.3: "Membership on such [textbook] committees shall include representation of teachers who will use the texts, administrators, other staff members, community members, parents and students." No community members, parents or students were members of the 2009 - 2011 Math textbook selection process.

Therefore, due to no written curriculum and invalid composition of committee members, the recent Math textbook purchase was in violation of BCSD Policy Number 602.3. As the process undertaken violated this policy, which references Idaho Code 33-118A, the process also violated Idaho State Code 33-118A. This is a formal request that the Board of Trustees:

1. Obtain independent legal review of the School District Administration's compliance with Blaine County School District Policy Number 602.3 and Idaho Code 33-118A.
2. Reinstate the 2005 Mathematics Curriculum, which is still active by default of no new mathematics curriculum in existence.
3. Have a new Mathematics Curriculum written, the process of which follows BCSD District Policies and Idaho Legal Code.
4. Submit their finding on the legality of the June 14, 2011 text book adoption to the public not later than the next School Board of Trustees meeting.

Sincerely,

*[signed by Kathy Baker, Ellen Mandeville, Jamie Sharp, Dan Beste, Kathy Beste, Brian Simcoe, Randy Simcoe, Lyndsay Atienza, Liv Jensen, Erik Ruggeri, Allison Ruggeri, and Cathy Tyson-Foster]*

Attachments