

Tony Baldwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Donald Porter, Ed.D.
Director of Communications

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For more Information, contact
Donald Porter at (828) 255-5997

**REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL MTAC
FINDS *THE KITE RUNNER* ACCEPTABLE**

May 13, 2015

(ASHEVILLE) – The Media/Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) at A.C. Reynolds High School today released its written findings regarding a parent’s complaint regarding the use of the book, *The Kite Runner*, as a supplementary text. The MTAC found the book to be an appropriate curriculum resource and in alignment with the current state wide instructional standards.

The MTAC at Reynolds High School, comprised of eight voting members to include a site-based administrator, parent, teachers, and media specialists, met on May 11 to review the complainant’s objection. In its written report, the committee determined that *The Kite Runner* “possesses sufficient literary, thematic, and aesthetic merits to warrant its inclusion for study at teacher discretion.”

“I, along with our faculty and staff, have been incredibly inspired by the overwhelming support of not only a majority of our parents and others within our community, but from people from across the country,” said Doris Sellers, principal of A.C. Reynolds High School. “The attention our school has received regarding the use of *The Kite Runner* has created a remarkable learning opportunity for our students to see the prudence of having policies and processes in place to deal with disagreements in a conscience and equitable manner.”

The Kite Runner, written by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini, tells the story of a wealthy boy and his best friend, who is the son of his father’s servant. The book deals with the qualities of friendship, grief, heroism, and human weakness. Some have objected to the book’s elements of homosexuality, some offensive language, religious viewpoints, and sexually explicit scenes; however, these contextual elements of the story serve to shape the characters’ decisions later in life.

The Kite Runner has been on the *Buncombe County Schools (BCS) High School Approved Reading List* for years. This is the first documented parent objection to this text.

The Kite Runner was to be used as a supplementary instructional text for students in a 10th grade Honors English class at Reynolds High School unless parents chose to opt their child out of participating

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in the assignment. On April 27, the teacher sent home a letter explaining the text and the sensitive subject-matter that would be discussed. On April 29, the complainant formally filed an objection to the book being used as a supplementary text in the classroom.

As a result of the parent's complaint, [BCS Policy 3210](#) required the book be removed from use in the classroom. An alternate book, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, was subsequently assigned to the class. Throughout this process, *The Kite Runner* has been available in the school's Media Center, per school system policy.

According to [BCS Policy 3210](#), if the complainant is not satisfied with the Building Level MTAC determination, the parent has 10 days to appeal to the Board of Education by filing a *Citizen's Request for Review of Building-Level Recommendation*.

If an appeal is filed, according to [BCS Policy 3210](#), the *District-Level Media/Technology Advisory Committee* has 10 days (or possibly longer- see Policy 3210 C-3) to prepare a written report of its findings and recommendation to the Board of Education. At that point, the Board of Education has 30 days to make a final determination.

A copy of the one-page Reynolds High School MTAC findings is included in this release.

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**A. C. Reynolds High School MTAC Findings
Parental Objection to Instructional Materials
Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*
12 May 2015**

Having met on the afternoon of May 11, 2015, the A. C. Reynolds High School Media and Technology Advisory Committee has determined that Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* merits inclusion in the curriculum and should remain an option to be used as a supplementary novel in whole class settings or as self-selected reading at the teacher's discretion.

While many considerations contributed to these findings, the statements listed below represent the main ideas that shaped the committee's decision.

1. The novel has been vetted by a committee and included on Buncombe County's list of approved supplemental texts for at least five years.
2. The novel possesses sufficient literary, thematic, and aesthetic merits to warrant its inclusion for study at teacher discretion. A survey of authoritative reviews supports its use as an academic tool as does the title's inclusion on Advanced Placement class reading lists and assessments. Exposure to the novel will better prepare students for subsequent academic successes.
3. The teacher made a conscientious, administrator-approved effort to share with parents the nature of the text, including the treatment of sensitive, disturbing passages and provided an opportunity for parents to request the alternate selection should they choose to do so. Furthermore, the committee remains confident that the teachers in our school possess the professional and curricular expertise, understanding of their students, and insightfulness to thoughtfully select and effectively teach materials to their classes.
4. Students have the option of studying an alternative, comparable text, Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*.
5. The committee consistently adhered to Buncombe County Board of Education Policies 3200 and 3210 in their entirety, following closely those parts that guide the Selection of Supplementary Materials (Policy 3200, Section B, Part 1) and that concern Procedures for Reconsideration of Instructional Resources (Policy 3210, Part C, Section 2).
6. The committee found no viable reason to exclude this text from study at A. C. Reynolds High School.

A. C. Reynolds High School Media and Technology Committee

Kelli Self	Chair, Media Coordinator
Allen Kromer	Media Coordinator
Kasey King	Assistant Principal
Leigh Armistead	English Department
Mary Briden	Arts Department
Matt Kinnaird	Science Department
Marcia Hudzik	Social Studies (proxy for Alex Roberson)
Susan Schriefer	Parent Representative