

From: Mike Covert <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:30 PM

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Subject: Recent School Board Meeting

**WARNING:** This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Chairman Striebinger and School Board Members:

Thank you for taking the time to give me the professional courtesy of reading this email and, hopefully, providing me a response individually or as a "body".

My comments today are in response to your recent School Board meeting where several constituents made public comment regarding several books etc in public schools. I had "heard rumors" of such and actually went and did my own research on this subject. I utilized the "destiny system" available to taxpayers and looked at every school's library--- or, correction--- the library at the schools who make them available to taxpayers. (Yes, there are some County public schools that chose to not link their libraries up to the taxpayer reporting system, sadly enough) I looked for one book specifically, "*Stamped*" by Kendi.

I was surprised somewhat to find the book at every high school and middle school (that reports) and also in Spanish but was **ABSOLUTELY** shocked to find it at one elementary school. (Okatie Elementary) This book, just this one alone, is widely known for its race baiting; race hating; demoralizing rhetoric all part of SEL (social, emotional learning) criteria known to be the catalyst for, and basis of, CRT (critical race theory). There are other widely known books out there, but this the one I chose to investigate. This same book was looked into in the Pickens County School system recently by parents and community members. Within the last few weeks, precedence **HAS BEEN**

SET, by the vote of the Pickens County School Board, to remove this book and others like it, from the County public school libraries.

The question of being fiduciaries to the public begs the question to you all--- By having this material, at the ease of children to read and review, put the BCSO in any jeopardy of violating Proviso 1.105 and/or 1.93? There ARE some things being done in this school district that DO in fact violate both of those Proviso's, however, I will not dwell on that issue at the time. I remain interested in the fact that by Pickens County creating precedence, now, you have been given the catalyst to remove this book and any other like it, from the inventory at every public school. This process could be done one of two ways, in my humble opinion. First, announced removal of said books by the school board in an effort to be "forward thinking" and being "proactive", or, by the second means-- through the arduous task of listening to, or participating in, continued public outcry, debate, public social media heroism and any other means available to the public.

I ask you to be proactive. Consider the hard work already done by others, that you can utilize to your favor, and stopping the continued barrage of indoctrination of our children by means that have no business in the public-school setting. A book such as "Stamped" or one of its cohorts, may be worth the argument of being a part of critical thinking skills in post-secondary education, but NOT in the K-12 arena. Please, remove this book, and any other like it in the SEL/CRT area from our public school libraries.

My Best-

Michael E Covert

Former Beaufort County Councilman

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