



**Library Materials Challenge Executive Report  
May 18, 2026**

**Title: *Where the Crawdads Sing*  
Author: Delia Owens  
ISBN: 9780735219113**

## **Report Contents**

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## Timeline

Library Materials Challenge Form Received	February 19, 2026
Board Notification	February 23, 2026
Superintendent Notification	February 23, 2026
School Library Advisory Council Notification	February 23, 2026
Campus Administration Notification	February 23, 2026
SLAC Review Process Window	February 27 - April 23, 2026
School Library Advisory Council Meeting	April 9, 2026
School Library Advisory Council Meeting	April 23, 2026
School Board Meeting	May 18, 2026

## Executive Summary

As communicated to the School Library Advisory Council (SLAC) on February 23, 2026, the district received a Library Materials Challenge Form for *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens (ISBN: 9780735219113). In accordance with Board policy and legal requirements, the SLAC is responsible for reviewing each challenged title and making a recommendation to the Board within 90 days of receipt.

The local SLAC must consist of at least five members, with each member appointed by the board, and with each trustee appointing an equal number of members. A majority of the voting members of the SLAC must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district and who are not employed by the district. The SLAC also includes board appointed members who serve as nonvoting members from the following groups: teachers, librarian, school administrators, members of the business community and clergy.

To support this process, SLAC members were directed to conduct a comprehensive review of the material and provide evidence-based feedback for each title using a standardized form. The review process was completed within the window of February 27, 2026 - April 23, 2026. All recommendations developed by the SLAC must align with applicable federal and state laws, as well as district policies, including EFB (LEGAL), EFB (LOCAL), and EFB (EXHIBIT), which govern the selection, review, and reconsideration of library materials.

During the April 9, 2026 meeting, the SLAC formally reviewed the compiled report for this title and engaged in discussion before taking action. The SLAC members completed the Library Materials Challenge Evaluation Rubric. Two non-voting members of the SLAC reported to have read the book, in its entirety.

One non-voting member cited supporting evidence of the book having "harmful content" and one non-voting member cited supporting evidence of the book having "obscene material", but then checked that "content does not meet definition". Zero non-voting members cited supporting evidence of "pervasively vulgar" content. Zero non-voting members cited supporting evidence of "educationally unsuitable" content, while one non-voting member cited supporting evidence of "profane content". Zero non-voting members cited supporting evidence of "indecent content".

One voting member provided supporting evidence that threshold definitions were met. Zero voting members provided supporting evidence of the book having "harmful material". One voting member cited supporting evidence of "obscene material". One voting member provided supporting evidence of "pervasively vulgar" content. One voting member provided supporting evidence that this book is "educationally unsuitable". One voting member cited supporting evidence meeting the threshold of "profane content", and one voting member included supporting evidence of "indecent content".

One voting member determined that this book meets one of the threshold definitions and should not be approved. Three voting members recommended that this title be approved for library collection, with two of the three citing it should be approved for the high school library only.

During the April 9, 2026 meeting, recommended action was made by Tim Garver to remove the book from the CISD library collection due to "indecent content" with a second by Chris Caldwell. The SLAC voted 2-2 to remove the book from the CISD library collection. Anna Shore made a motion to keep the book in the Celina High School library collection. The motion was seconded by Allison Chao. The SLAC voted 2-2 to keep the book in the Celina High School library collection. Tim Garver made a motion to table a decision, which was seconded by Anna Shore. The voting members voted 4-0 to table the decision on this title and revisit it during the April 23, SLAC meeting.

During the April 23, 2026 meeting, the SLAC formally reviewed the compiled report for this title and engaged in discussion before taking action. The SLAC members completed the Library Materials Challenge Evaluation Rubric. The recommended action was made by Anna Shore to continue to include the title as a part of the high school library collection. A second was made by Allison Chao. The SLAC voted 3-1 to continue to include the title as a part of the high school library collection.

The School Library Advisory Council submits its recommendation to continue to include the title as a part of the high school library collection to the Celina ISD School Board for consideration and final action regarding this title.

Supporting Review Material

<b>Title:</b> <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i>	<b>Author:</b> Delia Owens
<b>ISBN:</b> 9780735219113	<b>Last Check-Out:</b> April 2025
<b>Current Library Level:</b> Celina High School, 1 copy	<b>Recommended Library/Age Level:</b> Titlewave Suggests- Adult Common Sense Media- age 14 and up
<b>Book Summary- Wordpress.com</b>	
<p><i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> follows Kya Clark, a misunderstood "Marsh Girl" abandoned in the North Carolina wild, who thrives, publishes natural history books, and becomes entangled with two men. After her ex-lover Chase Andrews is found dead, she is accused of murder. The ending reveals she was acquitted but did, in fact, kill him, dying peacefully in the marsh before her husband, Tate, finds the hidden evidence.</p> <p><b>Synopsis and Key Events</b></p> <p><b>A Childhood of Abandonment:</b> Growing up in the 1950s/60s, Kya's family abandons her one by one due to her father's abuse, leaving her to survive alone in the shack from a young age.</p> <p><b>Marsh Education &amp; Romance:</b> Jumpin' (a local) and his wife Mabel provide minimal support, while Kya grows profoundly knowledgeable about the marsh. She finds love with Tate Walker, who teaches her to read, but he leaves for college. Later, she falls for popular Chase Andrews, who treats her poorly and is engaged to another woman.</p> <p><b>The Murder Case:</b> When Chase is found dead at the base of a fire tower, the town focuses on the shunned "Marsh Girl". Evidence is circumstantial (missing necklace, missing footprints), and she is arrested.</p> <p><b>The Trial:</b> Her lawyer, Tom Milton, mounts a strong defense, arguing the town has treated her unfairly. Kya is found not guilty by the jury.</p> <p><b>The Ending:</b></p> <p><b>Reunion and Life:</b> After the trial, Kya reunites with Tate. They live together in the shack, marrying in their own way, and she lives a quiet life as a successful author studying the marsh.</p> <p><b>The Reveal:</b> Decades later, Kya dies of a heart attack in her beloved marsh at age 64.</p> <p><b>The Final Evidence:</b> While sorting through her things, Tate discovers that Kya truly did kill Chase to protect herself from his violent advances. He finds her secret journal entry explaining her action, along with the missing shell necklace she had taken from Chase's body. Tate destroys the necklace to protect her legacy.</p> <p><b>Key Themes:</b></p> <p>The story emphasizes survival and the harsh justice of nature, as noted on this YouTube video, with many viewing the killing of Chase as a necessary act of self-defense against a predator.</p>	

### **Book Review & Awards**

*Note: It is an honor for a book to receive a review from a book review publication. Many are not reviewed and a starred review is the highest review in the industry.*

Booklist, 07/01/18  
Booklist starred, 03/15/19 \*  
Kirkus Reviews, 06/01/18  
New York Times, 08/19/18  
Publishers Weekly, 06/18/18

### **Book Review 1**

#### **Kirkus Reviews (June 1, 2018)**

A wild child's isolated, dirt-poor upbringing in a Southern coastal wilderness fails to shield her from heartbreak or an accusation of murder. "The Marsh Girl," "swamp trash"—Catherine "Kya" Clark is a figure of mystery and prejudice in the remote North Carolina coastal community of Barkley Cove in the 1950s and '60s. Abandoned by a mother no longer able to endure her drunken husband's beatings and then by her four siblings, Kya grows up in the careless, sometimes-savage company of her father, who eventually disappears, too. Alone, virtually or actually, from age 6, Kya learns both to be self-sufficient and to find solace and company in her fertile natural surroundings. Owens (*Secrets of the Savanna*, 2006, etc.), the accomplished co-author of several nonfiction books on wildlife, is at her best reflecting Kya's fascination with the birds, insects, dappled light, and shifting tides of the marshes. The girl's collections of shells and feathers, her communion with the gulls, her exploration of the wetlands are evoked in lyrical phrasing which only occasionally tips into excess. But as the child turns teenager and is befriended by local boy Tate Walker, who teaches her to read, the novel settles into a less magical, more predictable pattern. Interspersed with Kya's coming-of-age is the 1969 murder investigation arising from the discovery of a man's body in the marsh. The victim is Chase Andrews, "star quarterback and town hot shot," who was once Kya's lover. In the eyes of a pair of semicomical local police officers, Kya will eventually become the chief suspect and must stand trial. By now the novel's weaknesses have become apparent: the monochromatic characterization (good boy Tate, bad boy Chase) and implausibilities (Kya evolves into a polymath—a published writer, artist, and poet), yet the closing twist is perhaps its most memorable oddity. Despite some distractions, there's an irresistible charm to Owens' first foray into nature-infused romantic fiction.

### **Book Review 2**

#### **Booklist (July 2018 (Vol. 114, No. 21)**

Owens' (*Secrets of the Savanna*, 2006) first novel is a leisurely, lyrical tale of a young woman growing up in isolation in the 1950s and 60s, in a marsh on the North Carolina coast. Kya is abandoned by her troubled mother when she is only six. Soon after, her four, much-older siblings leave, as does her alcoholic father a couple of years later. As Kya matures and teaches herself to be a naturalist, she is torn between two slightly older boys: kind, observant Tate and rascally, attractive Chase. Chase dies falling

from a fire tower in his twenties, and the investigation of his possible murder, which alternates with the story of Kya's coming-of-age, provides much of the novel's suspense. Because the characters are painted in broad, unambiguous strokes, this is not so much a naturalistic novel as a mythic one, with its appeal rising from Kya's deep connection to the place where she makes her home, and to all of its creatures.



**Library Materials Challenge Form**

Under Texas Education Code (TEC) §33.027, a parent, district employee, or person residing in a school district may submit a written challenge to any library material in a school's library catalog. To submit a written challenge, an eligible individual must complete and submit the Library Materials Challenge Form. In accordance with TEC §33.027, an individual completing the form must identify how the challenged library material violates library standards adopted by the Texas State Library and Archive Commission (TSLAC).

Upon receipt of a Library Materials Challenge Form:

- The district must submit a copy of the form to its local school library advisory council (LSLAC), no later than the fifth day after the written challenge is received.
- The district's LSLAC must make a recommendation for action no later than the 90th day after the council receives the challenge.
- If a school district has not established an LSLAC, the school district's board of trustees must take action on the written challenge at the first open meeting held after the 90th day after receipt of a written challenge.
- A school district must prohibit student access to challenged library material until the district takes action in response to the challenge.

An individual may submit an appeal to the board of trustees regarding a district's response to a written challenge. The board must take action on an appeal at the first open meeting held after the appeal is filed.

Name: Michael Wagoner Date: 2/19/26  
Email: mwwagoner@yahoo.com Phone: 757-971-0190  
Street Address: 5079 Still Meadow Ln  
City: Celina State: TX Zip Code: 75009  
District/Charter School: CISD  
Campus: Martin, Moore, CHS

Select all the following that apply:

- Parent/guardian of student enrolled in the district
- District employee
- District resident

**Library Materials Challenge Form Instructions**

1. Part I: Enter the title of the text, author, ISBN (if known), and how the challenged library material violates the TSLAC standards.
2. Part II: Follow the school district's instructions for submitting the Library Materials Challenge Form.

## Library Materials Challenge Form, page 2

**Part I: In the space below or in a separate attachment, provide the title of the text, author, ISBN (if known), and how the challenged library material violates the TSLAC standards. If submitting a separate attachment, please indicate below that there is an attachment.**

Where the Crawdads Sing

Delia Owens

ISBN: 9780735219113

Sec 33.021; sexually explicit material; 43.21 patently offensive (attachment)

## Part II: Submitting the Library Materials Challenge Form

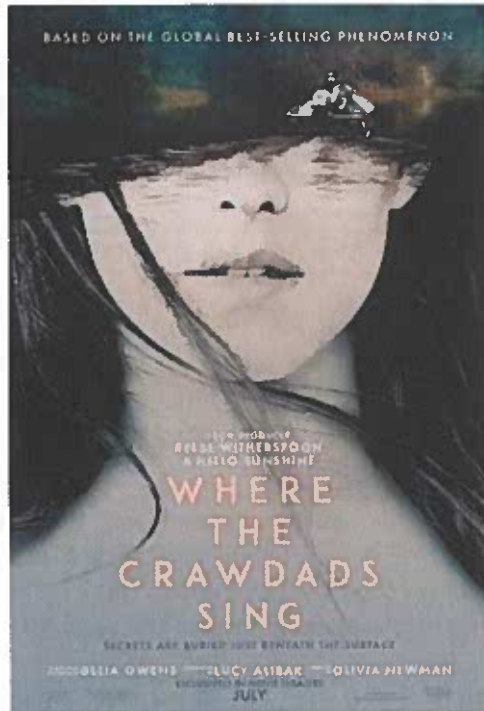
For questions regarding library materials, please contact the Celina ISD District Librarian, Rhonda Thornton, [rhondathornton@celinaisd.com](mailto:rhondathornton@celinaisd.com).

This completed form can be hand-delivered to the Celina ISD Central Administration Building at 205 S. Colorado, Celina, Texas, or submitted via email to Dr. Kyla Prusak, Chief Academic Officer, at [kylaprusak@celinaisd.com](mailto:kylaprusak@celinaisd.com).

Celina ISD Local Policy: [EFB \(LOCAL\)](#)

[Texas State Library and Archives Commission \(TSLAC\) Collection Development Standards](#)

# WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING



**Adult**

**By Delia Owens**

ISBN: 9780735219113



## Book Summary:

The story of a young woman's life of loss and love is told.

## Summary of Concerns:

This book contains sexual activities; sexual nudity; sexual assault; explicit violence including domestic violence and child abuse; profanity and derogatory terms; alcohol and drug use; and hate including racism.

**3** / 5

**Minor Restricted**  
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
	<p>questioning for signs to desist; not like now.</p> <p>He pulled away, the deep golden-brown layers of his eyes boring into hers. Slowly he unbuttoned her shirt and pulled it off, exposing her breasts. He took his time to examine them with his eyes and fingers, circling her nipples. Then he unzipped her shorts and pulled them down, until they dropped to the ground. Almost naked for the first time in front of him, she panted and moved her hands to cover herself. Gently he moved her hands away and took his time looking at her body. Her groin throbbed as if all her blood had surged there. He stepped out of his shorts and, still staring at her, pushed his erection against her. When she turned away in shyness, he lifted her chin and said, "Look at me. Look me in the eyes, Kya."</p> <p>"Tate, Tate." She reached out, trying to kiss him, but he held her back, forcing only her eyes to take him in. She didn't know raw nakedness could bring such want. He whispered his hands against her inner thighs, and instinctively she stepped each foot to the side slightly. His fingers moved between her legs and slowly massaged parts of her she never knew existed. She threw her head back and whimpered.</p> <p>Abruptly, he pushed away from her and stepped back. "God, Kya, I'm sorry. I'm sorry."</p> <p>"Tate, please, I want to."</p> <p>"Not like this, Kya."</p> <p>"Why not? Why not like this?"</p> <p>She reached for his shoulders and tried to pull him back to her.</p> <p>"Why not?" she said again.</p> <p>He picked up her clothes and dressed her. Not touching her where she wanted, where parts of her body still pounded.</p>
136	<p>"Damn it, Kya. Damn it to hell!"</p>
161	<p>When she looked at him, he lifted her chin with his hand and kissed her. He touched her neck lightly, then feathered his fingers over her blouse toward her breast. Kissing and holding her, more firmly now, he leaned back until they were lying on the blanket. Slowly he moved until he was on top of her, pushed his groin between her legs, and in one movement pulled up her blouse. She jerked her head away and squirmed out from under him, her blacker-than-night eyes blazing. Tugged her top down.</p> <p>"Easy, easy. It's okay."</p> <p>She lay there—hair strewn across the sand, face flushed, red mouth slightly parted—stunning. Carefully, he reached up to touch her face, but fast as a cat, she sprang away, and stood.</p> <p>Kya breathed hard. Last night, dancing alone on the lagoon shore, swaying about with the moon and mayflies, she'd imagined she was ready. Thought she knew all about mating from watching doves. No one had ever told her about sex, and her only experience with foreplay had been with Tate. But she knew the details from her biology books and had seen more creatures copulating—and it wasn't merely "rubbing their bottoms together" like Jodie had said—than most people ever would.</p>
163	<p>She hadn't seen Chase since their beach picnic ten days ago, but still felt the shape and firmness of his body pinning hers against the sand.</p>
175	<p>At one shack somebody yelled, "Sheriff!" and mostly naked bodies took off in all directions, charging through brambles. "Damn potheads," the sheriff said. "At least the moonshiners kept their clothes on."</p>

Page	Content
	I won't be out much in the next few days with Christmas comin' up and all. There's lots of events and stuff, and some relatives comin' in."
197	"You don't live in town. You don't know that Chase goes out with other women. Just the other night I watched him drive away after a party with a blonde in his pickup. He's not good enough for you."
202	After lovemaking, they cuddled in blankets around the stove.
212	It hadn't been a coincidence that Chase slyly mentioned marriage as bait, immediately bedded her, then dropped her for someone else. She knew from her studies that males go from one female to the next, so why had she fallen for this man? His fancy ski boat was the same as the pumped-up neck and outsized antlers of a buck deer in rut: appendages to ward off other males and attract one female after another.
229	<p>He shoved Ma backward. "Ya out whoring, that's what. That how you git the money? Tell me now." He grabbed Ma by the arms and shook her so hard her face seemed to rattle around her eyes, which stayed very still and wide open.</p> <p>..."Pa, please, stop!" Kya cried out, then sobbed.</p> <p>He lifted his hand and slapped Kya hard across the cheek. "Shut up, ya prissy-pot crybaby! Git that silly-looking dress and fancy shoes off ya. Them's whorin' clothes."</p> <p>She ducked down, holding her face, chasing after Ma's hand-painted eggs.</p> <p>"I'm talkin' to ya, woman! Whar ya gettin' yo' money?" He lifted the iron fire poker from the corner and moved toward Ma.</p> <p>Kya screamed as loud as she could and grabbed at Pa's arm as he slammed the poker across Ma's chest. Blood popped out on the flowery sundress like red polka dots. Then a big body moved down the hall and Kya looked up to see Jodie tackle Pa from behind, sending them both sprawling across the floor. Her brother got between Ma and Pa and hollered for Kya and Ma to run, and they did. But before she turned, Kya saw Pa raise the poker and whack Jodie across the face, his jaw twisting grossly, blood spewing. The scene played out in her mind now in a flash. Her brother crumbling onto the floor, lying among purple-pink eggs and chocolate bunnies. She and Ma running through palmettos, hiding in brush. Her dress bloody, Ma kept saying it was fine, the eggs wouldn't break, and they could still cook the chicken. Kya didn't understand why they stayed hidden there—she was sure her brother was dying, needed their help, but she was too afraid to move.</p>
264	<p>"Let go of me!" She twisted, tried to yank away, but he gripped her with both hands, hurting her arms. He put his mouth on hers and kissed her. She threw her arms up, knocking his hands away. She pulled her head back, hissing, "Don't you dare."</p> <p>"There's my lynx. Wilder than ever." Grabbing her shoulders, he clipped the back of her knees with one of his legs and pushed her to the ground. Her head bounced hard on the dirt. "I know ya want me," he said, leering.</p> <p>"No, stop!" she screamed. Kneeling, he jammed his knee in her stomach, knocking the breath from her, as he unzipped his jeans and pulled them down.</p> <p>She reared up, pushing him with both hands. Suddenly he slugged her face with his right fist. A sick popping sound rang out inside her head. Her neck snapped back, and her body was thrown backward onto the ground. Just like Pa hitting Ma. Her mind blanked for seconds against a pounding pain; then she twisted and turned, trying to squirm out from under him, but he was too strong. Holding both her arms over her head with one hand, he unzipped her shorts and ripped down her panties as she kicked at him. She screamed, but there was no one to hear. Kicking at the ground, she struggled to free herself, but he</p>

Profanity/Derogatory Term	Count
Ass	1
Bitch	3
Fuck	3
Nigger	6
Shit	11
Tit	1

# Library Materials Challenge Recommendation Rubric

Member Name: Chris Caldwell

Book Title: Where Crawdads Sing

<b>Member Type:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting Member
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<b>Committee Role:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Community <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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<b>Book Familiarity:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I have read the entire book. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read part of the book. <input type="checkbox"/> I have not read the book.
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## PART I — Threshold Definitions

If materials are found to meet one of the following criteria then it is automatically found to be necessary for removal.

1. Harmful Material - (A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor in sex, nudity, or excretion; (B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and (C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

Supporting Evidence:
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<b>Determination:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition
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2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

Book talks about guy putting hands between legs of girl

~~Bitch~~  
~~Nigger~~  
~~Fuck~~  
~~Shit~~

Determination:

- Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence: words used in this book over and over  
should NOT be in our schools

Bitch  
Nigger  
Fuck  
Shit

Determination:

- Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:

This book offer NO Educational value  
Rare sex abuse

Determination:

- Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:

Ass  
Bitch  
Fuck  
Tits  
Nigga  
Shit

Determination:

- Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:  <i>Man slipping hands between legs of girl Man Closes of Sex</i>
Determination: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

**Threshold Summary**

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

- If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**
- If material does not meets one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

**PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric**

**Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet**

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 4	
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 4	
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 4	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2 3 4	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2 3 4	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 4	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2 3 4	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2 3 4	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2 3 4	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 4	

**PART II — Recommendation**

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection
- Approve with age/location restrictions
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review

# Library Materials Challenge Recommendation Rubric

Member Name: Allison Chao

Book Title: Where the Crawdads Sing

Member Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting Member <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting Member
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Committee Role:	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Community <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
-----------------	--

Book Familiarity:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read the entire book. <input type="checkbox"/> I have read part of the book. <input type="checkbox"/> I have not read the book.
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## PART I — Threshold Definitions

If materials are found to meet one of the following criteria then it is automatically found to be necessary for removal.

1. Harmful Material - (A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor in sex, nudity, or excretion; (B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and (C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

Supporting Evidence:
----------------------

Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition
---

2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition



## PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric

Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 4	
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 4	
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 3 4	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 4	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 3 4	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 3 4	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 3 4	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 3 4	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 4	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 3 4	

## PART II — Recommendation

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection
- Approve with age/location restrictions
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review

# Library Materials Challenge Recommendation Rubric

Member Name: Anna Shore

Book Title: Where The Crawdads Sing

<b>Member Type:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting Member
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<b>Committee Role:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Community
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Librarian
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

<b>Book Familiarity:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read the entire book.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have read part of the book.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have not read the book.

## PART I — Threshold Definitions

If materials are found to meet one of the following criteria then it is automatically found to be necessary for removal.

1. Harmful Material - (A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor in sex, nudity, or excretion; (B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and (C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

Supporting Evidence:
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<b>Determination:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

**Threshold Summary**

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**

If material does not meets one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

## PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric

Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 (4)	The book tells the viewpoints of several characters.
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 (4)	City vs. Swamp living
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 (3) 4	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 (4)	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 (3) 4	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 (3) 4	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 3 (4)	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 (3) 4	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 (4)	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 (3) 4	

## PART II — Recommendation

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection - for CHS library
- Approve with age/location restrictions
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review



2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

Contains sexual content + descriptions - but not offensive

Determination:

Content meets definition

Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

Content meets definition

Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

**Threshold Summary**

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**

If material does not meets one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

**PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric**

Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 (4)	Character viewpoints
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 (4)	Character backgrounds - marsh
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 (3) 4	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 (4)	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 (3) 4	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 (3) 4	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 (3) 4	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 (3) 4	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 (4)	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 (3) 4	

**PART II — Recommendation**

Recommendation:

Approve for library collection

Approve with age/location restrictions *CHS only*

Do not approve

Return to committee for further review

# Library Materials Challenge Recommendation Rubric

2025

Member Name: Tracey Balsamo

\* Book Title: Where The Crawdads Sing

<b>Member Type:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting Member
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<b>Committee Role:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Community
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Librarian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

## PART I — Threshold Definitions

If materials are found to meet one of the following criteria then it is automatically found to be necessary for removal.

1. Harmful Material - (A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor in sex, nudity, or excretion; (B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and (C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

Supporting Evidence:
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<b>Determination:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition
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2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

**Threshold Summary**

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

- If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**
- If material does not meets one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

**PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric**

**Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet**

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 (4)	
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 (4)	
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 3 (4)	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 (4)	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 3 (4)	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 3 (4)	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 3 (4)	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 3 (4)	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 (4)	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 3 (4)	

**PART II — Recommendation**

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection *good*
- Approve with age/location restrictions *High School*
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review



2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

Content meets definition

Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

Content meets definition

Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

**Threshold Summary**

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

- If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**
- If material does not meet one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

**PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric**

**Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet**

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 4	
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 4	
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 3 4	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 4	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 3 4	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 3 4	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 3 4	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 3 4	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 4	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 3 4	

**PART II — Recommendation**

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection
- Approve with age/location restrictions
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review



2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

VERY DESCRIPTIVE DEPICTS RAPE, ABUSE, AND ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTS,

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:  
out of date language that is not appropriate today

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:
Determination: <input type="checkbox"/> Content meets definition <input type="checkbox"/> Content does not meet definition

**Threshold Summary**

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

- If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**
- If material does not meets one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

## PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric

Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 4	
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 4	
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 3 4	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 4	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 3 4	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 3 4	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 3 4	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 3 4	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 4	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 3 4	

## PART II — Recommendation

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection
- Approve with age/location restrictions
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review

# Library Materials Challenge Recommendation Rubric

Member Name: ~~Mr~~ Ken Pasqua

Book Title: Where the Crawdads Sing

Member Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting Member
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Committee Role:	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Community
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Librarian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	

Book Familiarity:	<input type="checkbox"/> I have read the entire book.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have read part of the book.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have not read the book.

## PART I — Threshold Definitions

If materials are found to meet one of the following criteria then it is automatically found to be necessary for removal.

1. Harmful Material - (A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor in sex, nudity, or excretion; (B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and (C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

Supporting Evidence:  
"He pushed his erection against her."  
I wouldn't feel comfortable recommending this to any child  
Pg. 136

Determination:

Content meets definition

Content does not meet definition

2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

### Threshold Summary

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

- If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**
- If material does not meets one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

**PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric**

**Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet**

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 4	
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 4	
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 3 4	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 4	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 3 4	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 3 4	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 3 4	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 3 4	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 4	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 3 4	

**PART II — Recommendation**

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection
- Approve with age/location restrictions
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review

# Library Materials Challenge Recommendation Rubric

Member Name: Liam Stovall

Book Title: Where the Crawdads Sing

Member Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting Member
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Committee Role:	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Community
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Librarian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	

## PART I — Threshold Definitions

If materials are found to meet one of the following criteria then it is automatically found to be necessary for removal.

1. Harmful Material - (A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor in sex, nudity, or excretion; (B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and (C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

Supporting Evidence:

*There is sexual content present, but it is limited & not graphic or explicit. The purpose for including is character & plot development ~ not written to arouse.*

Determination:

Content meets definition

Content does not meet definition

2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:  
 Content meets definition  
 Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

Content meets definition

Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

Content meets definition

Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

### Threshold Summary

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

- If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**
- If material does not meets one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

## PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric

Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 4	
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 4	
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 3 4	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 4	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 3 4	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 3 4	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 3 4	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 3 4	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 4	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 3 4	

## PART II — Recommendation

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection
- Approve with age/location restrictions
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review

# Library Materials Challenge Recommendation Rubric

Member Name: Rhonda Thornton

Book Title: Where the Crawdads Sing

Member Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Voting Member
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Committee Role:	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Community
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Counselor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Librarian
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Book Familiarity:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read the entire book.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have read part of the book.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have not read the book.

## PART I — Threshold Definitions

If materials are found to meet one of the following criteria then it is automatically found to be necessary for removal.

1. Harmful Material - (A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor in sex, nudity, or excretion; (B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and (C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

Supporting Evidence:

The content is not harmful or gratuitous but descriptive of the isolation and vulnerability of Kya. The sexual encounters aren't there for romance. These instances, including the rape, are there to highlight her extreme loneliness and her desperate search for human connection. These scenes describe the predatory nature of society that abandoned her. The removal of these scenes would be to

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

sanitize the reality of her struggle and diminish the strength she displays in overcoming systemic and personal trauma. The book does not encourage or glorify harmful behavior but chronicles it. It contains some hard to read scenes but they shape Kya and make her survival more beautiful. The theme in many classics - the ugly parts of life are used to portray beautiful things like survival, resilience and personal growth.

2. Obscene Material - Material or a performance that: (A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; (B) depicts or describes: (i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or (ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Supporting Evidence:

This book is not obscene when "taken as whole" as said above. The sexual violence in the book is included to evoke revulsion, empathy, and sorrow. NOT sexual arousal. It is meant to be uncomfortable because trauma is uncomfortable. Obscenity requires a lack of serious literary value. To label ~~the~~ Kya's trauma as obscene is to silence the reality of many survivors' experiences.

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

3. Pervasively Vulgar - No standard definition, but the determination of vulgarity must be taken as a whole throughout the material. "Pervasive" is defined as "existing in or spreading through every part of something."

Supporting Evidence:

I do not believe the book is pervasively vulgar. If a scene exists solely to shock, it is gratuitous. If it exists to explain a character's trauma or setting, it is realistic. To find these instances as vulgar would be to misread the author's intent. This book uses grit and raw human interaction to illustrate the obstacles in Kya's path. The book doesn't persuade the reader to be vulgar, instead it persuades the reader to see the humanity in those who have been treated vulgarly by society.

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

4. Educationally Unsuitable – No standard definition, but the determination of unsuitability can be taken from the rubric used by the selection committee. Broad definition.

Supporting Evidence:

This novel has significant merit as a tool for interdisciplinary learning. The text offers profound insights into environmental science, historical sociology, and the legal system of the mid-20th century. The book also serves an essential socio-emotional purpose. It challenges readers to develop empathy for those living on the fringes of society. Education should engage students with the complexities of the human condition in a way that fosters maturity & critical analysis.

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

5. Profane Content - Content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance.

Supporting Evidence:

The language used accurately depicts the time period. The book contains some hard language and the use of the "N" word but this language is not encouraged or glorified. The book is not racist. It simply depicts racism by using period accurate language to expose the ugliness and bigotry and narrow mindedness of the town people. Exposure is not endorsement. We can't sanitize history. Instead, it allows a space for conversations.

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

6. Indecent Content - Content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive.

Supporting Evidence:

The book does not celebrate or promote indecency. The author provides a true account of the trauma inherent to Kya's isolation. To censor the "indecent" obstacles Kya faces such as sexual assault and social degradation is to erase the very challenges that define her strength. The book does not celebrate indecency, it honors the survival of the human spirit in the face of it.

Determination:

- Content meets definition
- Content does not meet definition

#### Threshold Summary

<b>Content contains the following:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Obscene Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Pervasively Vulgar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Educationally Unsuitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecent Content

Determination:

- If material meets one of the threshold definitions—**Stop review, do not approve**
- If material does not meet one of the threshold definitions—**Continue**

**PART II — Selection Criteria Rubric**

**Rating Criteria: 4 = Fully Meets | 3 = Meets | 2 = Partially Meets | 1 = Does Not Meet**

Selection Criteria	Rating (1-4)	Evidence/Notes
1. Presents multiple viewpoints	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
2. Provides a wide range of background information	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
3. Includes accurate, authentic factual content from authoritative	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
4. Has high potential user appeal and interest	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
5. Offers a global perspective and promotes equity of access in print, electronic	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
6. Represents diverse viewpoints and cultural groups within the state	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
7. Enriches and supports the TEKS and curriculum, considering interests	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
8. Fosters growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, societal standards	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
9. Encourages reading enjoyment, promotes higher-level thinking, supports	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	
10. Represents ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions at the state, national, and global level	1 2 3 <u>4</u>	

**PART II — Recommendation**

Recommendation:

- Approve for library collection
- Approve with age/location restrictions
- Do not approve
- Return to committee for further review

**Standards**

The *School Library Programs: Standards and Guidelines for Texas* are adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The standards and guidelines are applicable to local Texas school districts. *13 TAC 4.1*

A district shall consider the standards in developing, implementing, or expanding library services. *Education Code 33.021(b)*

**Collection  
Development**

A district shall adhere to the standards for school library collection development in developing or implementing the district's library collection development policies. *Education Code 33.021(c)*

**Library Material  
Definitions****Harmful Material**

"Harmful material" means material whose dominant theme taken as a whole:

1. Appeals to the prurient interest of a minor, in sex, nudity, or excretion;
2. Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and
3. Is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

*Education Code 33.020(1); Penal Code 43.24(a)*

**Indecent Content**

"Indecent content" means content that portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive. *Education Code 33.020(2)*

**Library Material**

"Library material" means any book, record, file, or other instrument or document in a district's library catalog. The term does not include instructional material, as defined by Education Code 31.002 [see EFA], or materials procured for the TexShare consortium under Subchapter M, Chapter 4, Government Code. *Education Code 33.020(3)*

**Obscene**

"Obscene" means material or a performance:

1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex;
2. Depicts or describes:
  - a. Patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or
  - b. Patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism,

lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and

3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

*Penal Code 43.21(a)(1); Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973)*

Patently Offensive

"Patently offensive" means so offensive on its face as to affront current community standards of decency. *Penal Code 43.21(a)(4)*

Profane Content

"Profane content" means content that includes grossly offensive language that is considered a public nuisance. *Education Code 33.020(4)*

**Library Collection  
Development  
Standards**

A district must approve and institute a collection development policy that describes the processes and standards by which a school library acquires, maintains, and withdraws materials.

A school library collection should include materials that are age appropriate and suitable to the campus and students it serves and include a range of materials. A school library collection should:

1. Enrich and support the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and curriculum established by Education Code 28.002 [see EHAA], while taking into consideration students' varied interests, maturity levels, abilities, and learning styles;
2. Foster growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards;
3. Encourage the enjoyment of reading, foster high-level thinking skills, support personal learning, and encourage discussion based on rational analysis; and
4. Represent the ethnic, religious, and cultural groups of the state and their contribution to Texas, the nation, and the world.

*13 TAC 4.2(a)-(b)*

Responsibility

A district is responsible for ensuring its school libraries implement and adhere to these collection development standards. *13 TAC 4.2(j)*

A district should ensure a professional librarian certified by the State Board for Educator Certification or other dedicated professional library staff trained on proper collection development stan-

dards is responsible for the selection and acquisition of library materials. *13 TAC 4.2(f)*

Procedures

A district must develop collection assessment and evaluation procedures to periodically appraise the quality of library materials in the school library to ensure the library's goals, objectives, and information needs are serving its school community and should stipulate the means to weed or update the collection. *13 TAC 4.2(g)*

A district may adopt local policies and procedures in addition to the standards adopted under Education Code 33.021(c) that do not conflict with the adopted standards or other requirements of the Education Code. *Education Code 33.021(e)*

Policy  
Requirements

A school library collection development policy must:

1. Describe the purpose and collection development goals;
2. Designate the responsibility for collection development;
3. Establish procedures for the evaluation, selection, acquisition, reconsideration, and deselection of materials;
4. Consider the distinct age groups, grade levels, and possible access to materials by all students within a campus;
5. Include a process to determine and administer student access to material rated by library material vendors as "sexually relevant" as defined by Education Code 35.001 consistent with any policies adopted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and local school board requirements; *[This regulation is inoperable; see Book People, Inc. v. Wong, 91 F.4th 318 (5th Cir. 2024).]*
6. Include an access plan that, at a minimum, allows efficient parental access to the district's library and online library catalog; and
7. Comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Specifically, a collection development policy must:
  - a. Recognize that parents are the primary decision makers regarding their student's access to library material;
  - b. Prohibit the possession, acquisition, and purchase of harmful material, library material rated sexually explicit material by the selling library material vendor under Education Code 35.002 *[inoperable; see Book People, Inc. v. Wong, 91 F.4th 318 (5th Cir. 2024)]*, library material that is pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable as

- referenced in *Bd. of Educ. V. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982), library material containing indecent content or profane content, or library material that refers a person to an internet website containing content prohibited under this provision, including by use of a link or QR code, as defined by Health and Safety Code 443.001;
- c. Recognize that obscene content is not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution;
  - d. Be required for all library materials available for use or display, including material contained in school libraries, classroom libraries, online catalogs, library mobile applications, and any other library catalog a student may access;
  - e. Ensure schools provide library catalog transparency, including, but not limited to:
    - (1) Online catalogs that are publicly available; and
    - (2) Information about titles and how and where material can be accessed;
  - f. Recommend schools communicate effectively with parents regarding collection development, including, but not limited to:
    - (1) Access to district/campus policies relating to school libraries;
    - (2) Consistent access to library resources; and
    - (3) Opportunities for students, parents, educators, and community members to provide feedback on library materials and services;
  - g. Prohibit the removal of material based solely on the ideas contained in the material or the personal background of the author of the material or characters in the material; and
  - h. Demonstrate a commitment to compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (Pub. L. No. 106-554) including through the use of technology protection measures, as defined by the Act.

13 TAC 4.2(c); Education Code 33.021(d)(2)

*Findings of Fact*

"Educationally unsuitable" is a finding of fact based on many factors. Given the number of possible factors, a finding of fact must include reasoning for a library material being unsuitable or suitable.

The determination must be consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. *Parent v. Lovejoy*, No. 073-R10-08-2024 (Tex. Comm'r of Educ. April 29, 2025)

"Pervasively vulgar" requires a finding of fact that vulgarity is present and referenced throughout a library material. Since "pervasive" means existing in or spreading through every part, a determination that a library material is "pervasively vulgar" requires a review of the whole book. The determination must be consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. *Parent v. Lovejoy*, No. 073-R10-08-2024 (Tex. Comm'r of Educ. April 29, 2025)

Evaluation of  
Materials

Evaluation of materials as referenced in this provision includes a consideration of the factors described at 13 Administrative Code 4.2(b), consideration of local priorities and district standards, and at least two of the following:

1. Consideration of recommendations from parents, guardians, and local community members;
2. Consultation with the district's educators and library staff and/or consultation with library staff of similarly situated districts and their collections and collection development policies;
3. An extensive review of the text of item;
4. The context of a work, including consideration of the contextual characteristics, overall fit within existing school library collection, and potential support of the school curriculum; or
5. Consideration of authoritative reviews of the items from sources such as professional journals in library science, recognized professional education or content journals with book reviews, national and state award recognition lists, library science field experts, and highly acclaimed author and literacy expert recommendations.

13 TAC 4.2(d)

Acquisition of  
Library Materials  
*Policy  
Requirements*

The board of a district shall adopt a policy for the acquisition of library materials, including procedures for the procurement of library materials and the receipt of donated library materials. The policy must require the board to:

1. Approve all library materials that have been donated to or that are to be procured by a school library in the district, with the advice and recommendations of the district's local school library advisory council (SLAC) if the district established a SLAC;

2. Make the list of library materials not including those library materials to which this provision does not apply that have been donated to or that are proposed to be procured by a school library accessible for review by the public for at least 30 days before final approval;
3. Approve or reject the list of library materials that have been donated to or that are proposed to be procured by a school library in an open meeting; and
4. Ensure compliance with the library standards approved under Education Code 33.021.

*Education Code 33.026(a)*

These provisions do not apply to library materials that have been donated to or that are to be procured by a school library that:

1. Replace a damaged copy of a library material with the same International Standard Book Number (ISBN) that is currently in the school library catalog;
2. Are additional copies of a library material with the same ISBN that is currently in the school library catalog; or
3. Have the same ISBN and have been approved for the same grade levels by the board of the district from a previous proposed list of library materials.

*Education Code 33.026(f)*

*Board Review  
and Meeting*

Each member of the board of a district is entitled to review each list of library materials that have been donated to or that are proposed to be procured by a school library in the district and propose changes to each list described by 33.026(a)(1) before the board votes to approve or reject the list.

The board shall approve or reject a list of library materials that have been donated to or that are proposed to be procured by a school library at the first open meeting of the board held on or after the 30th day after the date the list is made accessible for review by the public.

*Education Code 33.026(b-c)*

A district may not add a donated library material to the school library catalog or otherwise make the donated library material available for student use unless the board of the district approves the addition of that donated library material to the school library catalog for the grade levels for which the material is intended. *Education Code 33.026(e)*

*School Library  
Advisory Council  
Recommendation*

If a district established a local SLAC, the SLAC shall meet to determine the SLAC's recommendations regarding library materials that have been donated to or that are proposed to be procured by a school library before the date of the open meeting of the board. The local SLAC meeting may occur during the period the list is available for review by the public. *Education Code 33.026(d)*

Policy Review

A district's collection development policy should be reviewed at least every three years and updated as necessary. *13 TAC 4.2(h)*

Instruction in TEKS

Nothing in Education Code Chapter 33, Subchapter B may be construed as limiting the acquisition of instructional material necessary for the teaching of, instruction in, or demonstration of knowledge of the essential knowledge and skills adopted under Education Code 28.002. *Education Code 33.0205*

Parental Access

A district shall adopt procedures that provide for a parent of a child enrolled in the district or school to access the catalog of available library materials at each school library in the district or school and submit to the district or school a list of library materials that the parent's child may not be allowed to check out or otherwise access for use outside of the school library. The procedures must allow for a parent to submit the list of library materials through an electronic physical form or the district's online library catalog system.

A district may not allow a student to check out or otherwise use outside the school library a library material the student's parent has included in the list submitted by the parent.

*Education Code 33.023*

[See CMD(LEGAL) for information regarding funds that may be used to comply with this provision.]

Record of Student  
Library Use

A district that uses a learning management system or an online learning portal shall, through the system or portal, provide to each parent of a child enrolled in the district or school a record of each time the parent's child checks out or otherwise uses outside the school library a library material. The record must include, as applicable, the title, author, genre, and return date of the library material. [See also FL(LEGAL) for provisions regarding access by parents.] *Education Code 33.024*

**School Library  
Advisory Council**

Permissive  
Establishment

The board may establish a local SLAC to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in each school library catalog in the district. A district that does not establish a local SLAC must ensure that the district's procedures for adding or removing library materials to or from a school library catalog comply with the library standards approved under Education Code 33.021 and the meeting requirements below. *Education Code 33.025(a)*

Mandatory  
Establishment

The board shall establish a local SLAC if the parents of at least 10 percent of the students enrolled in the district or 50 or more parents of students enrolled in the district, whichever is fewer, present to the board a petition to establish a local SLAC. A SLAC established under this provision may not be abolished until the third anniversary of the date on which the SLAC was established. *Education Code 33.025(b)*

A district that establishes a local SLAC must consider the recommendations of the local SLAC before adding library materials to a school library catalog, removing library materials from a school library catalog following a challenge under Education Code 33.027, or making changes to policies or guidelines related to a school library catalog. *Education Code 33.025(c)*

Composition

The local SLAC must consist of at least five members, with each member appointed by the board, and with each trustee appointing an equal number of members. A majority of the voting members of the SLAC must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district and who are not employed by the district. One of those members shall serve as chair of the SLAC. The board may also appoint one or more persons to serve as nonvoting members of the SLAC from any of the following groups:

1. Classroom teachers employed by the district;
2. Librarians employed by the district;
3. School counselors certified under Education Code, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, employed by the district;
4. School administrators employed by the district;
5. The business community; and
6. The clergy.

*Education Code 33.025(f)*

Duties

The local SLAC's duties include recommending:

1. Policies and procedures for the acquisition of library materials consistent with local community values;
2. To the board whether library materials proposed for acquisition under Education Code 33.026 are appropriate for each grade level of the school or campus for which the library materials are proposed to be acquired;
3. If feasible, joint use agreements or strategies for collaboration between the district and local public libraries and community organizations;

4. The removal of any library materials that the SLAC determines to be harmful material or material containing indecent content or profane content that is inconsistent with local community values or age appropriateness;
5. The policies and procedures for processing challenges received under Education Code 33.027; and
6. The action to be taken by the district in response to a challenge received under Education Code 33.027.

Any recommendation made by the local SLAC must adhere to the library standards approved under Education Code 33.027.

*Education Code 33.025(d-e)*

**Meetings**

The local SLAC shall meet at least two times each year and at other times as necessary to fulfill the SLAC's duties. For each meeting, the SLAC shall:

1. At least 72 hours before the meeting, post notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of the meeting on a bulletin board in the central administrative office of each campus in the district and ensure that such notice is posted on the district's internet website, if the district has an internet website;
2. Prepare and maintain minutes of the meeting that state the subject and content of each deliberation and each vote, order, decision, or other action taken by the SLAC during the meeting;
3. Make an audio or video recording of the meeting; and
4. Not later than the 10th day after the date of the meeting, submit the minutes and audio or video recording of the meeting to the district.

**Minutes**

As soon as practicable after receipt of the minutes and audio or video recording, the district shall post the minutes and audio or video recording on the district's internet website, if the district has an internet website.

*Education Code 33.025*

**Challenge or Appeal  
of Library Material**

A parent of or person standing in parental relation to a student enrolled in a district, a person employed by the district, or a person residing in the district may submit:

1. To the district a written challenge to any library material in the catalog of a school library in the district using a form adopted by TEA [see below at Challenge Form]; or

2. To the district's board an appeal of an action taken by the district in response to a written challenge received.

*Education Code 33.027(a)(1)-(2)*

Challenge Form

TEA shall adopt and post on TEA's internet website a form to be used in making a written challenge under Education Code 33.027(a)(1). Each school district shall post the form on the district's internet website, if the district has an internet website. The form shall require the person submitting the form to identify how the challenged library material violates the library standards approved under Education Code 33.021. *Education Code 33.027(e)*

Copy of Challenge to SLAC

Not later than the fifth day after the date on which a school district receives a written challenge under Education Code 33.027(a)(1), the district shall provide a copy of the challenge to the district's local SLAC if the district established a SLAC. The SLAC shall make a recommendation for action by the district not later than the 90th day after the date on which the SLAC receives the copy. *Education Code 33.027(b)*

Library Material Review Committee

If the procedures recommended by the local SLAC, if applicable, and adopted by the board permit the appointment of library material review committees that consist of persons who are not members of the SLAC to review library materials challenged under 33.027(a)(1), the SLAC may base their recommendation for action to be taken by the district under 33.027(b) on the recommendation of a library material review committee if the committee consists of at least five persons appointed by the board, a majority of whom are parents of students enrolled in the district and are not employed by the district. The library materials review committee must follow the Meetings and Minutes procedures described above. *Education Code 33.027(c)*

Board Action on Written Challenge

The board shall take action on a written challenge submitted under Education Code 33.027(a)(1) at the first open meeting of the board held after the 90th day after the date on which the district receives a written challenge or, if applicable, the local SLAC has made a recommendation regarding the challenge.

The board shall take action on an appeal under Education Code 33.027(b) at the first open meeting of the board held after the date the appeal is filed.

*Education Code 33.027(d)*

In taking action on a written challenge or appeal, the board shall consider:

1. If applicable, the advice of the district's local SLAC; and

2. Whether the library material challenged or appealed is suitable for the subject and grade level for which the library material is intended, including by considering whether the library material adheres to the library standards approved under Education Code 33.021 and reviews, if any, of the library material conducted by academic experts specializing in the subject covered by the library material or in the education of students in the subject and grade level for which the library material is intended.

*Education Code 33.027(f)*

**Access During  
Challenge**

A district that receives a challenge to a library material under Education Code 33.027(a)(1) shall prohibit students enrolled in the district from accessing the library material until the district takes action in response to the challenge. *Education Code 33.027(g)*

**Notice of Removed  
Material**

If a challenge to a library material results in the board, with the recommendation of the local SLAC, if applicable, removing the library material from a school library catalog, the board shall notify each teacher assigned as the classroom teacher at the grade level for which the library material was determined to be not appropriate and instruct the teacher to remove any copy of the library material from the teacher's classroom library. *Education Code 33.027(h)*

**Action Not Required**

If a challenge to a library material results in the board, with the recommendation of the local SLAC, if applicable, not removing the library material from a school library catalog, the board is not required to take any action in response to a written challenge of the library material submitted before the second anniversary of the date of the determination to not remove the library material. *Education Code 33.027(i)*

**Liability**

A district or a teacher, librarian, or other staff member employed by a district is not liable for any claim or damage resulting from a library material vendor's violation of Education Code Chapter 35. *Education Code 35.004*

**Joint Facilities**

A district may enter into contracts with a county or municipality in which the district is located to provide joint library facilities. The board and the commissioner's court of the county or governing body of the municipality must conduct public hearings before entering into such a contract. The hearings may be held jointly. *Education Code 33.022*

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**Note:** For information related to the selection of instructional materials, see EFA.

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The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the District provides a wide range of library materials for students and faculty that support student achievement and present varying levels of difficulty, diversity of appeal, and a variety of points of view. This policy also provides standards for collection development and the selection and evaluation of library materials.

**School Library  
Advisory Council**

The Board has established a school library advisory council (SLAC). At the first meeting of the SLAC, the members shall select a chair.

The SLAC shall meet at least two times each year but may hold additional meetings in order to consider recommendations from District staff and fulfill its statutory duties.

**Collection  
Development Policy**

In this policy, "library materials" is defined by law and may include printed and electronic library acquisitions, including online catalogs, and other ancillary or supplementary materials maintained in a campus library. [See EFB(LEGAL)]

The library collection development standards shall apply to all library materials available for use or display, including material contained in school libraries, classroom libraries, online catalogs, library mobile applications used in the District, and any other library catalog a student may access.

In developing library collections, the District shall consider the age groups, grade levels, and access to library material by all students on a campus.

**Responsibility**

The District shall ensure the members of the SLAC, librarians, professional library staff, and other designated professional staff are trained or receive information on the proper collection development standards.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to ensure that library collections comply with applicable law, library standards, and the District's collection development purpose and goals.

**Collection  
Development Goals**

In addition to the requirements in state law and rules, the District's library collections shall:

1. Present multiple viewpoints related to controversial issues [see EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues].
2. Provide a wide range of background information that will enable students to make intelligent decisions in their daily lives.

3. Include accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources.
4. Have a high degree of potential user appeal and interest.
5. Offer a global perspective that promotes equity of access, including print and nonprint materials such as electronic and multimedia, to meet the needs of individual learners.
6. Represent diverse viewpoints and cultural groups of the state and their contributions to the state, the nation, and the world, to ensure the collection embodies the background of all students.

**Recommendation  
and Procurement of  
Materials**

Library materials shall be recommended and procured in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the District standards and priorities expressed in this policy.

Librarians and other professional staff shall assist the SLAC in developing the list of library material recommendations to be presented to the Board. The librarians and other professional staff shall ensure that the materials:

1. Enrich and support the TEKS and the state and local curriculum, taking into consideration students' varied interests, maturity levels, abilities, and learning styles.
2. Foster growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards.
3. Encourage the enjoyment of reading, foster high-level thinking skills, support personal learning, and encourage discussion based on rational analysis.
4. Represent ethnic, religious, and cultural groups of the state and their contributions to the state, the nation, and the world.

The Superintendent shall ensure that administrative procedures regarding the development of recommendations of library materials consider at least two of the following factors:

1. Recommendations from students, parents or guardians, teachers, and District residents.
2. Consultation with District teachers and library staff.
3. Consultation with library staff from other districts.
4. Extensive review of the library material.
5. Context of the library material, including overall fit within the existing collection and support of District curriculum.

6. Reviews of the library material from sources such as professional journals in library science, recognized professional education or content journals with book reviews, national and state award recognition lists, library science field experts, and highly acclaimed author and literacy expert recommendations.
7. Coverage of topics, authors, series, or genres that fill gaps in the school library collection.

The SLAC shall recommend to the Board a list of library materials for procurement.

The Board shall consider the SLAC's recommended list of library materials that have been donated or proposed by the SLAC for procurement. Each Board member may propose changes before the Board takes action on the list of donated or proposed library materials.

The Board shall either approve or reject the library materials that have been donated or proposed for procurement.

Donated and  
Proposed  
Procurement List

At least 30 days prior to the Board's vote to accept donated library materials or approve procurement of library materials, the Superintendent shall make accessible to the public the list of library materials in accordance with law.

Access Plan

The District shall allow efficient parental access to the District's library and any available online catalogs.

Online catalogs shall be publicly available. The District shall publish information about library material titles, including how and where material can be accessed.

Each campus shall communicate the following to parents and guardians:

- Access to policies relating to school libraries and library materials;
- Consistent access to library materials and resources; and
- Opportunities for students, parents and guardians, educators, and community members to provide feedback on library materials and services.

Parental  
Involvement

Parents and guardians are the primary decision-makers regarding their child's access to library material. In general, a student is afforded the opportunity to self-select library materials as part of literacy development and the library program. District staff may assist a student in selecting library material; however, the ultimate determination of appropriateness remains with the student and parent or

guardian. Parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with the campus librarian and their child's teacher about special considerations regarding library materials self-selected by their child.

In accordance with state law and administrative procedures, parents or guardians may submit to the principal or a staff member designated by the principal a list of library materials that the parent's or guardian's child shall not be allowed to check out or access for use outside of the school library. The Superintendent shall develop procedures that permit a parent or guardian to submit the request in at least one of the methods permitted by law.

The parent or guardian may select alternative library materials for their child. [For information on parental rights regarding instructional materials and other instructional resources, see EFA(LEGAL).]

The District shall focus on maximizing transparency with parents while meeting student needs and providing enrichment opportunities with library materials. Parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities is encouraged.

*Access  
Procedures*

School Library

A parent or guardian who wishes to access a school's library shall first submit a request to the principal. The principal or a staff member designated by the principal shall work with the parent or guardian to determine a time to access the library that will not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt student use of library services.

Library Catalog

A parent or guardian who wishes to access the catalog of library materials for any school in the District shall submit a written request to the school's principal. The principal or a staff member designated by the principal shall respond to the request in accordance with administrative procedures.

Protection from  
Inappropriate  
Material

In accordance with law and guidance from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, library materials shall not include "harmful material"; any library material that is pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable; any library material containing indecent or profane content; any library material that refers a person to a website, including by use of a link or QR code, containing content legally prohibited under law; or any other material legally prohibited from inclusion in a public school library. [See EFB(LEGAL)]

Obscene material is not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Library materials shall comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), including technology protection measures. [See CQ]

**Challenge of Library Material**

A District employee, a parent or guardian of a District student, or a District resident may challenge library material maintained in the District's library program.

The SLAC shall recommend to the Board for adoption the procedures for challenging library materials.

**Guiding Principles**

The following principles shall guide the review of a challenge of library material:

1. An individual may challenge library material used in the District's library program, despite the fact that the professional staff, SLAC, and the Board followed the proper procedure and adhered to the objectives and criteria for recommending and procuring library materials set out in this policy.
2. Access to challenged material shall be restricted during the challenge process.

In addition to compliance with state law and this policy, a criterion for the final decision on challenged library materials is the appropriateness of the material for its intended use. No challenged library material shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed in the library material or the personal background of the library material's author or the personal background of the characters in the material.

**Formal Challenge**

The District shall make the Texas Education Agency form to challenge library material available on the District's website.

If a District employee, a parent or guardian of a District student, or a District resident wishes to challenge library material, they shall follow the procedures to complete and submit the challenge form.

In addition to copies of the completed form being provided to the members of the SLAC in accordance with law, copies shall also be provided to the Board, the Superintendent, the school librarian, and any other staff designated in administrative procedures.

**SLAC Recommendation**

The SLAC shall consider the challenge in accordance with Board-adopted procedures and in accordance with law and shall make a recommendation to the Board.

Any meeting of the SLAC or a review committee, if any, must comply with the meeting requirements under Education Code 33.025(g) and (h), including required notices, meeting minutes, audio or

video recordings, and submission of minutes and audio or video recordings of the meeting to the District.

The Superintendent, the school librarian, the individual submitting the challenge, and any other appropriate staff shall receive a copy of the SLAC's recommendation.

**Appeal**

An individual who submitted a challenge may appeal the decision of the SLAC to the Board in accordance with the challenge procedures.

When considering the appeal, the Board shall consider the factors in Education Code 33.027(f). The Board shall consider appeals in accordance with timelines set out in law.

**Frequency of Review**

After a library material has been challenged and the Board determines not to remove the library material from a school library catalog, it may not be challenged again before the second anniversary of the Board's final decision not to remove the material.

**Removal of Library Materials**

If a challenge to a library material results in the removal of the library material from the school library catalog, each teacher assigned as the classroom teacher at the grade level for which the library material was removed shall be notified and instructed to remove any copy of the library material from the teacher's classroom library, if applicable.

**Maintenance of Library Materials**

In accordance with state guidelines and District administrative procedures, collections shall be evaluated and updated regularly based on the collections' age, relevance, diversity, and variety. The Superintendent shall ensure administrative procedures are established for regular maintenance of the library collection on each campus. Standard maintenance procedures for any library collection include repair, replacement, and removal of materials as necessary. Regular maintenance shall also include scheduled inventories of the collection. Disposal of any District-owned library materials shall be in accordance with District policy and procedures. [See CI]

**Gifts and Donations**

The Board shall accept gifts and donations of library materials with the understanding that the use and disposition of the materials and monies will be in accordance with District policy and the selection criteria noted above. [See CDC]

**Policy Review**

This policy shall be reviewed at least every three years and revised as necessary.

## **Resolution Establishing a Local School Library Advisory Council**

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 13 from the 89th Legislative Session relates to a District's library materials and catalog, the establishment of a local school library advisory council (SLAC), and parental rights regarding public school library catalogs and access by the parent's child to library materials;

WHEREAS, Education Code 33.025 allows a District to establish a SLAC to assist the District in ensuring that local community values are reflected in each school library catalog in the District;

WHEREAS, a District that establishes a SLAC must consider the recommendations of the SLAC before adding library materials to a school library catalog, removing library materials from a school library catalog following a challenge to the library material, or making changes to policies or guidelines related to a school library catalog;

WHEREAS, the SLAC's duties include recommending:

1. Policies and procedures for the acquisition of library materials consistent with local community values;
2. To the Board of Trustees whether library materials proposed for acquisition under the law are appropriate for each grade level of the District or campus for which the library materials are proposed to be acquired;
3. If feasible, joint use agreements or strategies for collaboration between the District and local public libraries and community organizations;
4. The removal of any library materials that the SLAC determines to be harmful material or material containing indecent content or profane content that is inconsistent with local community values or age appropriateness;
5. The policies and procedures for processing challenges received;
6. The action to be taken by the District in response to a challenge;

WHEREAS, any recommendation made by the SLAC must adhere to the library standards approved under Education Code 33.021;

WHEREAS, the SLAC must consist of at least five members, with each member appointed by the Board of Trustees, and with each Trustee appointing an equal number of members;

WHEREAS, a majority of the voting members of the SLAC must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the District and who are not employed by the District;

WHEREAS, one of those members of the SLAC shall serve as chair of the council;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees may also appoint one or more persons to serve as nonvoting members of the SLAC from any of the following groups:

7. Classroom teachers employed by the District;
8. Librarians employed by the District;

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9. School counselors certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, employed by the District;
10. School administrators employed by the District;
11. The business community;
12. The clergy;

WHEREAS, the SLAC shall meet at least two times each year and at other times as necessary to fulfill the council's duties;

WHEREAS, for each meeting, the SLAC shall:

13. Post at least 72 hours before the meeting;
14. Post notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of the meeting on a bulletin board in the central administrative office of each campus in the District;
15. Ensure that the notice required is posted on the District's website, if the District has a website;
16. Prepare and maintain minutes of the meeting that state the subject and content of each deliberation and each vote, order, decision, or other action taken by the SLAC during the meeting;
17. Make an audio or video recording of the meeting;
18. Not later than the 10th day after the date of the meeting, submit the minutes and audio or video recording of the meeting to the District;

WHEREAS, as soon as practicable after receipt of the minutes and audio or video recording discussed above, the District shall post the minutes and audio or video recording on the District's website, if the District has a website.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of \_\_\_\_\_ School District establishes a local school library advisory council.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the SLAC are:

***[identify the members of the SLAC]***

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ (date) day of \_\_\_\_\_ (month), \_\_\_\_\_ (year), by the Board.

Board President's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary's signature: \_\_\_\_\_