

Instructional Materials Reconsideration Committee

February 7, 2022

Meeting Called to Order: 4:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Keren Mwilarhe and Samantha Zaruba

The Instructional Materials Reconsideration Committee met on Monday, February 7, 2022 to discuss the movie, *Watchmen* (Theatrical cut, 2009) directed by Zack Snyder.

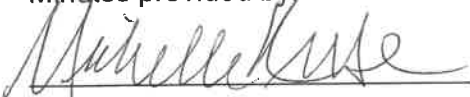
The complainant objected to the entire film, including scenes of sex and nudity, violence, gore, profanity, alcohol, drugs, and smoking. A clip of the movie roughly 40 minutes long had been shown in an English Language Arts Perspectives course her student had taken at Kennedy High School.

Committee members discussed the merit of the movie in relation to the curriculum and the Iowa Core English Language Arts standards that are being prioritized in this particular course, including: 1) making strategic use of digital and visual media; 2) integrating and evaluating multiple sources of information presented in different media formats; and 3) determining an author's/creator's point of view. We also discussed the parent/guardian permission form that is currently being used, and how that form could be improved to include specific language about possible triggering scenes for students.

The committee voted unanimously on the following statement: *To continue use of only the 38-minute section of Watchmen (theatrical cut, min: 56:27 - 92), with an explicit parent/guardian permission slip to opt-in to watch the film. Form will be developed by teachers, and will include specific trigger warnings. Students will not be encouraged to watch the remainder of the film.*

Meeting Adjourned: 6:17 p.m.

Minutes provided by:


Michelle Kruse

Date: 2/14/2022