

**NATIONAL  
COALITION  
AGAINST  
CENSORSHIP** **KIDS'  
RIGHT  
TO READ**

September 8, 2023

Board of Education  
Fort Worth Independent School District  
100 N. University Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

The National Coalition Against Censorship is an alliance of national nonprofit groups dedicated to protecting freedom of expression, including the rights of K-12 students, teachers and staff. We are writing to urge you to return any books that were temporarily removed from school libraries pending review. The removal is in violation of the principles established in the district's policy.

According to news reports, the Board instructed the district to review all books in its library collection for sexual or violent content. The district identified 118 books and temporarily removed them while determining if they are "developmentally appropriate." However, any review of library materials is governed by the principles established in Board Policy EF (Local) which states that "access to a challenged resource shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process." Removing the books violates these principles.

Requiring books to remain on the shelf pending adjudication is essential to a sound policy for addressing various challenges and requests to review the library collection. It allows for a review to take place without impinging on students' rights to access information. Indeed, in many recent cases where books have been reviewed in large numbers, the majority of books are eventually kept on library shelves. There is no reason to deprive students of access to those books for a prolonged period of time.

We urge you to follow the principles established in your own policies and return the books immediately to circulation while the adjudication process is ongoing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher Finan

Executive Director  
National Coalition Against Censorship

Co-signed by: American Booksellers for Free Expression  
The Authors Guild  
Children's and Young Adult Books Committee, PEN America  
National Council of Teachers of English  
PEN America  
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

A project of the National  
Coalition Against Censorship

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