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To: Rodriguez, Francisco
Subject: School Libraries

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Good Morning Dr Rodriguez--

I want to begin by saying THANK YOU for taking the broad and very much needed steps recently in this controversial "books in libraries" subject. I do believe, you have interrupted, or at least intercepted, an enormous public upheaval against the pushback from Board members, some teachers and librarians.

I would ask for you, as well as Dr Stratos, this "committee" and the School Board in general-- to realize a very important piece of this puzzle: For decades the social progressives fought against several things in public schools such as The Bible; the 10 Commandments; school prayer and even the Pledge of Allegiance in some instances. Because this was in "public schools", they actually had a legitimate argument. Fast forward to today, the "shoe is on the other foot", as they say. Those same social progressives are becoming apoplectic over this. However, the overriding piece to this is, these books are in schools that are **PUBLIC**, paid for and with **PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS**. These books should in no shape, way or form, be allowed to be near children in K-12 atmosphere, of a public school.

I have spoken with several teachers and some librarians who are in favor of leaving these books where they are and their conclusive response is that "we should be the ones who decide who, what, where and when children read, not the parents or society". That is far, far from the truth and from reality. I strongly urge anyone in the **PUBLIC SCHOOL** setting, to reconsider their career choice if that is their beliefs. The Chief Executive Officer of the PUBLIC SCHOOL system, are the PARENTS. Please don't misunderstand me--- I don't say that as a power struggle type retort, it is the systematic lack of understanding by "some" of those folks who educate. As I said to one teacher the other day....."As the teacher, i urge you to teach, not parent. Parents need to parent."

I would like to know, at some point when available, how books are put into the libraries and what that process looks like. Who decides....who orders....who signs off....etc. What about schools that have books donated by parents, neighbors, grandparents etc. How is that process handled and who signs off on all of this.

Frank-- thank you again for your time. I, for one, deeply appreciate the job you are doing. You are the best thing that happened to Beaufort County Public Schools in a long, long time.

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