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**From:** Claire Bennett (via Google Sheets) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 1:47 PM  
**To:** wendy.lacombe@beaufort.k12.sc.us  
**Cc:** fosterel@beaufortacademy.org; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Spreadsheet shared with you: "BCSD Book Review List"

**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.

## Claire Bennett shared a spreadsheet

Claire Bennett ([cbennett@beaufortacademy.org](mailto:cbennett@beaufortacademy.org)) added you as an editor. Verify your email to securely make edits to this spreadsheet. You will need to verify your email every 7 days. [Learn more](#).

I am still working on this, but in support of item number 2 on the Google Doc, I was thinking we could start with simply checking off the books on the list that we have already read.

 BCSD Book Review List

Open

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Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA  
You have received this email because [cbennett@beaufortacademy.org](mailto:cbennett@beaufortacademy.org) shared a spreadsheet with you from Google Sheets.

[Delete visitor session](#)



## **DAYLO Response to BCSD Book Reviews/Bans**

1. Joint BA & BHS DAYLO meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12/21 at 2pm at the Pat Conroy Center
  1. Letters for librarians and Dr. Stratos
  2. Explain DAYLO and read mission statement
  3. School board meeting comments overview and sign up
  4. Joint meeting in February tentatively
2. Have DAYLO members pick some of the books from the list to read and possibly review for their HS newspaper
3. Joint letter to the editor [REDACTED]
4. Organize students to attend school board meetings to speak about the impact of books and reading on their lives, as well as the specific impact books on the list have had, if possible.

### **Videos to watch on student responses to Book Bans:**

[Meet The Brave Students Who Fought Back Against Pennsylvania School District Book Ban](#)

[Texas Students Push Back On School Book Ban: 'Stop The Censorship'](#)

[Student activists overturn book ban in Pennsylvania school district](#)

### **Last night's Beaufort County Board Meeting**

[Beaufort County Board of Education 4:30PM](#)

[REDACTED] was the only student commenter last night. Her comments begin at 4:47:35)

### **Diverse Picture Book Drive**

<https://hereweeread.com/>

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**From:** Claire Bennett (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 1:45 PM  
**To:** wendy.lacombe@beaufort.k12.sc.us  
**Cc:** fosterel@beaufortacademy.org; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Document shared with you: "DAYLO Response to BCSD Book Reviews/Bans"

**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.

## Claire Bennett shared a document

Claire Bennett ([cbennett@beaufortacademy.org](mailto:cbennett@beaufortacademy.org)) added you as an editor. Verify your email to securely make edits to this document. You will need to verify your email every 7 days. [Learn more](#).

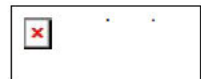
Thank you to Lizzie for getting us started! If anything else comes to mind, please add it to the list.

Thanks!

 DAYLO Response to BCSD Book Reviews/Bans

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# BOOK CHALLENGES FORUM

## Resisting Attacks on Public Education

*A Public Conversation with **Marjory Wentworth, Josh Malkin, AJ Davis, and Paul Bowers***

Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.

Technical College of the Lowcountry, Beaufort

Let's talk about the growing number of book challenges and bans facing school classrooms and libraries, including here in Beaufort County. Where do book challenges and bans originate? How are they funded and organized? How are they addressed by school administrators and policies? What intellectual freedoms are at risk when access to educational resources is restricted or removed? Join us for a public conversation about the forces, funding, and politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom with a quartet of expert panelists: educator, activist, and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth; South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin; community education advocate, consultant, and nonprofit leader AJ Davis; and journalist Paul Bowers.

*Pat Conroy*

PAT CONROY  
LITERARY CENTER

---

**From:** Gareis, Karen M <Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 9:21 AM  
**To:** 'jonathan haupt'  
**Cc:** 'Tamara Cox'; 'Jill Tyner'; 'katherine\_freligh@charleston.k12.sc.us'; [REDACTED]; Aita, Elizabeth A  
**Subject:** RE: SCASL  
**Attachments:** Book Challenges Forum Resisting the Attacks on PublicEducation.pdf

Good Morning Jonathan,

Tamara Cox - current SCASL President

Jill Tyner - current SCASL Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair Katherine Freligh - just awarded SCASL Lowcountry Region Librarian of the Year Tenley Middleton - SCASL Legislative Chair Anne Aita - Beaufort County Supervisor/Representative

Any of these amazing individuals would be the place to begin the conversation. Thank you again for hosting the community information meeting on Sunday, I look forward to the next one.

Karen

Karen M. Gareis | School Librarian  
Bluffton High School | 12 H.E. McCracken Circle, Bluffton SC 29910  
Office: 843-706-8958  
Front Desk: 843-706-8957  
Email: karen.gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us  
Bluffton High School Website  
Follow the Bobcats: Facebook | Instagram | Twitter Follow the Bobcat Library: Instagram

-----Original Message-----

From: jonathan haupt <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:17 AM  
To: Gareis, Karen M <Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
Subject: SCASL

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Hi, Karen,

Who would you recommend I be in touch with through SCASL about a future public program in support of school librarians and intellectual freedom?

My thanks,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director

Pat Conroy Literary Center

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.patconroyliterarycenter.org&c=E,1,cjyajJkxaG328nhVJ-UKd\\_bO0EcP5nAJEhKM6VBYuVf-tCtU2diAelp1QTQYBA63A56A77Osy16DjbVM0wWQef9mY0XV4HI8sO2h\\_gRv&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.patconroyliterarycenter.org&c=E,1,cjyajJkxaG328nhVJ-UKd_bO0EcP5nAJEhKM6VBYuVf-tCtU2diAelp1QTQYBA63A56A77Osy16DjbVM0wWQef9mY0XV4HI8sO2h_gRv&typo=1)

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**From:** jonathan haupt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2022 12:46 PM  
**To:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L  
**Cc:** Stratos, Mary E  
**Subject:** Re: NEWS RELEASE: (UPDATE) BCSD commences Library Materials Review Committees

**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.

Our panel discussion yesterday was attended by 150-200 folks, overwhelming in support of intellectual freedom. A very informal survey of the audience confirmed that most were current or former teachers or librarians, writers, and booksellers. Student leaders from two of the DAYLO chapters attended with their families as well. The video recording is uploading to our YouTube channel and will be available this evening and afterwards at <https://youtu.be/28nHelQpBGg>

For logistical and security reasons, we took audience questions by notecard only, and, as expected, had many more questions than time to answer. But that gave us an archive of community questions to use as a basis for planning future discussions. What may be of greatest interest to both of you are the number of questions about:

- 1) What part(s) of the book review process are open to the public and how the public can be supportive of expediting the process. (That we covered a bit, but probably not enough.)
- 2) How the public can be heard at school board meetings. (That one we had proactively answered while the notecards were being collected.)
- 3) Why the books were pulled from circulation while being reviewed—and on whose authority. (That notecard was not pulled during Q&A, so it didn't get addressed.)
- 4) How books are selected for school library collections and what guidance is given when a student checks out a book with complex subject matter. (Also not pulled and not addressed specifically, beyond the panelists' general defense of school librarians, the training and education they receive, and the wealth of peer-reviewed professional standards utilized in their work.)

It's the last of these 4 that will likely become the focus of a future Conroy Center public event, ideally in partnership with SCASL's intellectual freedom committee. For the last 5 years, all over SC and GA, I've been giving a touring lecture called "I Was Born to Be in a Library," which is a discussion of the essential roles of libraries in the formation of Pat Conroy as reader, writer, teacher, and servant leader. So defending and treasuring librarians and libraries is already a well established part of our public outreach.

Information from the official press releases provided was shared onscreen with the attendees, and they were grateful in particular for the quick summation of the status of the first 10 review committees called into service. Information about the school board meeting calendar and procedure for requesting to make public comments was also shared and appreciated.

My sincere hope is that a supportive audience is now informed and empowered to participate in the process and to make their voices heard clearly and often.

Col. Geier was in attendance, as were many BCSD teachers, librarians, administrators, volunteers, and parents.

Reporters from the Island Packet and Post & Courier covered the event and interviewed panelists afterwards. News stories are presumably forthcoming.

Pending approval from my board, The Conroy Center will be joining the Freedom to Read SC coalition, as SCEA did yesterday.

My thanks again to you both for providing good, current information to be shared with the panelists and the audience.

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)





On Dec 11, 2022, at 8:13 AM, Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Brunder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Brunder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Good morning, Jonathan:

Here's our initial media release and follow-up update that may also be helpful.

Kind regards,  
Candace

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**From:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Brunder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Brunder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 1, 2022 7:27 PM  
**To:** BCSD All Users (Do not Reply) <[BCSDAllUsers@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:BCSDAllUsers@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE: (UPDATE) BCSD commences Library Materials Review Committees

<image002.gif>

UPDATE: The Library Materials Review Committees noted in the below release met this evening to cast their votes. The committees voted to return all four books to library circulation.

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**From:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** BCSD All Users (Do not Reply) <[BCSDAllUsers@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:BCSDAllUsers@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** NEWS RELEASE: BCSD commences Library Materials Review Committees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, November 10, 2022

## District commences Library Materials Review Committees

BEAUFORT – The first round of citizens expressing interest in serving on a Library Materials Review Committee were today randomly selected and notified via text and email to serve as members of one of the first four committees to commence. The first four books to undergo the review process are *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Speak*, and *The Kite Runner* as these particular titles are also utilized in some high school Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Committee members will be tasked with reading their assigned book in full and then meeting as a group to share and discuss findings. The value of the book is to be examined as a whole, considering the impact of an entire work, transcending individual words, phrases, and incidents.

Committee meetings will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. An initial meeting for committee members will be held on November 17, 2022. At this meeting, committee members will be provided information to ensure understanding of the review process and

receive a copy of their committee book for review. A subsequent meeting date will be provided for the committee to complete its review utilizing the Beaufort County School District Review Committee Checklist and issue a written report of its findings to the appropriate parties, including the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

In response to 97 books being slated to undergo review by committee, the district has received more than 100 [Library Materials Review Committee Interest Forms](#) from community members, parents, educators, and administrators desiring to serve on a committee, with the majority of interest coming from community members.

As per the South Carolina Department of Education's recommendation, committees are to include an odd number of the following members: at least one teacher with expertise in the content area or grade level; at least one school librarian; at least one school administrator; at least one parent representing a school family other than the complainant; at least one community member; at least one district-level director or coordinator with expertise in the content area; and at least one member of a School Improvement Council (SIC) within the district.

"We are moving forward with these committees as expeditiously as possible, and are grateful for the amount of community interest and willingness to serve," said Chief Instructional Services Officer, Dr. Mary Stratos. "We encourage school and district administrators, parents, and SIC members to fill out an [interest form](#) so the remaining committees can be formed post haste."

Candace Bruder, Ed.D.  
Director of Communications  
Beaufort County School District  
843-322-2432 (office)  
843-941-9178 (cell)  
[candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us)



---

**From:** Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 11, 2022 8:32 AM  
**To:** jonathan haupt; Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L  
**Subject:** Re: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

Jonathan thank you again,  
MD

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**From:** jonathan haupt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 11, 2022 7:56:54 AM  
**To:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Cc:** Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

Dear Candace,

Many thanks for your extremely helpful responses below. I appreciate having this information so clearly worded--and directly from the BCSD. I am printing this for on-stage reference by our panelists this afternoon.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Dec 10, 2022, at 2:53 PM, Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Hi, Jonathan:

Please see my responses in [blue](#) below.

All the best,  
Candace

Candace Bruder, Ed.D.  
Director of Communications  
Beaufort County School District  
843-322-2432 (office)  
843-941-9178 (cell)  
[candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us)  
<image001.png>

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From: Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:25 PM  
To: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

Hi, Jonathan:

Many thanks for your thoughtful correspondence. I'll be in touch tomorrow.

All the best,  
Candace

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From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 1:21:48 PM  
To: Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

**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.

Hello, Candace,

Our Conroy Center will be hosting a public panel discussion of book bans and challenges this Sunday at 2:00 at TCL (<https://patconroyliterarycenter.org/calendar/book-challenges-forum-2022/>). While our panelists' conversation will be about overarching, contextualizing aspects of the rise in book challenges and the forces behind them, the audience engagement portion of the afternoon will likely arc toward more specific questions or comments about the book challenges here in Beaufort. Panelist Josh Malkin from the SC ACLU may be able to speak to that. But we would all welcome a more official update from the BCSD to which we could refer.

Thank you for noting that "book challenges" are taking place in Beaufort County, not book bans. It's important for citizens to understand that no books have been banned in Beaufort County, but are instead undergoing the review process as defined in [Administrative Regulation IS-38.1](#). Additionally, it's relevant to recognize that administrative regulations (ARs) are different than official policies. The Board sets policy and the district creates and refines ARs to guide the work of the district. ARs are presented to the Board for informational purposes and refined as needed. Board action is not required for the approval of ARs.

Is there a recent press release or other status update on the progress of the review committees you could direct me to? Please refer to the email from Dr. Stratos regarding the most recent update that was shared with principals and librarians.

Some questions which have come up among the panelists all ready are:

1. How many review committees are active now?
  - These above committees will meet on January 19, 2023 to complete the review process:
    - *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur
    - *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them* by Erin Gruwell
    - *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

- *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover
- Two other committees will meet on December 14, 2022 to complete the review process for the following:
  - *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold
  - *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds
- 2. Have any challenges been made against the outcomes of the first four committee decisions?
  - The two complainants were formally notified Thursday evening of the December 1<sup>st</sup> committee decisions to return *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Speak*, and *The Kite Runner* to library circulation. (*The Kite Runner* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* committees voted for these titles to be available only in high school libraries.) The two complainants will have seven (7) business days from receipt of the formal notification to formally request an appeal to the Board of Education. If an appeal is submitted, the Board of Education will make a determination regarding the material in question within fifteen (15) business days effective from the date the appeal is requested.
- 3. And what's the most helpful thing interested community members can do in support of the review process?
  - [Sign up to serve on a committee](#) and remain engaged in the process.
  - We ask for patience and understanding as this is our first time implementing this process, and it is not a quick one, logistically speaking. Everyone is doing their best to keep the process moving as expeditiously as possible while still fulfilling other job duties and responsibilities.

Dr. Stratos and her team were invited to attend and be available to answer any Beaufort-centric audience questions, but they were not available. Lots of BCSD educators and librarians plan to attend, but none whom I would consider empowered to speak on behalf of the District.

So I welcome any help or updates you can provide which we could share or otherwise refer to on Sunday.

Please feel free to text or call my cell [REDACTED] if you have any questions regarding this information. Thanks again for reaching out.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 11, 2022 7:59 AM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E  
**Cc:** Melissa D Murray; McKenzie, Karen M; Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Stratos,  
Thank you. This is very helpful. I'm adding this to the notes the panelists will review before their discussion this afternoon. We'll refer to BCSD press releases for any questions specific to the content of those releases.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Dec 9, 2022, at 1:27 PM, Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Jonathan good afternoon and thank you again for reaching out. Below is the most recent release to schools on the current status of the book committees. Candance will also be reaching out to you. I greatly appreciate your reaching out, and hope that this information lends some light. Thank you for asking,  
MS

TO: Principals and Librarians

As another update, the next four Library Materials Review Committees will be reviewing the following books:

- *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur
- *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them* by Erin Gruwell
- *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
- *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover

The above committees will meet on January 19, 2023 to complete the review process as detailed in [Administrative Regulation IS 38.1 Procedures for Handling Questioned or Challenged School Library Materials](#).

Two other committees will meet on December 14, 2022 to complete the review process for the following:

- *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds

The two complainants were formally notified today of the December 1<sup>st</sup> committee decisions to return *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Speak*, and *The Kite Runner* to library circulation. (*The Kite Runner* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* committees voted for these titles to be available only in high school libraries.) The two complainants will have seven (7) business days from receipt of the formal notification to formally request an appeal to the Board of Education. If an appeal is submitted, the Board of Education will make a determination regarding the material in question within fifteen (15) business days effective from the date the appeal is requested.

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2022 11:09 AM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Cc:** Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; McKenzie, Karen M <[Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Stratos,

In advance of Sunday afternoon's panel discussion at TCL, I write to ask if it's possible to get an update on the status of the book review committees from the BCSD to refer to, should we have specific questions from the attendees. (I've asked Dr. Bruder for this as well, if already covered in a recent press release, so apologies if I'm duplicating efforts here.)

The panelists aim to talk about the overarching issues of book challenges and bans, as well as their experiences in Charleston and Berkeley counties and, in Josh Malkin's case, statewide. That said, as the attendees will be (primarily) local, we anticipate having Beaufort-centric questions as well. Some questions which have come up among the panelists are: (1) How many review committees are active now? (2) Have any challenges been made against the outcomes of the first four committee decisions? (3) And what's the most helpful thing interested community members can do in support of the review process?

Candance

In the absence of having a representative of your team on-site, I absolutely welcome any updates you can provide beforehand which we could share or otherwise refer to on Sunday.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 26, 2022, at 5:12 PM, Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Jonathan, I'll have a confirmation on Monday. Thank you for the reminder.  
Appreciated,  
MS

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2022 1:36:24 PM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Cc:** Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; McKenzie, Karen M <[Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Dear Dr. Stratos,  
Many thanks. If at all possible, I would welcome knowing by this Monday afternoon if a member of the Division will be able to participate in this public panel discussion and forum on 12/11. We're very open to that District representative either joining the full discussion as a panelist or simply being on hand to respond to questions from attendees which fall outside of the expertise of the panelists but within the realm of status updates from the District.

And I look forward to contributing to the vital committee discussions and evaluations later this coming week.

In the meantime, I hope you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 22, 2022, at 3:23 PM, Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Johnthan thank you for reaching out. I can reach out to two members within the Division regarding this request.  
Thank you for reaching out,  
MS  
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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:35:05 AM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.



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Good morning, Dr. Stratos,

I write to ask if you or another member of the BCSD administrative team would be interested and available to join us for a public discussion on Book Bans to be held on Sunday, 12/11, at 2:00 p.m. at TCL. Marjory Wentworth, a leading expert on book bans and the funding and politics behind them, will be leading the discussion, joined by education journalist Paul M. Bowers and (tentatively) Josh Malkin from the SC ACLU. We would welcome your addition to the afternoon, specifically to address the status of the BCSD's ongoing strategic response to the 97 book challenges.

Our hope is that the panel adds both regional and national context to what we are experiencing in Beaufort County and empowers attendees to be more informed about what's at stake in challenges to intellectual freedom in our schools and where the funding and motivations for local challenges actually come from. Mr. Conroy's own thoughts on book banning are well published and oft-quoted (<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>). And while recent articles like this lengthy piece in the New Yorker (<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/11/07/the-right-wing-mothers-fuelling-the-school-board-wars>) delve deeply into the end-game of organizations like Moms for Liberty, locals—including those now tasked with being members of the challenged materials review committees—have not been as informed about the overarching forces at play. We hope this program offers an opportunity to expand our ongoing community dialogue about these issues and how Beaufort's educators and parents will choose to respond to them moving forward. A draft program description is below.

Your attendance at the program on 12/11 would be most welcome. We understand that your presence would not be an endorsement on behalf of the BCSD of the program nor of comments made by any of the scheduled panelists. We're simply looking to your leadership to offer informed responses to any community questions about ongoing responses from the District to the extant book challenges.

Many thanks for your kind consideration. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have about the planned program. And Happy Thanksgiving wishes to you and your family.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](https://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

— DRAFT —

The nonprofit Pat Conroy Literary Center will host a free, public panel discussion, “Book Bans and the Forces Beyond Them,” on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. in MacLean Hall of the Technical College of the Lowcountry’s Beaufort campus (104 Reynolds St., bldg. 12).

The program, presented by New York Times bestselling author and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth, will focus on the forces, the funding, and the politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom. Wentworth is currently teaching a College of Charleston Honors College course on banned books and literature suppressed on political, religious, social, and sexual grounds, as well as the origins of book banning in western culture and contemporary issues around internet regulations. Wentworth will be joined in conversation by Charleston journalist Paul M. Bowers, and South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin.

Marjory Wentworth is the New York Times bestselling author of *Out of Wonder*, *Poems Celebrating Poets* (with Kwame Alexander and Chris Colderley). Her books of poetry include *Noticing Eden*, *Despite Gravity*, *The Endless Repetition of an Ordinary Miracle* and *New and Selected Poems*. Her poems have been nominated for The Pushcart Prize seven times. She is also the co-writer of *We Are Charleston*, *Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*, with Herb Frazier and Dr. Bernard Powers and *Taking a Stand*, *The Evolution of Human Rights*, with Juan E. Mendez. She is co-editor with Kwame Dawes of *Seeking*, *Poetry and Prose inspired by the Art of Jonathan Green*, and the author of the prizewinning children’s story *Shackles*. She served as the poet laureate of South Carolina from 2003-2017. This year, she was named a Black Earth Institute Fellow. In 2020, she was named a National Coalition Against Censorship Free Speech is for Me Advocate. Wentworth teaches courses in writing, social justice, and banned books at The College of Charleston, where she is part of the Social Justice Working Group for the Center for the Study of Slavery and the Refugee Resettlement Taskforce. [www.marjorywentworth.net](http://www.marjorywentworth.net).

Paul Bowers is a writer, father of 3 public school children, and former education reporter in North Charleston, S.C. He serves as volunteer communications secretary for Charleston Democratic Socialists of America and writes a weekly newsletter at [brutalsouth.substack.com](http://brutalsouth.substack.com).



Josh Malkin joined the ACLU of South Carolina as a Legal Fellow in the fall of 2021. He comes to the ACLU deeply committed to advocating for racial and educational equity and protecting the rights of children. Josh earned his Juris Doctorate from Columbia Law School, graduating as a Stone Scholar and Public Interest Honoree. While pursuing his degree, he had the privilege of interning for Orleans Public Defenders, the Mississippi Center for Justice, the New York City Civilian Review Board, and completing an externship with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (NAACP LDF). Prior to law school, Josh spent five years teaching middle school and high school in New Orleans East.

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 11, 2022 7:57 AM  
**To:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L  
**Cc:** Stratos, Mary E  
**Subject:** Re: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

Dear Candace,

Many thanks for your extremely helpful responses below. I appreciate having this information so clearly worded--and directly from the BCSD. I am printing this for on-stage reference by our panelists this afternoon.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Dec 10, 2022, at 2:53 PM, Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Brunder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Brunder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Hi, Jonathan:

Please see my responses in [blue](#) below.

All the best,  
Candace

Candace Bruder, Ed.D.  
Director of Communications  
Beaufort County School District  
843-322-2432 (office)  
843-941-9178 (cell)  
[candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us)  
<image001.png>

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**From:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Brunder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Brunder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2022 9:25 PM  
**To:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

Hi, Jonathan:

Many thanks for your thoughtful correspondence. I'll be in touch tomorrow.

All the best,  
Candace

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From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 1:21:48 PM  
To: Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

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Hello, Candace,

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Thank you for noting that "book challenges" are taking place in Beaufort County, not book bans. It's important for citizens to understand that no books have been banned in Beaufort County, but are instead undergoing the review process as defined in [Administrative Regulation IS-38.1](#). Additionally, it's relevant to recognize that administrative regulations (ARs) are different than official policies. The Board sets policy and the district creates and refines ARs to guide the work of the district. ARs are presented to the Board for informational purposes and refined as needed. Board action is not required for the approval of ARs.

Is there a recent press release or other status update on the progress of the review committees you could direct me to? Please refer to the email from Dr. Stratos regarding the most recent update that was shared with principals and librarians.

Some questions which have come up among the panelists all ready are:

1. How many review committees are active now?
  - These above committees will meet on January 19, 2023 to complete the review process:
    - *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur
    - *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them* by Erin Gruwell
    - *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
    - *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover
  - Two other committees will meet on December 14, 2022 to complete the review process for the following:
    - *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold
    - *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds
2. Have any challenges been made against the outcomes of the first four committee decisions?
  - The two complainants were formally notified Thursday evening of the December 1<sup>st</sup> committee decisions to return *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Speak*, and *The Kite Runner* to library circulation. (*The Kite Runner* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* committees

voted for these titles to be available only in high school libraries.) The two complainants will have seven (7) business days from receipt of the formal notification to formally request an appeal to the Board of Education. If an appeal is submitted, the Board of Education will make a determination regarding the material in question within fifteen (15) business days effective from the date the appeal is requested.

3. And what's the most helpful thing interested community members can do in support of the review process?
  - [Sign up to serve on a committee](#) and remain engaged in the process.
  - We ask for patience and understanding as this is our first time implementing this process, and it is not a quick one, logistically speaking. Everyone is doing their best to keep the process moving as expeditiously as possible while still fulfilling other job duties and responsibilities.

Dr. Stratos and her team were invited to attend and be available to answer any Beaufort-centric audience questions, but they were not available. Lots of BCSD educators and librarians plan to attend, but none whom I would consider empowered to speak on behalf of the District.

So I welcome any help or updates you can provide which we could share or otherwise refer to on Sunday.

Please feel free to text or call my cell [REDACTED] if you have any questions regarding this information. Thanks again for reaching out.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 10, 2022 2:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Stratos, Mary E  
**Subject:** RE: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

Hi, Jonathan:

Please see my responses in [blue](#) below.

All the best,  
Candace

Candace Bruder, Ed.D.  
Director of Communications  
Beaufort County School District  
843-322-2432 (office)  
843-941-9178 (cell)  
candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us



---

**From:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2022 9:25 PM  
**To:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

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---

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**Sent:** Thursday, December 8, 2022 1:21:48 PM  
**To:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
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  - *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds

(2) Have any challenges been made against the outcomes of the first four committee decisions?

- The two complainants were formally notified Thursday evening of the December 1<sup>st</sup> committee decisions to return *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Speak*, and *The Kite Runner* to library circulation. (*The Kite Runner* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* committees voted for these titles to be available only in high school libraries.) The two complainants will have seven (7) business days from receipt of the formal notification to formally request an appeal to the Board of Education. If an appeal is submitted, the Board of Education will make a determination regarding the material in question within fifteen (15) business days effective from the date the appeal is requested.

(3) And what's the most helpful thing interested community members can do in support of the review process?

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Dr. Stratos and her team were invited to attend and be available to answer any Beaufort-centric audience questions, but they were not available. Lots of BCSD educators and librarians plan to attend, but none whom I would consider empowered to speak on behalf of the District.

So I welcome any help or updates you can provide which we could share or otherwise refer to on Sunday.

Please feel free to text or call my cell [REDACTED] if you have any questions regarding this information. Thanks again for reaching out.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2022 9:25 PM  
**To:** jonathan haupt  
**Subject:** Re: Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

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All the best,  
Candace

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**To:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
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In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](https://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)





---

**From:** Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2022 1:27 PM  
**To:** jonathan haupt  
**Cc:** Murray, Melissa D; McKenzie, KarenM; Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L  
**Subject:** RE: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Jonathan good afternoon and thank you again for reaching out. Below is the most recent release to schools on the current status of the book committees. Candance will also be reaching out to you.

I greatly appreciate your reaching out, and hope that this information lends some light.

Thank you for asking,

MS

TO: Principals and Librarians

As another update, the next four Library Materials Review Committees will be reviewing the following books:

- *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur
- *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them* by Erin Gruwell
- *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
- *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover

The above committees will meet on January 19, 2023 to complete the review process as detailed in [Administrative Regulation IS 38.1 Procedures for Handling Questioned or Challenged School Library Materials](#).

Two other committees will meet on December 14, 2022 to complete the review process for the following:

- *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds

The two complainants were formally notified today of the December 1<sup>st</sup> committee decisions to return *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Speak*, and *The Kite Runner* to library circulation. (*The Kite Runner* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* committees voted for these titles to be available only in high school libraries.) The two complainants will have seven (7) business days from receipt of the formal notification to formally request an appeal to the Board of Education. If an appeal is submitted, the Board of Education will make a determination regarding the material in question within fifteen (15) business days effective from the date the appeal is requested.

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2022 11:09 AM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Cc:** Murray, Melissa D <Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; McKenzie, Karen M <Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Stratos,

In advance of Sunday afternoon's panel discussion at TCL, I write to ask if it's possible to get an update on the status of the book review committees from the BCSD to refer to, should we have specific questions from the attendees. (I've asked Dr. Bruder for this as well, if already covered in a recent press release, so apologies if I'm duplicating efforts here.)

The panelists aim to talk about the overarching issues of book challenges and bans, as well as their experiences in Charleston and Berkeley counties and, in Josh Malkin's case, statewide. That said, as the attendees will be (primarily) local, we anticipate having Beaufort-centric questions as well. Some questions which have come up among the panelists are: (1) How many review committees are active now? (2) Have any challenges been made against the outcomes of the first four committee decisions? (3) And what's the most helpful thing interested community members can do in support of the review process?

Candance

In the absence of having a representative of your team on-site, I absolutely welcome any updates you can provide beforehand which we could share or otherwise refer to on Sunday.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 26, 2022, at 5:12 PM, Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Jonathan, I'll have a confirmation on Monday. Thank you for the reminder.  
Appreciated,  
MS

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---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2022 1:36:24 PM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Cc:** Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; McKenzie, Karen M <[Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Dear Dr. Stratos,  
Many thanks. If at all possible, I would welcome knowing by this Monday afternoon if a member of the Division will be able to participate in this public panel discussion and forum on 12/11. We're very open to that District representative either joining the full discussion as a panelist or simply being on hand to respond to questions from attendees which fall outside of the expertise of the panelists but within the realm of status updates from the District.

And I look forward to contributing to the vital committee discussions and evaluations later this coming week.

In the meantime, I hope you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

In gratitude,

Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 22, 2022, at 3:23 PM, Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Johnthan thank you for reaching out. I can reach out to two members within the Division regarding this request.  
Thank you for reaching out,  
MS  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:35:05 AM  
To: Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

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Our hope is that the panel adds both regional and national context to what we are experiencing in Beaufort County and empowers attendees to be more informed about what's at stake in challenges to intellectual freedom in our schools and where the funding and motivations for local challenges actually come from. Mr. Conroy's own thoughts on book banning are well published and oft-quoted (<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>). And while recent articles like this lengthy piece in the New Yorker (<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/11/07/the-right-wing-mothers-fuelling-the-school-board-wars>) delve deeply into the end-game of organizations like Moms for Liberty, locals—including those now tasked with being members of the challenged materials review committees—have not been as informed about the overarching forces at play. We hope this program offers an opportunity to expand our ongoing community dialogue about these issues and how Beaufort's educators and parents will choose to respond to them moving forward. A draft program description is below.

Your attendance at the program on 12/11 would be most welcome. We understand that your presence would not be an endorsement on behalf of the BCSD of the program nor of comments made by any of the scheduled panelists. We're simply looking to your leadership to offer informed responses to any community questions about ongoing responses from the District to the extant book challenges.

Many thanks for your kind consideration. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have about the planned program. And Happy Thanksgiving wishes to you and your family.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)  


— DRAFT —

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The program, presented by New York Times bestselling author and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth, will focus on the forces, the funding, and the politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom. Wentworth is currently teaching a College of Charleston Honors College course on banned books and literature suppressed on political, religious, social, and sexual grounds, as well as the origins of book banning in western culture and contemporary issues around internet regulations. Wentworth will be joined in conversation by Charleston journalist Paul M. Bowers, and South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin.

Marjory Wentworth is the New York Times bestselling author of *Out of Wonder*, *Poems Celebrating Poets* (with Kwame Alexander and Chris Colderley). Her books of poetry include *Noticing Eden*, *Despite Gravity*, *The Endless Repetition of an Ordinary Miracle* and *New and Selected Poems*. Her poems have been nominated for The Pushcart Prize seven times. She is also the co-writer of *We Are Charleston*, *Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*, with Herb Frazier and Dr. Bernard Powers and *Taking a Stand*, *The Evolution of Human Rights*, with Juan E. Mendez. She is co-editor with Kwame Dawes of *Seeking*, *Poetry and Prose inspired by the Art of Jonathan Green*, and the author of the prizewinning children's story *Shackles*. She served as the poet laureate of South Carolina from 2003-2017. This year, she was named a Black Earth Institute Fellow. In 2020, she

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[www.marjorytwentworth.net](http://www.marjorytwentworth.net).

Paul Bowers is a writer, father of 3 public school children, and former education reporter in North Charleston, S.C. He serves as volunteer communications secretary for Charleston Democratic Socialists of America and writes a weekly newsletter at [brutalsouth.substack.com](http://brutalsouth.substack.com).

Josh Malkin joined the ACLU of South Carolina as a Legal Fellow in the fall of 2021. He comes to the ACLU deeply committed to advocating for racial and educational equity and protecting the rights of children. Josh earned his Juris Doctorate from Columbia Law School, graduating as a Stone Scholar and Public Interest Honoree. While pursuing his degree, he had the privilege of interning for Orleans Public Defenders, the Mississippi Center for Justice, the New York City Civilian Review Board, and completing an externship with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (NAACP LDF). Prior to law school, Josh spent five years teaching middle school and high school in New Orleans East.

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2022 11:09 AM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E  
**Cc:** Melissa D Murray; McKenzie, Karen M  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Stratos,

In advance of Sunday afternoon's panel discussion at TCL, I write to ask if it's possible to get an update on the status of the book review committees from the BCSD to refer to, should we have specific questions from the attendees. (I've asked Dr. Bruder for this as well, if already covered in a recent press release, so apologies if I'm duplicating efforts here.)

The panelists aim to talk about the overarching issues of book challenges and bans, as well as their experiences in Charleston and Berkeley counties and, in Josh Malkin's case, statewide. That said, as the attendees will be (primarily) local, we anticipate having Beaufort-centric questions as well. Some questions which have come up among the panelists are: (1) How many review committees are active now? (2) Have any challenges been made against the outcomes of the first four committee decisions? (3) And what's the most helpful thing interested community members can do in support of the review process?

In the absence of having a representative of your team on-site, I absolutely welcome any updates you can provide beforehand which we could share or otherwise refer to on Sunday.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 26, 2022, at 5:12 PM, Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Jonathan, I'll have a confirmation on Monday. Thank you for the reminder.  
Appreciated,  
MS

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---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2022 1:36:24 PM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Cc:** Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; McKenzie, Karen M <[Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Dear Dr. Stratos,



Many thanks. If at all possible, I would welcome knowing by this Monday afternoon if a member of the Division will be able to participate in this public panel discussion and forum on 12/11. We're very open to that District representative either joining the full discussion as a panelist or simply being on hand to respond to questions from attendees which fall outside of the expertise of the panelists but within the realm of status updates from the District.

And I look forward to contributing to the vital committee discussions and evaluations later this coming week.

In the meantime, I hope you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 22, 2022, at 3:23 PM, Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Johnthan thank you for reaching out. I can reach out to two members within the Division regarding this request.  
Thank you for reaching out,  
MS  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:35:05 AM  
To: Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

**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.

Good morning, Dr. Stratos,

I write to ask if you or another member of the BCSD administrative team would be interested and available to join us for a public discussion on Book Bans to be held on Sunday, 12/11, at 2:00 p.m. at TCL. Marjory Wentworth, a leading expert on book bans and the funding and politics behind them, will be leading the discussion, joined by education journalist Paul M. Bowers and (tentatively) Josh Malkin from the SC ACLU. We would welcome your addition to the afternoon, specifically to address the status of the BCSD's ongoing strategic response to the 97 book challenges.

Our hope is that the panel adds both regional and national context to what we are experiencing in Beaufort County and empowers attendees to be more informed about



what's at stake in challenges to intellectual freedom in our schools and where the funding and motivations for local challenges actually come from. Mr. Conroy's own thoughts on book banning are well published and oft-quoted (<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>). And while recent articles like this lengthy piece in the New Yorker (<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/11/07/the-right-wing-mothers-fuelling-the-school-board-wars>) delve deeply into the end-game of organizations like Moms for Liberty, locals—including those now tasked with being members of the challenged materials review committees—have not been as informed about the overarching forces at play. We hope this program offers an opportunity to expand our ongoing community dialogue about these issues and how Beaufort's educators and parents will choose to respond to them moving forward. A draft program description is below.

Your attendance at the program on 12/11 would be most welcome. We understand that your presence would not be an endorsement on behalf of the BCSD of the program nor of comments made by any of the scheduled panelists. We're simply looking to your leadership to offer informed responses to any community questions about ongoing responses from the District to the extant book challenges.

Many thanks for your kind consideration. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have about the planned program. And Happy Thanksgiving wishes to you and your family.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](https://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)



— DRAFT —

The nonprofit Pat Conroy Literary Center will host a free, public panel discussion, "Book Bans and the Forces Beyond Them," on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. in MacLean Hall of the Technical College of the Lowcountry's Beaufort campus (104 Reynolds St., bldg. 12).

The program, presented by New York Times bestselling author and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth, will focus on the forces, the funding, and the politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom. Wentworth is currently teaching a College of Charleston Honors College course on banned books and literature suppressed on political, religious, social, and sexual grounds, as well as the origins of book banning in western culture and contemporary issues around internet regulations. Wentworth will be joined in conversation by Charleston journalist Paul M. Bowers, and South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin.

Marjory Wentworth is the New York Times bestselling author of *Out of Wonder*, *Poems Celebrating Poets* (with Kwame Alexander and Chris Colderley). Her books of poetry include *Noticing Eden*, *Despite Gravity*, *The Endless Repetition of an Ordinary Miracle* and *New and Selected Poems*. Her poems have been nominated for The Pushcart Prize seven times. She is also the co-writer of *We Are Charleston*, *Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*, with Herb Frazier and Dr. Bernard Powers and *Taking a Stand, The Evolution of Human Rights*, with Juan E. Mendez. She is co-editor with Kwame Dawes of *Seeking*, *Poetry and Prose inspired by the Art of Jonathan Green*, and the author of the prizewinning children's story *Shackles*. She served as the poet laureate of South Carolina from 2003-2017. This year, she was named a Black Earth Institute Fellow. In 2020, she was named a National Coalition Against Censorship Free Speech is for Me Advocate. Wentworth teaches courses in writing, social justice, and banned books at The College of Charleston, where she is part of the Social Justice Working Group for the Center for the Study of Slavery and the Refugee Resettlement Taskforce.  
[www.marjorytwentworth.net](http://www.marjorytwentworth.net).

Paul Bowers is a writer, father of 3 public school children, and former education reporter in North Charleston, S.C. He serves as volunteer communications secretary for Charleston Democratic Socialists of America and writes a weekly newsletter at [brutalsouth.substack.com](http://brutalsouth.substack.com).

Josh Malkin joined the ACLU of South Carolina as a Legal Fellow in the fall of 2021. He comes to the ACLU deeply committed to advocating for racial and educational equity and protecting the rights of children. Josh earned his Juris Doctorate from Columbia Law School, graduating as a Stone Scholar and Public Interest Honoree. While pursuing his degree, he had the privilege of interning for Orleans Public Defenders, the Mississippi Center for Justice, the New York City Civilian Review Board, and completing an externship with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (NAACP LDF). Prior to law school, Josh spent five years teaching middle school and high school in New Orleans East.

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 8, 2022 1:22 PM  
**To:** candace.bruder-brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us  
**Subject:** Book review process update in advance of Sunday's panel discussion

**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.

Hello, Candace,

Our Conroy Center will be hosting a public panel discussion of book bans and challenges this Sunday at 2:00 at TCL (<https://patconroyliterarycenter.org/calendar/book-challenges-forum-2022/>). While our panelists' conversation will be about overarching, contextualizing aspects of the rise in book challenges and the forces behind them, the audience engagement portion of the afternoon will likely arc toward more specific questions or comments about the book challenges here in Beaufort. Panelist Josh Malkin from the SC ACLU may be able to speak to that. But we would all welcome a more official update from the BCSD to which we could refer.

Is there a recent press release or other status update on the progress of the review committees you could direct me to? Some questions which have come up among the panelists all ready are: (1) How many review committees are active now? (2) Have any challenges been made against the outcomes of the first four committee decisions? (3) And what's the most helpful thing interested community members can do in support of the review process?

Dr. Stratos and her team were invited to attend and be available to answer any Beaufort-centric audience questions, but they were not available. Lots of BCSD educators and librarians plan to attend, but none whom I would consider empowered to speak on behalf of the District.

So I welcome any help or updates you can provide which we could share or otherwise refer to on Sunday.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](https://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 1, 2022 10:58 AM  
**To:** Lacombe, Wendy R  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center hosts Book Challenges Forum on 12/11, 2:00 p.m., TCL

Thank you, Wendy. And congratulations to your son and your family!

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Dec 1, 2022, at 10:11 AM, Lacombe, Wendy R <[Wendy.Lacombe@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Wendy.Lacombe@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Good Morning Jonathan,  
I will definitely spread the word! My son is getting married that weekend, so I will not be able to attend.  
Thanks for keeping me in the loop!

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 1, 2022 7:53 AM  
**To:** Lacombe, Wendy R <[Wendy.Lacombe@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Wendy.Lacombe@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Conroy Center hosts Book Challenges Forum on 12/11, 2:00 p.m., TCL

**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.

Hi, Wendy,  
We're hosting a panel discussion and public forum about book challenges and bans on Sunday, 12/11, at 2:00 p.m. in the TCL auditorium. Attached is a flyer. I hope you can help us spread the word among BHS English teachers and any interested students and their families. I would hope that the DAYLO kids in particular would be invested in this issue. Word is already circulating among the district librarians.  
In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

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**From:** Lacombe, Wendy R <Wendy.Lacombe@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 1, 2022 10:11 AM  
**To:** jonathan haupt  
**Subject:** RE: Conroy Center hosts Book Challenges Forum on 12/11, 2:00 p.m., TCL

Good Morning Jonathan,  
I will definitely spread the word! My son is getting married that weekend, so I will not be able to attend. Thanks for keeping me in the loop!

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 1, 2022 7:53 AM  
**To:** Lacombe, Wendy R <Wendy.Lacombe@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Conroy Center hosts Book Challenges Forum on 12/11, 2:00 p.m., TCL

**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.

Hi, Wendy,  
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In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)





# BOOK CHALLENGES FORUM

## Resisting Attacks on Public Education

*A Public Conversation with **Marjory Wentworth, Josh Malkin, AJ Davis, and Paul Bowers***

Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.

Technical College of the Lowcountry, Beaufort

Let's talk about the growing number of book challenges and bans facing school classrooms and libraries, including here in Beaufort County. Where do book challenges and bans originate? How are they funded and organized? How are they addressed by school administrators and policies? What intellectual freedoms are at risk when access to educational resources is restricted or removed? Join us for a public conversation about the forces, funding, and politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom with a quartet of expert panelists: educator, activist, and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth; South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin; community education advocate, consultant, and nonprofit leader AJ Davis; and journalist Paul Bowers.

*Pat Conroy*

PAT CONROY  
LITERARY CENTER



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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 1, 2022 7:53 AM  
**To:** Lacombe, Wendy R  
**Subject:** Conroy Center hosts Book Challenges Forum on 12/11, 2:00 p.m., TCL  
**Attachments:** Book Challenges Forum Resisting the Attacks on Public Education (11.25 x 11.25 in) (8.5 x 11 in).pdf; attachment.html

**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.

Hi, Wendy,

We're hosting a panel discussion and public forum about book challenges and bans on Sunday, 12/11, at 2:00 p.m. in the TCL auditorium. Attached is a flyer. I hope you can help us spread the word among BHS English teachers and any interested students and their families. I would hope that the DAYLO kids in particular would be invested in this issue. Word is already circulating among the district librarians.

In gratitude,

Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)



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*Pat Conroy*

PAT CONROY  
LITERARY CENTER

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 11:50 PM  
**To:** BeckUngvarsky, Colleen E  
**Cc:** Copeland, Ryan C; Gareis, Karen M  
**Subject:** Conroy Center's Book Challenges Forum, 12/11  
**Attachments:** Book Challenges Forum Resisting the Attacks on Public Education (11.25 × 11.25 in) (8.5 × 11 in).pdf; attachment.html

**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.

Hello, Colleen,

At Karen's recommendation, I'm sending you the attached PDF announcement for our Dec 11, 2:00 p.m., public discussion of book challenges and book bans at the Technical College of the Lowcountry's MacLean Hall. We enthusiastically welcome all District librarians and media specialists to attend what's certain to be an enlightening conversation from a panel of experts committed to defending the ideals of intellectual freedom and opposing censorship in our schools and libraries. I hope that you might be able to share this for distribution to library staff members across the District.

In gratitude for your kind consideration,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)





# BOOK CHALLENGES FORUM

## Resisting Attacks on Public Education

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*Pat Conroy*

PAT CONROY  
LITERARY CENTER

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 11:40 PM  
**To:** Gareis, Karen M  
**Cc:** Copeland, Ryan C  
**Subject:** Re: We're doing a thing. How best to spread the word?  
**Attachments:** Book Challenges Forum Resisting the Attacks on Public Education (11.25 × 11.25 in) (8.5 × 11 in).pdf; attachment.html

**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.

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**From:** Gareis, Karen M <Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 2:40 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Ryan C; 'jonathan haupt'  
**Subject:** RE: We're doing a thing. How best to spread the word?

YES- send us a graphic or .pdf. I'll hang posters in key areas around the school.

Karen M. Gareis | School Librarian  
Bluffton High School | 12 H.E. McCracken Circle, Bluffton SC 29910  
Office: 843-706-8958  
Front Desk: 843-706-8957  
Email: [karen.gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:karen.gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us)  
Bluffton High School [Website](#)  
Follow the Bobcats: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)  
Follow the Bobcat Library: [Instagram](#)



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**From:** Copeland, Ryan C <Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** Gareis, Karen M <Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; 'jonathan haupt' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: We're doing a thing. How best to spread the word?

Jonathan, I would echo Karen's comments and add that those same distribution lists also exist at the school level for "English Department" or "Social Studies Department" or whomever else. I'm happy to forward to them along with obvious word-of-mouth.

I'd also suggest that it's appropriate to print as a poster and hang in the library or wherever as it's open to the public and would also allow students to know they are welcome. I'd do that if I had a library right now...

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
*NHS Advisor*  
*HOSA Co-Advisor*  
*Interact Co-Advisor*  
*Exceptionally Average Human*

---

**From:** Gareis, Karen M <[Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 1:51 PM  
**To:** 'jonathan haupt' [REDACTED]; Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Cc:** BeckUngvarsky, Colleen E <[Colleen.BeckUngvarsky@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Colleen.BeckUngvarsky@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: We're doing a thing. How best to spread the word?

Hi, Jonathan,



Yes, this has been in recent discussion among us. We have a BCSD School Librarian distribution email list, but that is not for public use. I would suggest whatever you desire to say can be sent to our district lead Colleen Beck-Ungvarsky [Colleen.BeckUngvarsky@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Colleen.BeckUngvarsky@beaufort.k12.sc.us), she can vet or ask the necessary questions and then forward to us.

Karen

Karen M. Gareis | School Librarian  
Bluffton High School | 12 H.E. McCracken Circle, Bluffton SC 29910  
Office: 843-706-8958  
Front Desk: 843-706-8957  
Email: [karen.gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:karen.gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us)  
Bluffton High School [Website](#)  
Follow the Bobcats: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)  
Follow the Bobcat Library: [Instagram](#)



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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 1:13 PM  
**To:** Gareis, Karen M <[Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** We're doing a thing. How best to spread the word?

**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.

Hi, Karen & Ryan,

We're hosting a free, public discussion of Book Challenges & Bans with a panel of experts on Sunday, 12/11, 2:00 p.m., at TCL. The event is newly posted on our FB page (linked below) and now being added to our website events calendar as well. Press releases, ads, social media pushes, and all of our usual marketing muscle is going into action in support of this important conversation as well.

I'd REALLY like for the District's librarians and media specialists to be personally invited. I welcome your advice and assistance for how best to do that.

Same for the District's English teachers, and I think Melissa and Amy are going to help me with that. Word is already circulating among some committed parents and the groups of former teachers we work with, some of whom have been vocal at BCSD board meetings. I'm optimistically hoping for a large and supportive turnout.

I expect this will be the first of several—and perhaps many—Conroy Center programs on this topic. I've talked with Marjory and others about student-centric programs that have been held in Charleston as models we could adopt or augment here as well.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/461742982762701>



# BOOK CHALLENGES FORUM

## Resisting Attacks on Public Education

*A Public Conversation with Marjory Wentworth,  
Josh Malkin, AJ Davis, and Paul Bowers*

Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.  
Technical College of the Lowcountry, Beaufort

*Pat Conroy*

PAT CONROY  
LITERARY CENTER

"Literature tells us to be brave. It demands it of us."--Beaufort High School English teacher Gene Norris to his student Pat Conroy when responding to a call to ban J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* in 1962

Let's talk about the growing number of book challenges and bans facing school classrooms and libraries, including here in Beaufort County. Where do book challenges and bans originate? How are they funded and organized? How are they addressed by school administrators and policies? What intellectual freedoms are at risk when access to educational resources is restricted or removed? Join us for a public conversation about the forces, funding, and politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom. with a quartet of expert panelists: educator, activist, and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth; South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin; community education advocate, consultant, and nonprofit leader AJ Davis; and journalist Paul Bowers.

Free and open to the public, this event will be held on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. at the Technical College of the Lowcountry's MacLean Hall (104 Reynolds St, bldg 12, Beaufort.) All are welcome.

#### ABOUT THE PANELISTS

Marjory Wentworth is the New York Times bestselling author of *Out of Wonder*, *Poems Celebrating Poets* (with Kwame Alexander and Chris Colderley). Her books of poetry include *Noticing Eden*, *Despite Gravity*, *The Endless Repetition of an Ordinary Miracle* and *New and Selected Poems*. Her poems have been nominated for The Pushcart Prize seven times. She is also the co-writer of *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel* (with Herb Frazier and Dr. Bernard Powers) and *Taking a Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights* (with Juan E. Mendez). She is co-editor with Kwame Dawes of *Seeking: Poetry and Prose inspired by the Art of Jonathan Green*, and the author of the prizewinning children's story *Shackles*. She served as the poet laureate of South Carolina from 2003-2017. This year, she was named a Black Earth Institute Fellow. In 2020, she was named a National Coalition Against Censorship Free Speech is for Me Advocate. Wentworth teaches courses in writing, social justice, and banned books at The College of Charleston, where she is part of the Social Justice Working Group for the Center for the Study of Slavery and the Refugee Resettlement Taskforce.

Josh Malkin joined the ACLU of South Carolina as a Legal Fellow in the fall of 2021. He comes to the ACLU deeply committed to advocating for racial and educational equity and protecting the rights of children. Prior to law school, Josh spent five years teaching middle and high school math in New Orleans East. He understands how difficult it is to be an educator even in the most favorable of climates. He finds the constant, radical attacks on the ability to learn, read, and teach very troubling, and is committed to doing all he can to both be present alongside local communities as they fight back, and make statewide information more accessible to those who do not spend an unhealthy amount of time at the statehouse.

Anjene "AJ" Davis is a resident of North Charleston in the Chicora/Cherokee community where he is the neighborhood association president. AJ is also an employee of Charleston County School District and a cofounder of Community Solutions Consulting, a consulting firm that creates and drives strategies for programs that improve equity, community engagement, citizen values, and organizational effectiveness, establish strong external partnerships for promotion of racial and social equity and inclusion, and advance equity through thoughtful community engagement, strategic partnerships, and innovative program development. AJ created and directed a parent engagement concept, Lowcountry Black Parents Association, designed to provide parents of students in high poverty schools with the skills to enhance their advocacy abilities. He earned his M.S. degree in organizational management and his B.S. in Human Services at Springfield College.

Paul Bowers is a writer, father of three public school children, and former education reporter in North Charleston, S.C. He serves as volunteer communications secretary for Charleston Democratic Socialists of America and writes a weekly newsletter at [brutalsouth.substack.com](https://brutalsouth.substack.com).

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**From:** Copeland, Ryan C <Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** Gareis, Karen M; 'jonathan haupt'  
**Subject:** RE: We're doing a thing. How best to spread the word?

Jonathan, I would echo Karen's comments and add that those same distribution lists also exist at the school level for "English Department" or "Social Studies Department" or whomever else. I'm happy to forward to them along with obvious word-of-mouth.

I'd also suggest that it's appropriate to print as a poster and hang in the library or wherever as it's open to the public and would also allow students to know they are welcome. I'd do that if I had a library right now...

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
NHS Advisor  
HOSA Co-Advisor  
Interact Co-Advisor  
Exceptionally Average Human

---

**From:** Gareis, Karen M <Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 1:51 PM  
**To:** 'jonathan haupt' [REDACTED]; Copeland, Ryan C <Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Cc:** BeckUngvarsky, Colleen E <Colleen.BeckUngvarsky@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** RE: We're doing a thing. How best to spread the word?

Hi, Jonathan,

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Karen

Karen M. Gareis | School Librarian  
Bluffton High School | 12 H.E. McCracken Circle, Bluffton SC 29910  
Office: 843-706-8958  
Front Desk: 843-706-8957  
Email: [karen.gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:karen.gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us)  
Bluffton High School [Website](#)  
Follow the Bobcats: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)  
Follow the Bobcat Library: [Instagram](#)



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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 1:13 PM

**To:** Gareis, Karen M <[Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Karen.Gareis@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>

**Subject:** We're doing a thing. How best to spread the word?

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Hi, Karen & Ryan,

We're hosting a free, public discussion of Book Challenges & Bans with a panel of experts on Sunday, 12/11, 2:00 p.m., at TCL. The event is newly posted on our FB page (linked below) and now being added to our website events calendar as well. Press releases, ads, social media pushes, and all of our usual marketing muscle is going into action in support of this important conversation as well.

I'd REALLY like for the District's librarians and media specialists to be personally invited. I welcome your advice and assistance for how best to do that.

Same for the District's English teachers, and I think Melissa and Amy are going to help me with that. Word is already circulating among some committed parents and the groups of former teachers we work with, some of whom have been vocal at BCSD board meetings. I'm optimistically hoping for a large and supportive turnout.

I expect this will be the first of several—and perhaps many—Conroy Center programs on this topic. I've talked with Marjory and others about student-centric programs that have been held in Charleston as models we could adopt or augment here as well.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/461742982762701>





# BOOK CHALLENGES FORUM

## Resisting Attacks on Public Education

*A Public Conversation with Marjory Wentworth,  
Josh Malkin, AJ Davis, and Paul Bowers*

Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.  
Technical College of the Lowcountry, Beaufort

*Pat Conroy*

PAT CONROY  
LITERARY CENTER

"Literature tells us to be brave. It demands it of us."--Beaufort High School English teacher Gene Norris to his student Pat Conroy when responding to a call to ban J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* in 1962

Let's talk about the growing number of book challenges and bans facing school classrooms and libraries, including here in Beaufort County. Where do book challenges and bans originate? How are they funded and organized? How are they addressed by school administrators and policies? What intellectual freedoms are at risk when access to educational resources is restricted or removed? Join us for a public conversation about the forces, funding, and politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom. with a quartet of expert panelists: educator, activist, and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth; South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin; community education advocate, consultant, and nonprofit leader AJ Davis; and journalist Paul Bowers.

Free and open to the public, this event will be held on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. at the Technical College of the Lowcountry's MacLean Hall (104 Reynolds St, bldg 12, Beaufort.) All are welcome.

#### ABOUT THE PANELISTS

Marjory Wentworth is the New York Times bestselling author of *Out of Wonder*, *Poems Celebrating Poets* (with Kwame Alexander and Chris Colderley). Her books of poetry include *Noticing Eden*, *Despite Gravity*, *The Endless Repetition of an Ordinary Miracle* and *New and Selected Poems*. Her poems have been nominated for The Pushcart Prize seven times. She is also the co-writer of *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel* (with Herb Frazier and Dr. Bernard Powers) and *Taking a Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights* (with Juan E. Mendez). She is co-editor with Kwame Dawes of *Seeking: Poetry and Prose inspired by the Art of Jonathan Green*, and the author of the prizewinning children's story *Shackles*. She served as the poet laureate of South Carolina from 2003-2017. This year, she was named a Black Earth Institute Fellow. In 2020, she was named a National Coalition Against Censorship Free Speech is for Me Advocate. Wentworth teaches courses in writing, social justice, and banned books at The College of Charleston, where she is part of the Social Justice Working Group for the Center for the Study of Slavery and the Refugee Resettlement Taskforce.

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Anjene "AJ" Davis is a resident of North Charleston in the Chicora/Cherokee community where he is the neighborhood association president. AJ is also an employee of Charleston County School District and a cofounder of Community Solutions Consulting, a consulting firm that creates and drives strategies for programs that improve equity, community engagement, citizen values, and organizational effectiveness, establish strong external partnerships for promotion of racial and social equity and inclusion, and advance equity through thoughtful community engagement, strategic partnerships, and innovative program development. AJ created and directed a parent engagement concept, Lowcountry Black Parents Association, designed to provide parents of students in high poverty schools with the skills to enhance their advocacy abilities. He earned his M.S. degree in organizational management and his B.S. in Human Services at Springfield College.

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---

**From:** Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2022 5:12 PM  
**To:** jonathan haupt  
**Cc:** Murray, Melissa D; McKenzie, KarenM  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Jonathan, I'll have a confirmation on Monday. Thank you for the reminder.  
Appreciated,  
MS

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---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2022 1:36:24 PM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Cc:** Murray, Melissa D <Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; McKenzie, Karen M <Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Dear Dr. Stratos,  
Many thanks. If at all possible, I would welcome knowing by this Monday afternoon if a member of the Division will be able to participate in this public panel discussion and forum on 12/11. We're very open to that District representative either joining the full discussion as a panelist or simply being on hand to respond to questions from attendees which fall outside of the expertise of the panelists but within the realm of status updates from the District.

And I look forward to contributing to the vital committee discussions and evaluations later this coming week.

In the meantime, I hope you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 22, 2022, at 3:23 PM, Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Johnthan thank you for reaching out. I can reach out to two members within the Division regarding this request.

Thank you for reaching out,  
MS

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---



From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:35:05 AM  
To: Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

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Good morning, Dr. Stratos,

I write to ask if you or another member of the BCSD administrative team would be interested and available to join us for a public discussion on Book Bans to be held on Sunday, 12/11, at 2:00 p.m. at TCL. Marjory Wentworth, a leading expert on book bans and the funding and politics behind them, will be leading the discussion, joined by education journalist Paul M. Bowers and (tentatively) Josh Malkin from the SC ACLU. We would welcome your addition to the afternoon, specifically to address the status of the BCSD's ongoing strategic response to the 97 book challenges.

Our hope is that the panel adds both regional and national context to what we are experiencing in Beaufort County and empowers attendees to be more informed about what's at stake in challenges to intellectual freedom in our schools and where the funding and motivations for local challenges actually come from. Mr. Conroy's own thoughts on book banning are well published and oft-quoted (<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>). And while recent articles like this lengthy piece in the New Yorker (<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/11/07/the-right-wing-mothers-fuelling-the-school-board-wars>) delve deeply into the end-game of organizations like Moms for Liberty, locals—including those now tasked with being members of the challenged materials review committees—have not been as informed about the overarching forces at play. We hope this program offers an opportunity to expand our ongoing community dialogue about these issues and how Beaufort's educators and parents will choose to respond to them moving forward. A draft program description is below.

Your attendance at the program on 12/11 would be most welcome. We understand that your presence would not be an endorsement on behalf of the BCSD of the program nor of comments made by any of the scheduled panelists. We're simply looking to your leadership to offer informed responses to any community questions about ongoing responses from the District to the extant book challenges.

Many thanks for your kind consideration. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have about the planned program. And Happy Thanksgiving wishes to you and your family.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](https://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)  
[REDACTED]

— DRAFT —



The nonprofit Pat Conroy Literary Center will host a free, public panel discussion, “Book Bans and the Forces Beyond Them,” on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. in MacLean Hall of the Technical College of the Lowcountry’s Beaufort campus (104 Reynolds St., bldg. 12).

The program, presented by New York Times bestselling author and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth, will focus on the forces, the funding, and the politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom. Wentworth is currently teaching a College of Charleston Honors College course on banned books and literature suppressed on political, religious, social, and sexual grounds, as well as the origins of book banning in western culture and contemporary issues around internet regulations. Wentworth will be joined in conversation by Charleston journalist Paul M. Bowers, and South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin.

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---

**From:** McKenzie, Karen M <Karen.Mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2022 1:37 PM  
**To:** jonathan haupt  
**Subject:** Automatic reply: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving!

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2022 1:36 PM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E  
**Cc:** Melissa D Murray; McKenzie, Karen M  
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**To:** Stratos, Mary E <[Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

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Good morning, Dr. Stratos,

I write to ask if you or another member of the BCSD administrative team would be interested and available to join us for a public discussion on Book Bans to be held on Sunday, 12/11, at 2:00 p.m. at TCL. Marjory Wentworth, a leading expert on book bans and the funding and politics behind them, will be

leading the discussion, joined by education journalist Paul M. Bowers and (tentatively) Josh Malkin from the SC ACLU. We would welcome your addition to the afternoon, specifically to address the status of the BCSD's ongoing strategic response to the 97 book challenges.

Our hope is that the panel adds both regional and national context to what we are experiencing in Beaufort County and empowers attendees to be more informed about what's at stake in challenges to intellectual freedom in our schools and where the funding and motivations for local challenges actually come from. Mr. Conroy's own thoughts on book banning are well published and oft-quoted (<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>). And while recent articles like this lengthy piece in the New Yorker (<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/11/07/the-right-wing-mothers-fuelling-the-school-board-wars>) delve deeply into the end-game of organizations like Moms for Liberty, locals—including those now tasked with being members of the challenged materials review committees—have not been as informed about the overarching forces at play. We hope this program offers an opportunity to expand our ongoing community dialogue about these issues and how Beaufort's educators and parents will choose to respond to them moving forward. A draft program description is below.

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Many thanks for your kind consideration. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have about the planned program. And Happy Thanksgiving wishes to you and your family.

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](https://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)



— DRAFT —

The nonprofit Pat Conroy Literary Center will host a free, public panel discussion, "Book Bans and the Forces Beyond Them," on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. in MacLean Hall of the Technical College of the Lowcountry's Beaufort campus (104 Reynolds St., bldg. 12).

The program, presented by New York Times bestselling author and former South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth, will focus on the forces, the funding, and the politics surrounding banned books, censorship, and challenges to free speech and intellectual freedom. Wentworth is currently teaching a College of Charleston Honors College course on banned books and literature suppressed on political, religious, social, and sexual grounds, as well as the origins of book banning in western culture and contemporary issues around internet regulations. Wentworth will be joined in conversation by Charleston journalist Paul M. Bowers, and South Carolina ACLU legal fellow and legislative advocate Josh Malkin.

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**From:** Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022 3:23 PM  
**To:** jonathan haupt; Murray, Melissa D; McKenzie, Karen M  
**Subject:** Re: Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

Johnthan thank you for reaching out. I can reach out to two members within the Division regarding this request.  
Thank you for reaching out,  
MS  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:35:05 AM  
**To:** Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

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In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:35 AM  
**To:** Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us  
**Subject:** Conroy Center's public discussion on forces behind book bans, 12/11, 2:00 p.m.

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Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](https://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Murray, Melissa D <Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 4, 2022 10:33 AM  
**To:** jonathan haupt  
**Subject:** RE: Book challenge response toolkits

Hi!

I hope your meeting went well 😊 Thank you for your help with this and sharing the link. I have shared the contacts you provided below with our school librarian lead. I also have shared that we need to continue to have all sides represented at these meetings.

Thank you for all you do!!

Melissa

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 10:56 PM  
**To:** Murray, Melissa D <Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Book challenge response toolkits

That was still less painful than Conroy Center board meetings. (And we're having one of those tomorrow.)

I was thrilled to see such informed and passionate responses from community members—inclusive of current and former teachers and librarians, and one student. And I appreciate all of the efforts that have gone into the revised policy and procedure, which I know has been a major undertaking. I was particularly glad to see ALA guidelines so prominent in the document.

If I may suggest this, I think securing the feedback and support (when possible) from the BCSD's media specialists and librarians, who will be held accountable for the policy, and from the SCASL Intellectual Freedom committee chair Jill Tyner ([REDACTED]) might also help make sure that the procedure itself is equitable and less likely to be challenged throughout implementation. Inbound ALA president Emily Drabinski ([REDACTED]) attended SCLA earlier in October, where she participated in our model Human Library and attended the session on book challenge preparedness for public libraries. I think she's well aware of what's up in SC now, and she too might be willing to help aim you to someone in ALA's intellectual freedom community who could review and comment on the policy prior to implementation.

If the review committee meetings are open to the public, then the "vocal minority" is likely to attend and make spectacles in those forums as well. So those supportive voices from tonight's meeting, almost all of whom left before policy discussion, will need to be encouraged to show up and support the process as well, beyond being heard for 3 minutes each and applauding one another.

In the meantime, I continue to be at your service in whatever ways are helpful. And I'll let you know if/when we're able to arrange to host Marjory Wentworth for a public discussion about book challenges and bans.



On Oct 31, 2022, at 10:27 AM, Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Thank you.

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From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 8:58 AM  
To: Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Re: Book challenge response toolkits

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See page 6 and corresponding appendices in the attached doc. Most policies like this I've seen circle back to the recommended ALA school library reconsideration policy I've linked below. The North Lamar Indie School District policy I've also linked is interesting too because of the volume of supporting documents from other resources which concludes the policy statement and resources.

I hope some of this helps.

<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2255/reconsideration\\_of\\_materials\\_packet.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2255/reconsideration_of_materials_packet.pdf)

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Oct 31, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Thank you for these! Any chance you have gotten your hands on a rubric for review?

Thanks,  
Melissa

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From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2022 9:54 AM  
To: Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Book challenge response toolkits

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## TOOLKITS

ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom Book Challenge Toolkit:

<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport>

National Collation Against Censorship Book Challenge Toolkit:

<https://ncac.org/resource/book-challenge-resource-center>

NCTE Intellectual Freedom Toolkit:

<https://ncte.org/resources/ncte-intellectual-freedom-center/#unique-identifier>

Unite Against Book Bans Toolkit:

<https://uniteagainstdbookbans.org/>

Richland Library resources:

<https://www.richlandlibrary.com/blog/2022-03-15/how-can-i-stop-book-bans>

## INSPIRATION

Pat Conroy's letter to the Charleston (WV) book banners

<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>

Kelly Clarkson interview w/ students who fought school book ban in PA

<https://youtu.be/TgaeRpzBBCE>

TED-Ed Student talk: What we lose when a book is banned:

<https://youtu.be/pSw8E6j1RHI>

Jonathan Haupt

Executive Director

[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

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**From:** Copeland, Ryan C <Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 1:52 PM  
**To:** jonathan haupt  
**Subject:** RE: book covers

I had to leave after first public comment but tuned in to county channel for second round...

It's funny, one of the first things my wife actually suggested was to find out "how did Conroy handle this, because you know he had some material challenged?!" and together we found the WV article. I'm not completely comfortable with some of the verbiage and procedures in the resolution either. Still too much gray area open for challenges and interpretation, but I get trying to calm concerns.

I can't wait for a community forum and I know this will sound like brown-nosing or something worse, but these are the times I'm truly thankful we have a Conroy Center to lean on. Not every community under pressure can claim that. Thank God for Marine Corps orders, right?

Keep doing what you do and thank you!

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
*NHS Advisor*  
*HOSA Co-Advisor*  
*Interact Co-Advisor*  
*Exceptionally Average Human*

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Ryan C <Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Re: book covers

Hi, Ryan,

I was also at the School Board mtg last night, from 6 to 10:15 or so. It was heartening to hear such impassioned responses from the community supporting intellectual freedom, and particularly from so many former teachers and librarians, and May River standout [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] English teacher.

I've been helping Melissa and Dr. Stratos with some guidance toward resources (both documents and humans) for developing the updated policy and procedures for selection and reconsiderations. I certainly don't agree with everything that's made it into the draft document so far, but I'm also not a school librarian. Or teacher. Or student. Or parent. Or administrator. Or lawyer. And I hope those who are will be brought into help shape the document and the strategy as it inches toward implementation.

For our part, I've invited my friend Marjory Wentworth down to speak on Sunday, 12/11, about book bans and to lead a community forum. We'll be announcing that soon, ideally before the next School Board meeting. Pat's thoughts on this are well documented and oft-quoted (<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>). Between offering guidance and support on the policy and procedure side and offering a forum for education and dialogue, I hope we can be helpful—if perhaps not as quotable—as well.

Thanks for offering [REDACTED] email address to me. I will copy you on my email tomorrow—but from having done this before at BHS, I predict you will receive the email and [REDACTED] will not. If that's the case, please do me the great favor of forwarding it to connect us.

I wish you an early happy birthday in the meantime!

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 2, 2022, at 12:50 PM, Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Jonathan,

I've been (again) in the weeds the last two days fighting for intellectual freedom. I'm sure you're following the pseudo-political issues surrounding school district books. I was at the school board meeting last night and am currently at a district librarian meeting...

That said, I had two students drop out of volunteering as bookmarks because they have to work on Sunday. One [REDACTED] is still interested, and [REDACTED] email is here: [REDACTED]

We'll all be working for [REDACTED] one day.

And the students who helped created the book covers worked in groups, though they are wholly different from club members.

Finally, I would absolutely LOVE to help even if you didn't need me! However, that's my birthday weekend and my wife apparently has plans to send me (take me?) to the Clemson game, so we'll likely still be out of town on Sunday.

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
*NHS Advisor*  
*HOSA Co-Advisor*  
*Interact Co-Advisor*  
*Exceptionally Average Human*

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 31, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: book covers

Hi, Ryan,  
Thanks for these. They are definitely more in keeping with our aims for the covers. I'll share with the BHL crew and the corresponding Books.

If you and your students are okay with putting them in direct communication with me about volunteering as Bookmarks, then I can get them up to speed on the details and what other students are doing. Are your Bookmarks also the graphic designers of these covers? Or wholly separate students?

BHS DAYLO is meeting tomorrow morning, after which I'll have a better idea of how of those kids will be coming—and who.

We can get by with just 3 Librarians, which we have. But if you're available that afternoon, you're still more than welcome to volunteer as well.

Thanks so much,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
Pat Conroy Literary Center  
[www.patconroyliterarycenter.org](http://www.patconroyliterarycenter.org)

On Oct 31, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Jonathan – my apologies. I don't think it's the students' fault. I probably did not communicate the expectations effectively. Try these second attempts and let me know.

I've got one, possibly two students interested in being bookmarks. Do you want their names/contact info?

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
*NHS Advisor*  
*HOSA Co-Advisor*  
*Interact Co-Advisor*  
*Exceptionally Average Human*

---

From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 9:51 PM  
To: Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Re: book covers

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Hi, Ryan,



Thanks for your email. Regrettably, I can't use these covers. A Human Library Book cover needs to incorporate the photo of the Book and the description (blurb) provided as meaningful point of reference for the attendees. Incorporating graphical representations of an element of the Book's story are great, but not in the absence of the photo and blurb. The samples I originally provided of the covers for Tim and Andre were meant to illustrate this.

If the students want to take another shot at these by next Wednesday, I can still get everything printed and posted on time. Otherwise, I'll need to reassign these to other DAYLO kids, or Mel and I can just tackle them ourselves.

Any luck on recruiting student volunteer Bookmarks for 11/13?

BA's DAYLO hosted a visit with De'Shawn Charles Winslow this morning, in advance of his festival appearance. They had such good questions for him. It was a wonderful experience. Riverview's stellar 7th and 8th grade ELA teachers have asked me about bringing writers their way for classroom visits as well. I'm happy to do this for BC too, if there's interest.

My thanks,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Oct 28, 2022, at 3:13 PM, Copeland, Ryan C  
<[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Hi, Jonathan! Attached are what I've gotten thus far for the book covers. They're...what they are. I'm still waiting on a handful more submissions so I'll try to get to you by Sunday.

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
*NHS Advisor*  
*HOSA Co-Advisor*  
*Interact Co-Advisor*  
*Exceptionally Average Human*

<Undercover.pdf><book.pdf><Book 1.jpg>

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Ryan C  
**Subject:** Re: book covers

Hi, Ryan,

I was also at the School Board mtg last night, from 6 to 10:15 or so. It was heartening to hear such impassioned responses from the community supporting intellectual freedom, and particularly from so many former teachers and librarians, and May River standout [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] English teacher.

I've been helping Melissa and Dr. Stratos with some guidance toward resources (both documents and humans) for developing the updated policy and procedures for selection and reconsiderations. I certainly don't agree with everything that's made it into the draft document so far, but I'm also not a school librarian. Or teacher. Or student. Or parent. Or administrator. Or lawyer. And I hope those who are will be brought into help shape the document and the strategy as it inches toward implementation.

For our part, I've invited my friend Marjory Wentworth down to speak on Sunday, 12/11, about book bans and to lead a community forum. We'll be announcing that soon, ideally before the next School Board meeting. Pat's thoughts on this are well documented and oft-quoted (<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>). Between offering guidance and support on the policy and procedure side and offering a forum for education and dialogue, I hope we can be helpful—if perhaps not as quotable—as well.

Thanks for offering [REDACTED] email address to me. I will copy you on my email tomorrow—but from having done this before at BHS, I predict you will receive the email and [REDACTED] will not. If that's the case, please do me the great favor of forwarding it to connect us.

I wish you an early happy birthday in the meantime!

In gratitude,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](https://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Nov 2, 2022, at 12:50 PM, Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Jonathan,

I've been (again) in the weeds the last two days fighting for intellectual freedom. I'm sure you're following the pseudo-political issues surrounding school district books. I was at the school board meeting last night and am currently at a district librarian meeting...

That said, I had two students drop out of volunteering as bookmarks because they have to work on Sunday. One [REDACTED] is still interested, and [REDACTED] email is here: [REDACTED]

We'll all be working for [REDACTED] one day.

And the students who helped created the book covers worked in groups, though they are wholly different from club members.

Finally, I would absolutely LOVE to help even if you didn't need me! However, that's my birthday weekend and my wife apparently has plans to send me (take me?) to the Clemson game, so we'll likely still be out of town on Sunday.

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
*NHS Advisor*  
*HOSA Co-Advisor*  
*Interact Co-Advisor*  
*Exceptionally Average Human*

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 31, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: book covers

Hi, Ryan,  
Thanks for these. They are definitely more in keeping with our aims for the covers. I'll share with the BHL crew and the corresponding Books.

If you and your students are okay with putting them in direct communication with me about volunteering as Bookmarks, then I can get them up to speed on the details and what other students are doing. Are your Bookmarks also the graphic designers of these covers? Or wholly separate students?

BHS DAYLO is meeting tomorrow morning, after which I'll have a better idea of how of those kids will be coming—and who.

We can get by with just 3 Librarians, which we have. But if you're available that afternoon, you're still more than welcome to volunteer as well.

Thanks so much,  
Jonathan

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
Pat Conroy Literary Center  
[www.patconroyliterarycenter.org](http://www.patconroyliterarycenter.org)

On Oct 31, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Jonathan – my apologies. I don't think it's the students' fault. I probably did not communicate the expectations effectively. Try these second attempts and let me know.

I've got one, possibly two students interested in being bookmarks. Do you want their names/contact info?

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
*NHS Advisor*  
*HOSA Co-Advisor*  
*Interact Co-Advisor*  
*Exceptionally Average Human*

---

From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 9:51 PM  
To: Copeland, Ryan C <[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Re: book covers

**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.

Hi, Ryan,  
Thanks for your email. Regrettably, I can't use these covers. A Human Library Book cover needs to incorporate the photo of the Book and the description (blurb) provided as meaningful point of reference for the attendees. Incorporating graphical representations of an element of the Book's story are great, but not in the absence of the photo and blurb. The samples I originally provided of the covers for Tim and Andre were meant to illustrate this.

If the students want to take another shot at these by next Wednesday, I can still get everything printed and posted on time. Otherwise, I'll need to reassign these to other DAYLO kids, or Mel and I can just tackle them ourselves.

Any luck on recruiting student volunteer Bookmarks for 11/13?

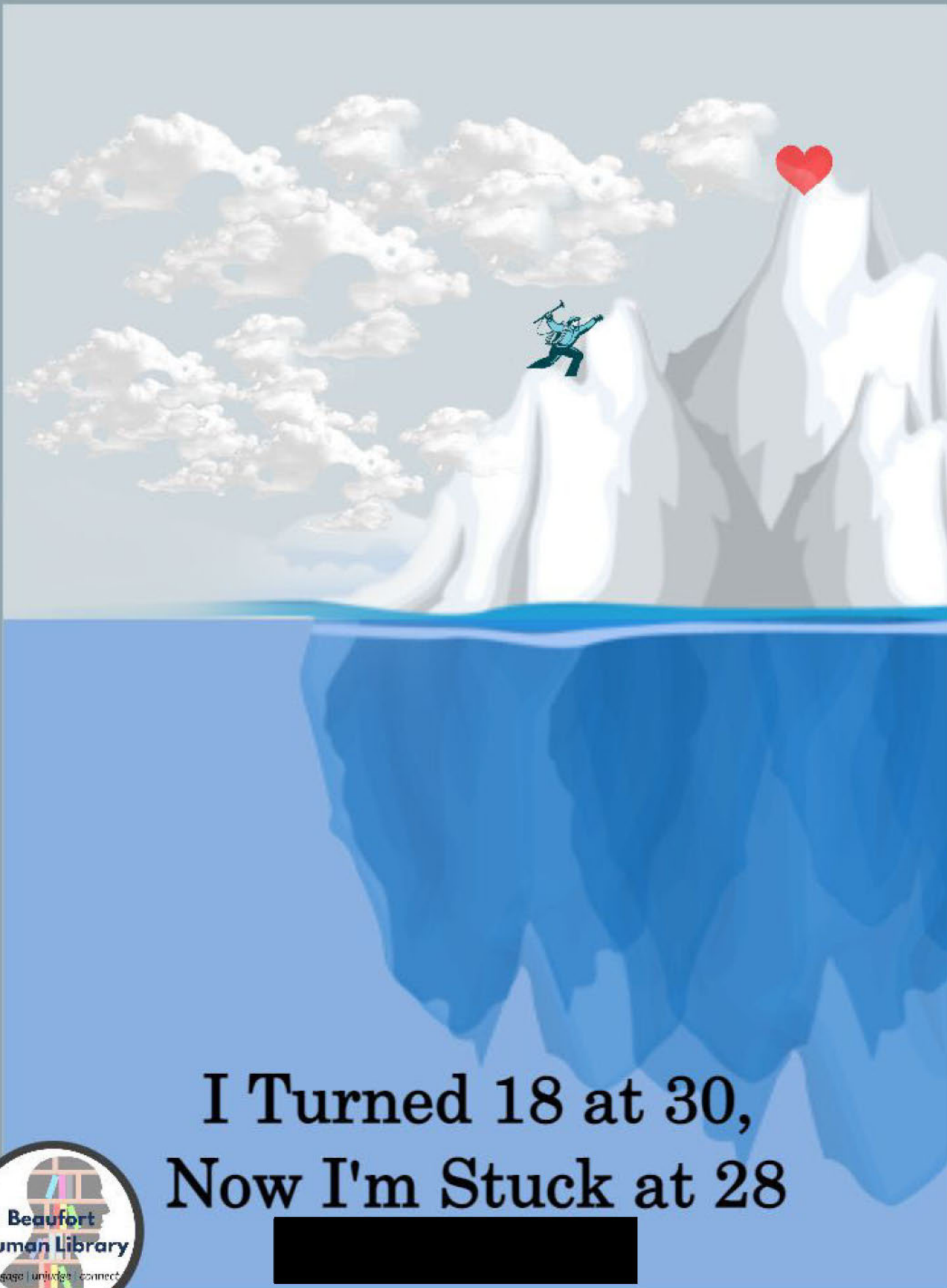
BA's DAYLO hosted a visit with De'Shawn Charles Winslow this morning, in advance of his festival appearance. They had such good questions for him. It was a wonderful experience. Riverview's stellar 7th and 8th grade ELA teachers have asked me about bringing writers their way for classroom visits as well. I'm happy to do this for BC too, if there's interest.

My thanks,  
Jonathan

# UNDERCOVER

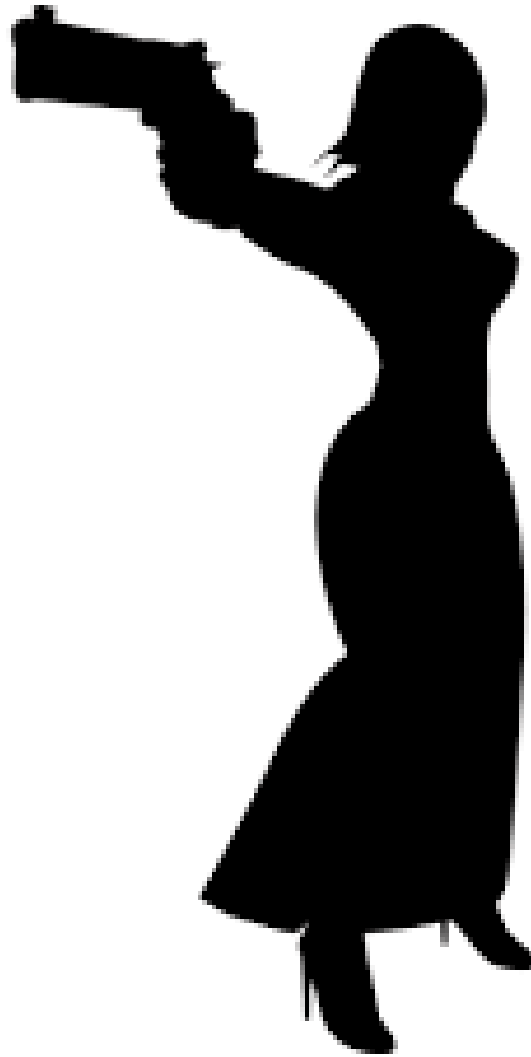




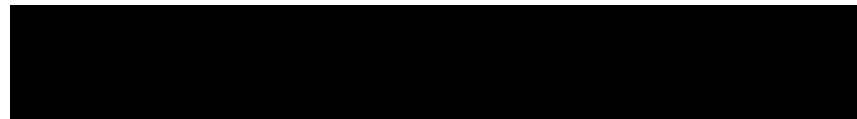


I Turned 18 at 30,  
Now I'm Stuck at 28





# Undercover



Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Oct 28, 2022, at 3:13 PM, Copeland, Ryan C  
<[Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Ryan.Copeland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Hi, Jonathan! Attached are what I've gotten thus far for the book covers. They're...what they are. I'm still waiting on a handful more submissions so I'll try to get to you by Sunday.

Ryan Copeland  
School Librarian/Teacher  
Battery Creek High School  
*NHS Advisor*  
*HOSA Co-Advisor*  
*Interact Co-Advisor*  
*Exceptionally Average Human*

<Undercover.pdf><book.pdf><Book 1.jpg>

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 10:56 PM  
**To:** Melissa D Murray  
**Subject:** Re: Book challenge response toolkits

That was still less painful than Conroy Center board meetings. (And we're having one of those tomorrow.)

I was thrilled to see such informed and passionate responses from community members—inclusive of current and former teachers and librarians, and one student. And I appreciate all of the efforts that have gone into the revised policy and procedure, which I know has been a major undertaking. I was particularly glad to see ALA guidelines so prominent in the document.

If I may suggest this, I think securing the feedback and support (when possible) from the BCSD's media specialists and librarians, who will be held accountable for the policy, and from the SCASL Intellectual Freedom committee chair Jill Tyner [REDACTED] might also help make sure that the procedure itself is equitable and less likely to be challenged throughout implementation. Inbound ALA president Emily Drabinski [REDACTED] attended SCLA earlier in October, where she participated in our model Human Library and attended the session on book challenge preparedness for public libraries. I think she's well aware of what's up in SC now, and she too might be willing to help aim you to someone in ALA's intellectual freedom community who could review and comment on the policy prior to implementation.

If the review committee meetings are open to the public, then the "vocal minority" is likely to attend and make spectacles in those forums as well. So those supportive voices from tonight's meeting, almost all of whom left before policy discussion, will need to be encouraged to show up and support the process as well, beyond being heard for 3 minutes each and applauding one another.

In the meantime, I continue to be at your service in whatever ways are helpful. And I'll let you know if/when we're able to arrange to host Marjory Wentworth for a public discussion about book challenges and bans.

On Oct 31, 2022, at 10:27 AM, Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Thank you.

---

**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 31, 2022 8:58 AM  
**To:** Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Book challenge response toolkits

**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.

See page 6 and corresponding appendices in the attached doc. Most policies like this I've seen circle back to the recommended ALA school library reconsideration policy I've linked below. The North Lamar Indie School District policy I've also linked is interesting too because of the volume of supporting documents from other resources which concludes the policy statement and resources.

I hope some of this helps.

<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2255/reconsideration\\_of\\_materials\\_packet.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2255/reconsideration_of_materials_packet.pdf)

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

On Oct 31, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)> wrote:

Thank you for these! Any chance you have gotten your hands on a rubric for review?

Thanks,  
Melissa

---

From: jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2022 9:54 AM  
To: Murray, Melissa D <[Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
Subject: Book challenge response toolkits

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#### TOOLKITS

ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom Book Challenge Toolkit:  
<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport>

National Collation Against Censorship Book Challenge Toolkit:  
<https://ncac.org/resource/book-challenge-resource-center>

NCTE Intellectual Freedom Toolkit:  
<https://ncte.org/resources/ncte-intellectual-freedom-center/#unique-identifier>

Unite Against Book Bans Toolkit:



<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>

Richland Library resources:

<https://www.richlandlibrary.com/blog/2022-03-15/how-can-i-stop-book-bans>

#### INSPIRATION

Pat Conroy's letter to the Charleston (WV) book banners

<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>

Kelly Clarkson interview w/ students who fought school book ban in PA

<https://youtu.be/TgaeRpzBBCE>

TED-Ed Student talk: What we lose when a book is banned:

<https://youtu.be/pSw8E6j1RHI>

Jonathan Haupt

Executive Director

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Jonathan Haupt  
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Unite Against Book Bans Toolkit:

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Richland Library resources:

<https://www.richlandlibrary.com/blog/2022-03-15/how-can-i-stop-book-bans>

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Jonathan Haupt

Executive Director

[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

# NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR CLASSROOM COLLECTIONS AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES

## I. MISSION AND NEEDS

The mission of the school library program is to support and provoke the intellectual, social, and personal development of all students by:

- Providing physical and intellectual access to information in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment.
- Providing instruction, learning strategies, and practice in using ideas and information for effective learning.
- Integrating the library program throughout every student's education through collaboration and advocacy.

The library provides physical and intellectual access to information, enriches, and supports the educational program of the school through a well-planned and maintained collection. It is the duty of the schools to provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, in all appropriate languages, with diversity of appeal, and presentation of different points of view.

To this end, the New York City School Library System adopts the "Library Bill of Rights" as expressed and interpreted by the American Association of School Librarians in [Access to Resources and Services in the School Library: An Interpretation of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS](#) (amended July 1, 2014).

The goals for collection development include:

To provide a comprehensive collection of instructional and independent reading materials selected in compliance with the NYC DOE Standards for Selecting Materials for Classroom Collections and School Libraries, and to provide maximum accessibility to these materials. (See APPENDIX C – Standards for Selecting Materials for Classroom Collections and School Libraries.)

To provide materials that will support the curriculum, taking into consideration the student's needs, and the varied interests, abilities, languages, socio-economic backgrounds, and maturity levels of the students served.

To provide materials for teachers and students that will encourage growth in knowledge, independent learning skills, personal and aesthetic development, and social responsibility.

To provide materials that reflect the ideas and beliefs of diverse religious, social, political, historical, and ethnic groups and their contribution to American and world heritage and culture, thereby enabling students to develop an intellectual integrity in forming judgments.

To include a written process for reviewing objections to school library materials. (See APPENDIX A – Request for Reconsideration of a Work in Classroom Collections and School Libraries.)

To ensure qualified personnel maintain professional standards in collection development in order to effectively serve teachers and students.

### **Access to Materials in Classroom Collections for Independent Reading**

Classroom Collections provide materials designated for independent reading. Collection development and curation of classroom materials are supplemental to books and resources available in a school library collection. As in school libraries, materials in a classroom should also reflect the ideas and beliefs of diverse religious, social, political, historical, and ethnic groups and their contribution to American and world heritage and culture. Please refer to the NYCDOE guide *Reading with Power and Passion: Resources to Support Independent Reading* for guidance on how to support educators as they implement or enhance independent reading in their classrooms.

The New York State Board of Regents *Policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* “expects that all school districts...will develop and implement policies and practices that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion...with fidelity and urgency” including through “books and instructional materials” (pp 1-2). The NYC DOE encourages school communities to recognize the essential role of school libraries and librarians in the comprehensive implementation of Collection Development and the Standards for Selecting Materials for Classroom Collections and School Libraries.

Together, Classroom Collections and School Libraries can provide inclusive and culturally responsive materials that reflect and embed the ideals of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

*Adapted from The New York State Board of Regents Policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.*  
<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/521bra7.pdf>

## **II. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION OF MATERIALS**

School librarians are essential to the process of selection of instructional and independent reading materials for school libraries. Selection of materials involves consultation with many people: principals, teachers, and supervisors, school librarians and library teachers, and students and parents, where applicable.

## **III. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Needs of the individual school are based on:



- A. requests of faculty and students
- B. knowledge of curriculum
- C. knowledge of student needs
- D. knowledge of student interests
- E. knowledge of the existing collection
- F. knowledge of parent needs

Materials for purchase are considered based on the following criteria:

- A. overall purpose
- B. alignment with curriculum
- C. alignment with student needs and interests
- D. timeliness or permanence
- E. importance of subject matter
- F. quality of writing/production
- G. readability and popular appeal
- H. reputation of publisher/producer
- I. authoritativeness, accuracy, validity of information
- J. reputation and significance of the author/artist/composer
- K. format and price

#### **IV. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT READING MATERIALS**

Needs of the individual school are based on:

- A. requests of students
- B. knowledge of student needs

- C. knowledge of student interests
- D. knowledge of the existing school library collection and classroom collection

Materials for purchase are considered based on the following criteria:

- A. overall purpose
- B. alignment with student needs and interests
- C. timeliness or permanence
- D. importance of subject matter
- E. quality of writing/production
- F. readability and popular appeal
- G. reputation of publisher/producer
- H. authoritativeness, accuracy, validity of information
- I. reputation and significance of the author/artist/composer
- J. format and price

## **V. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING**

In selecting materials for purchase, the school system, school librarian or library teacher evaluates the existing collection and consults:

- A. reputable, unbiased, professionally prepared selection aids
- B. specialists from all departments and/or grade levels
- C. students and other members of the school community

In specific areas the materials specialist follows these procedures:

- A. gift materials are judged by basic selection standards and are accepted or rejected by these standards

- B. multiple items of outstanding and much-in-demand resources are purchased as needed [Note: Generally, multiple copies of the same title are not acquired except to support book discussion groups (up to 8 of the same title) or multiple-class usage of theme- or curriculum-unit related materials (3 or 4 copies of key resources)]

## **VI. WEEDING**

In order to maintain the quality of the collection, materials specialists will periodically assess the collection to identify those items that are no longer appropriate. These materials will be discarded, or weeded, from the collection following these procedures:

- A. worn or missing standard items are replaced periodically
- B. out-of-date or no longer useful materials are withdrawn from the collection

## **VII. CHALLENGED MATERIALS**

Despite the care taken to select valuable materials for student/teacher use and the qualifications of persons who select the materials, objections regarding materials will occasionally be made.

The principles of the freedom to read and the professional responsibility of the staff to maintain a collection consistent with the goals set forth in this policy should guide the review of any objections regarding materials.

If a complaint is made, the librarian / library teacher or principal or their designee such as a district superintendent will follow the following procedures:

- A. Have a conversation with the complainant to listen carefully to their objections. Be courteous, gather relevant information from the complainant, provide information about the material as appropriate, and state the rationale for making the material available through the library or classroom, while refraining from making decisions or commitments for any actions at this stage.
- B. If the complainant is not satisfied, invite them to file their objections in writing and offer them a copy of "Request for Reconsideration of a Work" (see APPENDIX A) to be submitted to the principal or their designee for consideration by a Materials Evaluation Committee. The principal or their designee will ensure that all appropriate staff members are informed about the possibility of a challenge.

- C. Upon receipt of a written request for reconsideration, the principal or their designee shall inform the Department of Library Services, which will designate a Materials Evaluation Committee composed of the following representatives selected from the DOE, but not the school whose materials are being challenged:
  - 1. A representative from the central Department of Library Services (chair)
  - 2. School administrators such as a principal or assistant principal.
  - 3. A librarian or library teacher
  - 4. Two classroom teachers familiar with the subject matter of the material involved
  - 5. Two parents
  - 6. A student, where appropriate
- D. No material shall be removed from use until the Materials Evaluation Committee has made a final decision.
- E. Within three weeks the Materials Evaluation Committee shall:
  - 1. Examine and read the referred materials
  - 2. Check general acceptance of the materials by reading reviews
  - 3. Weigh values and faults against each other and form opinions based on the materials as a whole (see APPENDIX C)
  - 4. Meet to discuss the material and to prepare a report (see APPENDIX B)
  - 5. File a copy of the report in the school and central administrative offices
  - 6. Send a copy of the report to the complainant.
- F. The school shall implement the committee's decision as stated in its report.
- G. The decision may be appealed to the NYC DOE Chancellor or their designee. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Chancellor or designee will review the matter and issue a determination.

*Adapted from Library Collection Development Policy, Fayetteville (AR) School District No. 1*

## APPENDIX A

### **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF A WORK** **IN CLASSROOM COLLECTIONS AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

(Attach extra pages if needed to complete statements)

Author, composer, producer, artist, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Request initiated by \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant represents \_\_\_\_\_ himself/herself/them/they

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of organization \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Identify other group \_\_\_\_\_

1. To what in the work do you object? Please be specific, cite exact parts and explain why you object: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What value do you find in this work, if any?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you feel might be the result of reading, viewing, or listening to this work?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. For what age group would you recommend this work? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Did you read, view, or listen to the entire work? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, what pages or sections did you read, view, or listen to?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you aware of the evaluation of this work by professional review sources?



7. Are you aware of the teacher's purpose in using this work? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this work? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What would you prefer the school do about this work:  
\_\_\_\_ Do not assign or recommend it to my child.  
  
\_\_\_\_ Withdraw it from use by all students.  
  
\_\_\_\_ Withdraw it from a classroom collection but make available in another school location such as the school library  
  
\_\_\_\_ Send it back to the proper department for reevaluation.

10. In its place, what work would you recommend that would fulfill the purpose this material is being used for in an equivalent manner consistent with the New York City Department of Education's goals for collection development, including to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the complainant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## APPENDIX B

### **MATERIALS EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT FORM** **FOR CLASSROOM COLLECTIONS AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

(Attach extra pages if needed to complete statements)

Description of challenged material: (type of material, author, title, publisher, copyright, producer, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's justification for inclusion of material (include theme and purpose)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Professional reviewers' evaluation of material: (if possible include copies of reviews indicating the source)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials Evaluation Committee's decision and comments: (include statements from majority and minority positions as applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Copies sent to:

Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Librarian \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Library Services \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Chancellor \_\_\_\_\_

Chancellor \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX C

### Standards for Selecting Materials for Classroom Collections and School Libraries An Addendum to the [NYC DOE Collection Development Policy](#)

#### **Why do we need to provide a balanced collection of materials?**

The books and materials students are exposed to in and outside of school help students develop a sense of identity and self, while developing a balanced perspective of the world around them. The quality and quantity of texts impacts their learning, personal growth, and development. Schools selecting materials for school libraries and classroom collections should be cognizant of the mission of the school, community, inclusiveness, quality of literature, authentic voices, and representation fostering the ability for students to embrace their identities and to learn to respect others. A balanced collection should also provide equitable access to physical and intellectual information that is readily available, discoverable, includes multiple perspectives, and opposing viewpoints.

#### **How do we prevent marginalization and celebrate differences?**

Diversity is a source of knowledge and must be taught and celebrated. Our differences make us unique and bring distinct and independent perspectives to teaching and learning. Although texts should be representative of the differences in the world, not all materials present the same. Schools selecting materials for school libraries and classroom collections should understand the need to vet and evaluate text in a collection individually and as a part of a larger collection using the selection criteria in this addendum and the [NYC DOE Collection Development Policy](#).

It is important that selection is conducted by an individual with extensive knowledge of curriculum, pedagogy, educational standards, children's literature, current trends and initiatives, professional review sources, and collection development policy.

If a title is questioned or challenged, make it a teachable moment. Students need the ability to make decisions, ask deep and objective questions, and develop opinions. If a book is challenged, follow the Challenged Materials Policy outlined in the NYC DOE Collection Development Policy. The step-by-step guidance starts with a conversation and listening to the complainant. This ability to objectively analyze and assess is the foundation of our roles as educators and our responsibility to empower each and every student to do the same.

#### **What is the criteria for selecting instructional and independent reading materials?**

The needs of the school and community, as well as the needs and interests of the student need to be considered when selecting material for instruction, as well as for independent reading.

#### **Needs of the Individual school are based on:**

- requests of faculty and students
- knowledge of curriculum and content areas
- alignment with [CR-SE](#)
- knowledge of current educational trends and initiatives
- knowledge of student needs
- knowledge of student interests
- knowledge of family needs
- knowledge of community
- knowledge of existing collections (in the classroom and in the library)

| Selection Criteria                                  | Questions to Consider  |
|---|--|
| <b>Overall Purpose of the Title</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the title selected for a class read, independent reading, or a part of a lesson or unit plan?</li> <li>• How will a student or teacher use this information?</li> <li>• Is the title supplemental to other texts?</li> <li>• Is the title a part of a text set?</li> <li>• Is the title intended for the school library or a classroom collection?</li> <li>• Is the title a part of a series?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Curriculum Alignment</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the title align with specific content?</li> <li>• Is there alignment with current curricula, NYC/NYS content standards, and curriculum resources?</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Alignment with Students' Needs and Interests</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the title support student interest and choice?</li> <li>• Are students' ethnicities, social classes, genders, languages, sexual orientations, nationalities, religions, and abilities represented? If they are representative, is the inclusion appropriate and respectful?</li> <li>• Does the title help engage students in youth participatory action research that empowers youth to be agents of positive change in their community?</li> </ul> |
| <b>Timeliness or Permanence</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the title the most current on the topic or superseded by other information or editions?</li> <li>• What is the shelf life of the title? Will the information become out-of-date quickly?</li> <li>• Is the information available elsewhere in an appropriate format (i.e. research database)?</li> <li>• Is the information foundational to the topic?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Importance of Subject Matter</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is the subject of this title appropriate and important for students?</li> <li>• Does the title help reframe the ethnocentric framework that privileges the historically advantaged at the expense of disadvantaged and minority groups?</li> <li>• Is the title from the point of view and/or experience of an underrepresented group?</li> </ul>   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Quality of Writing and Production</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the writing well-edited?</li> <li>• Are there spelling, grammar, and mechanical errors?</li> <li>• Does the writing serve a purpose?</li> <li>• Is the information organized and presented in a clear and concise manner?</li> <li>• For factual information, are sources cited? Do the sources support, extend, and inform the content presented?</li> </ul>        |
| <b>Readability and Popular Appeal</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the book promote a love of reading?</li> <li>• Will students find the content interesting?</li> <li>• Does the content have popular appeal to a wide audience?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Reputation of Publisher or Producer</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the title self-published or published by a creditable publisher?</li> <li>• Does the title have vetted, reputable, unbiased, and professional reviews discussing the merit of the work?</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Authoritativeness, Accuracy, Validity of information</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have content specialists reviewed titles for accuracy, authority, and validity?</li> <li>• Does the author have authority and expertise on the subject matter presented?</li> <li>• Is credible and age-appropriate content available on the topic?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Reputation and Significance of the Author/Artist/Illustrator/Composer</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the author has current or past issues, alleged or proven misconduct, (i.e. acts of racism, sexism, insensitivity to different groups, etc.), would you want students to read materials from them? Are there alternative sources and titles?</li> <li>• Does the conduct of an author/artist/illustrator/composer/creator impact the validity of the work?</li> </ul> |
| <b>Format and Price</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the price sustainable for maintaining the collection?</li> <li>• For digital content, does the license provide cost-effective accessibility?</li> <li>• Are multiple formats available to meet diverse learning and reading styles including audio, large print, and digital formats?</li> <li>• Are Open Educational Resources (OER) an option?</li> </ul>          |

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 31, 2022 8:58 AM  
**To:** Melissa D Murray  
**Subject:** Re: Book challenge response toolkits  
**Attachments:** NYCDOE\_Collection\_Development\_Policy\_Revised\_5\_2022.doc; attachment.html

**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.

See page 6 and corresponding appendices in the attached doc. Most policies like this I've seen circle back to the recommended ALA school library reconsideration policy I've linked below. The North Lamar Indie School District policy I've also linked is interesting too because of the volume of supporting documents from other resources which concludes the policy statement and resources.

I hope some of this helps.

<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2255/reconsideration\\_of\\_materials\\_packet.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2255/reconsideration_of_materials_packet.pdf)



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**From:** Murray, Melissa D <Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 31, 2022 8:37 AM  
**To:** jonathan haupt  
**Subject:** RE: Book challenge response toolkits

Thank you for these! Any chance you have gotten your hands on a rubric for review?

Thanks,  
Melissa

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 29, 2022 9:54 AM  
**To:** Murray, Melissa D <Melissa.Murray@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Book challenge response toolkits

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## TOOLKITS

ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom Book Challenge Toolkit:

<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport>

National Collation Against Censorship Book Challenge Toolkit:

<https://ncac.org/resource/book-challenge-resource-center>

NCTE Intellectual Freedom Toolkit:

<https://ncte.org/resources/ncte-intellectual-freedom-center/#unique-identifier>

Unite Against Book Bans Toolkit:

<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>

Richland Library resources:

<https://www.richlandlibrary.com/blog/2022-03-15/how-can-i-stop-book-bans>

## INSPIRATION

Pat Conroy's letter to the Charleston (WV) book banners

<https://patconroy.com/a-letter-to-the-editor-of-the-charleston-gazette/>

Kelly Clarkson interview w/ students who fought school book ban in PA

<https://youtu.be/TgaeRpzBBCE>

TED-Ed Student talk: What we lose when a book is banned:

<https://youtu.be/pSw8E6j1RHI>

Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
[PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org](http://PatConroyLiteraryCenter.org)

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**From:** jonathan haupt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 29, 2022 9:54 AM  
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**Subject:** Book challenge response toolkits

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Jonathan Haupt  
Executive Director  
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