Dear Beaufort County School Board,

Please consider this a formal appeal to the Review Committee's recommendation to the Board for book numbers:

- **27- *The Art of Racing in the Rain*** by Garth Stein **— returned completely**
- **28- *The Bluest Eye*** by Toni Morrison **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **29- *The Female of the Species*** by Mindy McGinnis **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **31- T*he Upside of Unrequited*** by Becky Albertalli **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **32- *The You I've Never Known*** by Ellen Hopkins **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **33- *This One Summer*** by Mariko Tamaki **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **34- *Tilt*** by Ellen Hopkins **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **35- *Wintergirls*** by Laurie Halse Anderson **— returned to grades 6-12**
- **36- *Yolk*** by Mary H.K. Choi **— returned to grades 9-12**

Again, I will ask that all pertinent material concerning the Review Committees be made available to the complainants upon notification of decisions by the Committees. As it is now, a Freedom of Information Act request is required. This has yet to be addressed. I do not feel that I can fully complete my appeals without this information being provided in a timely manner.

The first thing I would like to address is that the District allowed the teacher that heads up DAYLO (Diversity Awareness Youth Literacy Organization) at Beaufort High School to serve on one of the review committees. That seems like a conflict of interest since her student organization is fighting so hard against these efforts. To me, that would be like allowing myself or Mike Covert to serve on a review committee. Additionally, another person who heads up the same group at a private school was also allowed to serve. If the District wants to give the impression that these committees are independent and actually represent the community, I would suggest that in the future, anyone associated with this student group not be allowed to serve in this capacity.

This brings me to the process of the review committees. As I've stated before, the committees already have a majority of District employees on them. To fill the community spots with District employees further stacks them with members that likely will not be biased in their review. This should be more of a review by the community than a review by employees who may feel their integrity and professionalism are being questioned. I cannot tell you how many times I've heard that we just need to trust the teachers and librarians to do what they were trained to do. Were they trained to bring in

material that is not age or grade appropriate? If not, why are there books in our school libraries that can be considered pornographic? Is it that they are intentionally bringing in these books or have they put too much trust in the associations and publishers to not actually look at a book's content to realize it is not appropriate? Books with content of this nature were not in school libraries 20 years ago. Why are they now? Is it intentional? Now that the books are being reviewed and returned to the library by a majority vote by the Board, it is intentional.

The second thing that I would like to address is a study by The American College of Pediatricians titled ***The Impact of Pornography on Children***[1] linked below.
I hope that each of you takes the time to read this study. It is extremely important to the topic that is being addressed- sexuality in books found in our School District's libraries.

ABSTRACT: The availability and use of pornography has become almost ubiquitous among adults and adolescents. Consumption of pornography is associated with many negative emotional, psychological, and physical health outcomes. These include increased rates of depression, anxiety, acting out and violent behavior, younger age of sexual debut, sexual promiscuity, increased risk of teen pregnancy, and a distorted view of relationships between men and women. For adults, pornography results in an increased likelihood of divorce which is also harmful to children. The American College of Pediatricians urges healthcare professionals to communicate the risks of pornography use to patients and their families and to offer resources both to protect children from viewing pornography and to treat individuals suffering from its negative effects.

https://acpeds.org/assets/The-Impact-of-Pornography-on-Children.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1sU7T1xhn3N04l49XDh1cDTgfBcjmrk9RZmW9PHIeJitWdmVDN3GtNcvc

I would like to address the misinformation about the reason for these book review requests. Many from the other side say that it is to target minorities (especially black) and LGBTQ+ authors. I will once again share the statistics with you for the 96 books that I submitted. I want to reiterate that the sole purpose of challenging these books was because of the adult content that they contain with some actually containing pornography. The racial makeup of the authors is 22% minority with only 11% being black. I was able to determine the sexual makeup of the authors as 16% identifying

[1] "The Impact of Pornography on Children American College of Pediatricians – June 2016 ." *ACPEDS.ORG*, June 2016, https://acpeds.org/assets/The-Impact-of-Pornography-on-Children.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1sU7T1xhn3N04l49XDh1cDTgfBcjmrk9RZmW9PHIeJitWdmVDN3GtNcvc.

LGBTQ+ with another 3% probable out of the 68 authors. So in total a probability of 19% of the authors.

Statistics for Submitted Book List

Total Number of Books Submitted	96
Number of Books with Authors	95

Racial Makeup of Authors

Percentage of White Authors	78%
Percentage of Minority Authors	22%
Black	11%
Asian	4%
Hispanic	4%
Afghan	1%
Iranian	1%

Sexual Preference Based on Biographies of Authors (68 Authors)

Percentage of Authors Who are Heterosexual	81%
Percentage of Authors who are LGBTQ+	16%
Percentage of Authors who might be LGBTQ+	3%

The First Amendment does not protect supplying non-age appropriate material to minors. The state of South Carolina considers the age of majority to be 18. We do have 18 year olds in high school but that does not mean that younger students should be granted access to material that is not appropriate for them. Unfortunately, many of the Associations and Organizations are complicit in labeling literature “young adult” while defining that as age 12 and up. Ages 12-17 are MINORS! By definition, according to the state, a young adult is 18 and over.

Please use the hyperlink for each book to review why they should not be available to minors without parental consent (Please note that in this grouping of books, there were 3 books that had a rating of 4 out of 5. One of those books was voted to be removed. Why would the Board not use that book as an example of similar books that should be removed but were voted to go back on the shelves? If 1 book rated 4 is bad enough not to be returned, should not the rest be as well?):

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein Rated 3
Voted to go back into circulation without restrictions meaning this book can be checked out by someone as young as Kindergarten. Although they likely cannot read it, an advanced 3rd grader would be able to. This is extremely concerning considering the content it contains.
Available at the following schools:
Bluffton High School
Bluffton Middle School
HE McCracken Middle School
May River High School
Robert Smalls International High School
Book Summary:
A dying dog recalls the memories of his life with his human family.
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains sexual activities; sexual nudity; profanity; and alcohol use

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	3
Bitch	2
Fuck	10
Goddamn	1
Piss	1
Shit	6

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/A/The%20Art%20of%20Racing%20in%20the%20RAin.pdf

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison Rated 4
Voted to only go back into Circulation to High Schools. Meaning this book could be checked out by someone as young as 14.
Available at the following schools:
Battery Creek High School
Bluffton High School
Hilton Head Island High School
Whale Branch Early College High School

Summary of Concerns: This book contains profanity and derogatory terms; sexual activities including sexual assault and molestation; alcohol use; inflammatory racial and religious commentary and references.

Profanity	Count
Ass	1
Bitch	1
Coon	2
Fuck	3
Nigger	8

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/B/the%20Bluest%20Eye.pdf

The Female of the Species by Mindy McGinnis Rated 3
Voted to only go back into Circulation to High Schools. Meaning this book could be checked out by someone as young as 14.
Available at the following schools:
Battery Creek High School
Bluffton High School
Hilton Head Island High School
Whale Branch Early College High School
Book Summary:
The story of three teenagers whose lives become intertwined and changed forever after a tragic incident.
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains excessive/frequent profanity; sexual activities; violence; sexual nudity; underage alcohol use; drug use; and sexual assault.

Profanity	Count
Ass	13
Bitch	11
Dick	19
Fuck	74

Goddamn	8
Piss	11
Pussy	5
Shit	109

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/F/The%20Female%20of%20the%20species.pdf

The Upside of Unrequited by Becky Albertalli Rated 3
Voted to only go back into Circulation to High Schools. Meaning this book could be checked out by someone as young as 14.
Available at the following schools:
Bluffton High School
Bluffton Middle School
Hilton Head Island High School
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains inexplicit sexual nudity; sexual activities; references to sexuality; alcohol use; and frequent/excessive profanity.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	11
Bitch	2
Dick	2
Fuck	51
Piss	7
Shit	45

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/U/the%20upside%20of%20unrequited.pdf

The You I've Never Known by Ellen Hopkins Rate 3
Voted to only go back into Circulation to High Schools. Meaning this book could be checked out by someone as young as 14.

Available at the following schools:
Battery Creek High School
Bluffton High School
Hilton Head Island High School
May River High School
Book Summary:
A seventeen-year-old girl struggles with her identity and sexual preference, eventually learning that her father has lied to her for the past fourteen years.
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains controversial racial and sexual commentary; alternate sexualities; profanity and derogatory terms; alcohol and drug use; sexual activities; and violence.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	7
Bitch	16
Cock	1
Dick	2
Dyke	8
Fuck	32
Piss	10
Prick	1
Pussy	2
Shit	34
Wetback	1

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/Y/The%20You%20Ive%20Never%20Known.pdf

This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki Rated 3
Voted to only go back into Circulation to High Schools. Meaning this book could be checked out by someone as young as 14.
Available at the following schools:
Battery Creek High School
Hilton Head Island High School

May River High School
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains sexual activities; alcohol use involving minors; and profanity.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	10
Bitch	5
Fuck	4

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/T/This%20One%20Summer.pdf

Tilt by Ellen Hopkins Rated 4
Voted to only go back into Circulation to High Schools. Meaning this book could be checked out by someone as young as 14.
Available at the following schools:
Bluffton High School
May River High School
Whale Branch Early College High School
Summary of Concerns:
This book has sexually explicit excerpts involving minors. The book also contains sexual assault, underage drinking, illegal drug abuse, and profanity.

Profanity	**Count**
Bitch	12
Fuck	26
Piss	17
Shit	23

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/T/Tilt.pdf

Wintergirls by Laurie Halse Anderson Rated 3
Voted to only go back into Circulation to Middle and High Schools. Meaning this book could be checked out by someone as young as 10.
Available at the following schools:
Battery Creek High School

Bluffton High School
HE McCracken Middle School
Hilton Head Island Middle School
Whale Branch Early College High School

Book Summary:

A teenage girl remembers her bulimic friend who died, as she nearly dies during her battles with anorexia, bulimia, and
cutting.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains self-harm including anorexia, bulimia, cutting and suicidal ideations; alcohol use; drug use; and profanity and derogatory terms.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	2
Bitch	9
Dyke	2
Fuck	1
Piss	3

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/W/Wintergirls.pdf

Yolk by Mary H.K. Choi Rated 3

Voted to only go back into Circulation to High Schools. Meaning this book could be checked out by someone as young as 14.

Available at the following schools:

Bluffton High School
Hilton Head Island High School

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains racist commentary; sexual nudity; sexual activities; and excessive/frequent profanity and derogatory terms.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	24
Bitch	14
Chink	2

Dick	12
Fuck	109
Goddamn	3
Piss	7
Prick	1
Pussy	1
Shit	115
Tit	1

http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/Y/yolk.pdf