

Subject: Fwd:

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

Date: 4/23/23, 5:27PM

To: Todd Halvorsen <thalvorsen@pcsd.org>, Richard Hasty <rhasty@pcsd.org>, Jeremy Shuey <jeshuey@pcsd.org>, Nolan Siemonsma <nsiemonsma@pcsd.org>, tfoster@pcsc.org, mohlp@hotmail.com, Brian Harvey <bharvey@pcsd.org>, Max Muller <mmuller@pcsd.org>, tazrules73@pcsd.or

Throughout the last few weeks, I have had a few people actually take the time to reach out to me in person to tell me things they have been hearing about me banning books, ending the yearbook program (???), and I was very happy to respond and give them factual information. Almost everyone has been very understanding once they know all of the facts. There has been some miscommunication regarding my email. Anyone needing to reach me should only contact me through this school email, as the personal email on our website is a junk email. So if you know of anyone else trying to reach me, please direct them here.

I'm sure you are all well aware of the allegations being made against me and the protest planned for this week. I would have appreciated a heads up, but I understand it has probably been a whirlwind for everyone. So yesterday was like being thrown into a tornado as friends bombarded my phone the entire day with everything all at once. It saddens me that adults in our community, and in our school system, are not leading by example and modeling for our students of how to handle discourse. Rather than asking questions, rather than just talking to me, everyone other than the handful of people I mentioned, seem to have just told and retold rumors that are running rampant in school and online. Rumors that are disingenuous at best, complete falsehoods at worst. There were only adults in the room after the last school board meeting. No videos, no students. The conversation that began with confrontation and contention, ended in tears, and in joint prayer. It ended with me and another woman there, discussing the next day how we can show support and encourage our teachers. She sent Christine and April cards and gifts that Tuesday. To see how a discussion that completely de-escalated and ended so incredibly well, now be turned upside down from what actually took place and turned into a personal attack has been painful. No one likes to be lied about. But the deeper and much more important issue here is this, what are our students seeing and hearing? What are we teaching them? This is much more harmful to the students who have been misinformed and stirred up into such a frenzy. The manipulation of our students may be more harmful than the pornography itself. Once again, we are failing them. We are not modeling how to communicate, how to ask questions or even how to disagree. What is currently being modeled is how kids should just take your cues from a broken culture. That the voice who is the loudest must be right. That they should never check unfounded accusations, just believe them because of who made them. We are teaching them to make decisions based solely on emotions without getting the facts. What does this resolve? How are we teaching our students to think, to reason, to problem solve? What kind of citizens are we unleashing on society? Are we solving problems or perpetuating them?

My challenge to our board and administrators is to simply do what we are supposed to be doing. Teach our students. Teach them the right way to go about all of this, which is not behind the backs of the people you disagree with, but in civil discourse. We are at a tipping point in the Plattsmouth Community School District, which is honestly an amazing opportunity. I don't think there is a good way to stop this protest, as unhealthy as it is. Don't get me wrong, I have no problem with the Constitutional right to a peaceful protest. I have been in a few, myself. But this is a knee jerk reaction and it's not productive when it's all based on lies, half truths and complete ignorance of the facts.

I reached out to Dr. Hasty and Mr. Harvey a day or two ago when all of this was coming to my attention, to offer whatever I could do to help quench the fires. At this point, I think it calls for an assembly of PCSD staff, parents and students. Others have chosen to throw my name out for public scrutiny, so be it. But let's be the ones to set the example of how this should be done. Let's just sit and talk. Let's invite the community to come and ask questions. I am more than happy to sit in the hot seat and answer any question put to me. Let's model to our student body and to the community at large what civil discourse can look like and how adults should handle disagreements. We can have a microphone set up for people to come forward and ask me what books we are reviewing and why, or ask me if I am trying to end the yearbook, ask me if I hate LGBTQ+ people, whatever is being spoken in the hallways of the school or the hellhole that is social media. Let's show our students and community the right way to get answers to their questions, by going directly to the person you have issue with and TALK with them. We can provide the same information to parents that I provided to the board in closed session, so they know exactly why there are legitimate reasons to review the books. (Though these should not be accessible to students because I still feel that porn is not appropriate for students.) I will field any questions anyone wants to ask.

I truly believe that modeling healthy ways to communicate and to deal with conflict may be the most important thing we teach our students this entire year.

Terri Cunningham–Swanson
Plattsmouth Board of Education

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Terri Cunningham–Swanson** <terrinboyz@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Apr 23, 2023 at 8:41AM
Subject:
To: Terri Self <tcunninghamswanson@pcsd.org>

Sent from my iPhone

— Screenshot 2023-04-23 at 8.14.45 AM.jpg —

8:14

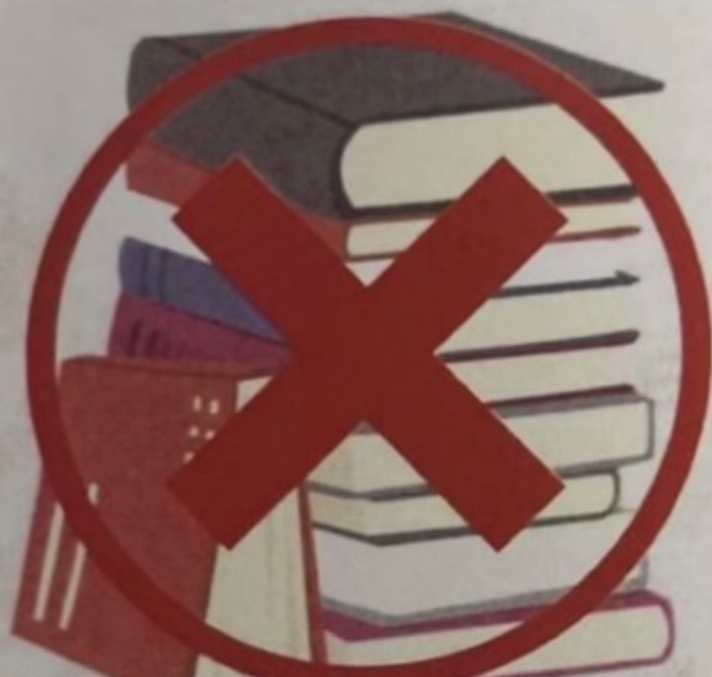


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JOIN US

USE YOUR VOICE



**APRIL 26TH, 7:30-9:30 AM
ON THE GRASS NEAR THE
PHS SIGN**

School board members including Terri-
unningham-Swanson has made the
decision to review and potentially censor
a variety of books. By doing this the
entire PHS student body is threatened
with censorship. The books under 'review'
are those in relation to abuse, addiction,
sexual content, and LGBTQ+ issues. The
situation at hand is the first step to
indoctrinating the student body as a
whole.

Examples of Banned Books

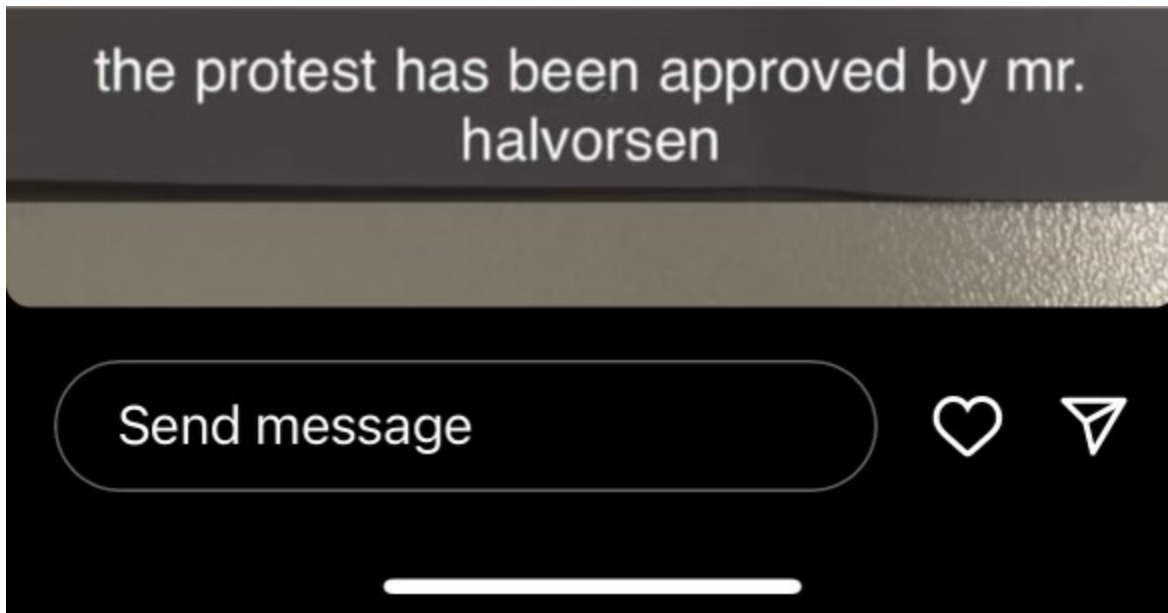


Here are some of the 50
books that have been pulled
off the shelves so far.

ITINERARY:

- 7:30: START
- 7:35: GET ORGANIZED WITH POSTERS
- 8:15 SPEECHES
ASH ABERCROMBIE
ANDREW HIPSHIE
KAIA SHOTKOSKI
SAMANTHA MCKNIGHT
- DISCUSSION FOLLOWING THE SPEECHES
- 9:30 END TIME
- BACK TO CLASS

For more information:
cbasch24@bluedevels.pcsd.edu



Attachments:

Screenshot 2023-04-23 at 8.14.45 AM.jpg

172 KB