

Subject: Re: More library books

From: Terri Cunningham-Swanson <tcunninghamswanson@pcsd.org>

Date: 4/22/23, 1:08PM

To: Todd Halvorsen <thalvorsen@pcsd.org>

CC: Richard Hasty <rhasty@pcsd.org>, Brian Harvey <bharvey@pcsd.org>, Cherie Larson <clarson@pcsd.org>, Jeremy Shuey <jeshuey@pcsd.org>

Mr. Harvey,

Thank you for your clarification. I am following the current Policy 6300 as per our last board meeting. In section D – Procedures for Reconsideration of Materials, D-2 does say "complaints should be presented to the Principal of the school where the material is used" I did ask if I could email the Principals and was told yes. I am very appreciative that both Principals I have contacted have been very proactive in removing the books from the shelves. Principal Halvorsen's response was, "The books will be removed indefinitely pending review." Principal Campin's response was, "The books will be pulled from the shelves and be put in our review process." Again, I want to reiterate that I am extremely thankful that both gentlemen have taken quick action and are reviewing the books.

Maybe I should have worded my question differently. D-3 states, "When a formal written complaint is completed and returned to the principal, the principal will discuss the issue and the procedures to be followed in resolving the issues with the person filing the complaint. The principal with whom the complaint was filed shall notify the other school administrators, and also advise those faculty members who may use the instructional material, or the media staff in the case of media material, that a complaint has been filed. The school administrators shall decide whether to appoint a building-level review committee or a district-level committee to study the complaint. The building-level committees shall consist of five or more committee members composed of staff and community patrons. The superintendent of schools or his designee will convene district-level review committees. These district-level committees shall consist of five or more members composed of staff and community patrons."

As the "person filing the complaint" I was asking for clarification on what this review process mentioned by both Principals would be, I failed to word that question correctly. I should have asked whether they plan to do a building-level or district-level committee to do the review. Another question I have, reading the policy again, is the definition of "community patrons".

My desire and intentions are not to make this process difficult or to be perceived as aggressive toward our hard working Principals and staff. My passion comes from both shock at the type of material I have found and my desire to protect our students from material, that by every objective and legal definition, is pornographic. My urgency comes only from wanting to uphold the high standards of our school district and our community. Being new to the Board and these procedures and policies, I am trying to ask important questions so I get a thorough understanding of all of it. As I stated in the previous emails, we in the American Civics Committee are working through the policies, and I think being involved, informed and educating myself in the details of walking through this process would be very helpful to me and other ACC members as we walk through this process.

Thank you all for the spirit of cooperation that has been so evident and encouraging. We are on the same team, and I believe we have the same goals and standards we want to attain to make Plattsmouth Community Schools the absolute best district in the region.

Sincerely,

Terri Cunningham-Swanson

On Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 12:47PM Todd Halvorsen <thalvorsen@pcsd.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,
The high school is following School Board Policy and guidance from Dr. Hasty.
Have a good day!

On Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 10:44AM Terri Cunningham-Swanson

<tcunninghamswanson@pcsd.org> wrote:

Mr. Halvorsen,

Just a follow-up on the issue of library books. As you can imagine, I have been quite shocked at the number of books I am finding with such egregious content and I GREATLY appreciate your quick response.

Our American Civics Committee is taking a hard look at Policy 6300 to see what needs to be addressed. I know you mentioned that the books would be removed pending review. May I clarify if you meant the review currently underway in the American Civics Committee, or does the high school have its own review process that you were referring to? If the latter, can you please share the steps in that review process. It would be very helpful to know as we proceed.

Again, thank you.
Terri

On Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 8:57AM Terri Cunningham-Swanson

<tcunninghamswanson@pcsd.org> wrote:

Thank you, I appreciate you addressing this important issue.

Terri Cunningham-Swanson

On Thu, Apr 20, 2023 at 7:21AM Todd Halvorsen <thalvorsen@pcsd.org> wrote:

I will share the list with our Media Specialist and have them removed indefinitely pending review.
Have a good day!

On Wed, Apr 19, 2023 at 5:26PM Terri Cunningham-Swanson

<tcunninghamswanson@pcsd.org> wrote:

Mr. Halvorsen,

I'm sorry to say, I have found a large number of library books that were not in my previous email. And even sorrier to say I am not done looking. Please have these books removed while our American Civics Committee continue our review process.

Terri Cunningham-Swanson

I'll give you the sun – Jandy Nelson
Gabi, a girl in pieces – Isabel Quintero
Grit – Gillian French
Juliet takes a breath – Gabby Rivera
Rumble; Smoke; Burn; Tilt; Tricks – 5 separate books by Ellen Hopkins
The Poet X – Elizabeth Acevedo
America – E.R. Frank
The Black flamingo – Dean Atta

Where the crawdads sing – Delia Owens
Without Merit – Colleen Hoover
Clockwork Princess – Cassandra Clare
Guyaholic – Carolyn Mackler
Go ask Alice – by Anonymous
The Hate You Give – Angie Thomas
The perks of being a wallflower – Stephen Chbosky
Kingdom of Ash; Empire of Storms; A court of thorns and roses; A Court of mist and
fury; A Court of frost and starlight – all by Sarah J. Maas
The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood
The infinite moment of us – Lauren Myracle
Slaughterhouse–Five – Kurt Vonnegut
Nineteen Minutes – Joki Picoult
The Haters – Jesse Andrews
Beautiful Disaster – Jamie McGuire
Living dead girl – Elizabeth Scott
Red Hood; Damsel; – both by Eliana Arnold
It ends with us; November 9; Ugly Love – all 3 by Colleen Hoover
Like a Love Story – Abdi Nazemian
Sold – Patricia McCormick

*****All of these books were rated 3 or 4 out of 5*****

3 – Minor Restricted, Excessive/Explicit Violence, Extreme/Frequent Hate,
Excessive/Frequent Profanity, Sexual Nudity, References to Sexual Activities (Not
involving penetration, cunnilingus, fellatio, or ejaculation, Drug or Alcohol Abuse
4 – No Minors, Adult Content, Explicit Sexual Nudity (depictions of sexual organs in a
state of arousal), Obscene References to Sexual Activities (involving anal, oral, or
vaginal intercourse, fingering, anilingus or ejaculation.)

--

Todd Halvorsen

Principal
Plattsmouth High School
1916 Old Highway 34
402-296-3322
Empathy, Achiever, Responsibility, Arranger, Consistency



--

Todd Halvorsen

Principal
Plattsmouth High School
1916 Old Highway 34
402-296-3322
Empathy, Achiever, Responsibility, Arranger, Consistency

