



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2

Phone: 970-871-3199
Fax: 970-879-3943

Dr. Brad Meeks
bmeeks@ssk12.org
Superintendent

325 7th Street
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

November 18, 2019

Last month, the *Steamboat Pilot and Today* wrote an [article](#) about a book by Allen Ginsberg that was taught in a Steamboat Springs High School literature class. “Howl and Other Poems” by Ginsberg is considered controversial by some for its use of expletives and portrayals and descriptions of sexual matters. There are procedures in place for when mature content is part of the curriculum and that includes giving parents advance notice and allowing them to opt their child out of participating. A review committee has been looking into the teaching of “Howl and Other Poems” and, while it has determined that it will continue to be part of the curriculum, it also determined that parents were not given advance notice that would have allowed them to opt their child out of participating when it was part of the curriculum this fall. For that, we apologize.

We are working to ensure that all of our teachers are aware of proper procedures around incorporating controversial materials and follow them. Students who choose not to engage in the material will be given an alternative assignment.

We do believe that what occurred this fall was simply an oversight as a result of not understanding the policy. We regret if members of our community were offended.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brad Meeks
Superintendent
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