

# City Free Of Censored Texts

By JULIE YOUNG  
of The Progress Staff

School textbooks that have been censored by publishers are not being used in Charlottesville schools, according to city school officials who studied the textbooks during the last two weeks.

John J. Eberhart, assistant superintendent for instruction, told the city school board Thursday night he knows "of no case in which the school board has approved a textbook that has been altered or significantly changed."

The city school staff was asked

Dec. 21 to study English books to determine if any had been changed by publishers without a notation of the changes.

The school board asked for the study during a month-long controversy over censored textbooks in Virginia. The state Board of Education first became aware Dec. 6 that books it had approved for use by state students had been randomly edited.

Passages from Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and other classics were deleted, raising a cry from state and local school board

members, teachers and parents once attention was called to the changes.

The city school board agreed Thursday to send a letter to the state board in support of that body's efforts to review texts and see that books used in Virginia are either unaltered or contain notations where changes have been made.

Board member Virginia B. Schatz, who asked for the local textbook study, said Thursday she wants publishers to know "that this practice of changing master-

pieces to suit the going trend in narrow-mindedness is not going to be tolerated in this city."

Clifford T. Bennett, city school board member who served on a state steering committee for textbook adoption last year, said he believes most publishers acknowledge alterations in books.

"But this one (publisher Scott, Foresman and Co.) lied," Bennett said. "We shouldn't indict all publishers" because of the dishonesty of one.

Earlier this month, Albemarle County English supervisors said

they do not believe their students are studying expurgated literary works.

The state board is expected to continue discussion of the issue at its January meeting.

The city school board discussed Thursday night a proposal to renovate the old Jefferson Annex on Fourth Street downtown for use as a central administration building.

The city school staff is divided between the former Jefferson school and a small office next to

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