From: Mercado, Amelia B <Amelia.Mercado@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 3:56 PM
To: 'newsroom@islandpacket.com' <newsroom@islandpacket.com>; 'btolley@islandpacket.com' <btolley@islandpacket.com>; 'mdimitrov@islandpacket.com' <mdimitrov@islandpacket.com>; 'Sofia Sanchez' <ssanchez@islandpacket.com>; 'Kapuckett@islandpacket.com' <Kapuckett@islandpacket.com>; 'gsmith@islandpacket.com' <gsmith@islandpacket.com>; 'RHartdegen@gannett.com' <RHartdegen@gannett.com>; 'theislandnews@gmail.com' <theislandnews@gmail.com>; 'schoolnews@beaufortislandnews.com' <schoolnews@beaufortislandnews.com>; 'editor@hargray.com' <editor@hargray.com>; 'news@wtoc.com' <news@wtoc.com>; 'btyson@wtoc.com' <btyson@wtoc.com>; 'Sam.Bauman@gray.tv' <Sam.Bauman@gray.tv>; 'flynn.snyder@wtoc.com' <flynn.snyder@wtoc.com>; 'breakingnews@wsav.com' <breakingnews@wsav.com>; 'adavis@wsav.com' <adavis@wsav.com>; 'BBuffington@wsav.com' <BBuffington@wsav.com>; 'bgallagher@wsav.com' <bgallagher@wsav.com>; 'news@wjcl.com' <news@wjcl.com>; 'achristian@hearst.com' <achristian@hearst.com>; 'riley.miller@hearst.com' <riley.miller@hearst.com>; 'Nikiya.Carrero@hearst.com' <Nikiya.Carrero@hearst.com>; 'michelle.anderson@hearst.com' <michelle.anderson@hearst.com>; 'FrontDesk@whhitv.com' <FrontDesk@whhitv.com>; 'latia@whhitv.com' <latia@whhitv.com>; 'pedro@elinformador.us' <pedro@elinformador.us>; 'Lisa@elinformador.us' <Lisa@elinformador.us>; 'gullah@thegullannews.net' <gullah@thegullannews.net>; 'billedwards@clearchannel.com' <billedwards@clearchannel.com>; 'admin@somosuno1.com' <admin@somosuno1.com>; 'ggtrask@yahoo.com' <ggtrask@yahoo.com>; 'beaufort@thedigitel.com' <beaufort@thedigitel.com>; 'info@beaufortdigital.com' <info@beaufortdigital.com>; 'jess@beaufortdigital.com' <jess@beaufortdigital.com>; 'smccammon@gpb.org' <smccammon@gpb.org>; 'ascd@smartbrief.com' <ascd@smartbrief.com>; 'bctv@bcgov.net' <bctv@bcgov.net>
Cc: Cushingberry, Robyn L <Robyn.Cushingberry@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; BOEOnly <BOEOnly@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Rodriguez, Francisco <Francisco.Rodriguez@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Stratos, Mary E <Mary.Stratos@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Walton, Alice W <Alice.Walton@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Crosby, Tonya V <Tonya.Crosby@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Chauhan, Mark H <mark.chauhan@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Oetting, Robert S <Robert.Oetting@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Cartledge, Wendy B <Wendy.Cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Beaufort County Board of Education Meeting Notice

The agenda for the upcoming Beaufort County Board of Education meeting is attached.

Molly Mercado
Administrative Associate
Beaufort County School District

amelia.mercado@beaufort.k12.sc.us
(843)322-0731

Agenda

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
Multi-Purpose Gym
10 Bus Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
June 27, 2023
4:30 p.m. Executive Session
6:00 – 9:15 p.m. Public Session
Hybrid Video Conferencing
This meeting will be live streamed by the County Channel

Request for Public Comments participation will be accepted between 5:00pm–5:30pm by sending an email with your name, phone #, and topic to robyn.cushingberry@beaufort.k12.sc.us.
You will receive a phone call during Public Comments where you will be able to speak and address the Board for a maximum of *three minutes* on issues within the Board's domain. The forum will be limited to 30 minutes.

If you are in person, you may address the Board for a maximum of three minutes on issues within the Board's domain. Each speaker must fill out a Public Comment Card. Please see the Board Clerk for a card.

Request for the second Public Comments will be accepted between 7:00 – 7:30pm in the same manner as above. The second Public Comments will take place prior to adjournment no later than 9:00pm. The second forum will be limited to 15 minutes.

In the event the Board has not finished addressing all items listed in the June 27, 2023 Agenda, the Board will reconvene at 6:00 pm on June 28, 2023, the next business day to finish the agenda items.

***Mission*: The Beaufort County School District, through a personalized learning approach, will prepare graduates who compete and succeed in an ever-changing global society and career marketplace.**	**Coherent Governance Reference**
4:30 p.m. Executive Session • Receipt of legal advice related to a pending legal claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2) • Receipt of legal advice related to social media litigation covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2) • Receipt of legal advice related to one dismissed legal claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2) • Discussion of employment, appointment, promotion, compensation pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1)	
6:00 p.m. Call to Order **Public Session**	Policy GC-2.20
Action as Necessary or Appropriate Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Session	
Approval of Agenda	
Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, Statement of Media Notification	
Points of Celebration	
First Public Comments - See information above	Policy GC-2.23.I.IV
Chairman's Report	
Committee Reports: (A vote may take place on any potential recommendation) • Finance • Technology	
Superintendent's Report Goal #1 Student Achievement	

• Biology Textbook Adoption Recommended motion to approve the adoption of the following state approved Biology book titles as presented from the May 24, 2023 Academic Committee Meeting: Biology I: Inspire Science: Biology, McGraw Hill Biology 2: SC Miller & Levine Biology Savvas Learning AP Biology: Biology for the AP Course, Bedford, Freeman and Worth Goal #2 Highly Qualified Teachers and Administrators N/A Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility N/A Goal #4 Policy Development and Implementation N/A Goal #5 Supervision and Evaluation of the Superintendent N/A Other Matters N/A	
Board Business Action • 8% Bond Resolution $30,000,000 ➢ Recommended motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing a bond issuance and sale in an amount not to exceed $30,000,000 to fund the FY2025 8% capital projects. • SCAGO Installment Purchase Bond Resolution $3,000,000 ➢ Recommended motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing the SCAGO installment purchase bond issuance and sale in an amount not to exceed $3,000,000. • 2nd and final reading for the motion that the Board of Education add "and Volunteers" to the end of OE.4 sub 5 • 2nd and final reading for recommended motion that Policy GC-5.1 second sentence:" Committee customarily will prepare recommendations in a form of a motion for future Board agenda and consideration" • 2nd and final reading for recommended motion to add to GC2.11.b that any committee reports not available at the time of the draft agenda for Board members will be placed on the following board meeting agenda. • Board Determination on the Appeals from the Materials Reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books: ➢ Ask the Passengers by A.S. King ➢ Collateral by Ellen Hopkins ➢ Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Maas ➢ Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas ➢ Living Dead Girl by Elizabeth Scott ➢ More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera ➢ Perfect by Ellen Hopkins	
Consent Agenda • June 2, 2023 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes • June 13, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes	
Future Agenda Topics	
Announcements	
Second Public Comments – See information above.	Policy GC-2. 23.I.IV
Adjournment **Adjournment until next business day: if the Board has not finished addressing all items listed on the June 27, 2023 Agenda, the Board will adjourn at 9:15 p.m. and will reconvene at 6:00 p.m. on June 28, 2023.** The Beaufort County Board of Education and the Beaufort County School District can be accessed at: beaufortschools.net; County Channel: CABLE CAST: (See Schedule for Replay Times); (Live)Hargray, CH 9, 113; (Replay)Comcast, CH 2; Spectrum, CH 1304; beaufortcountysc.gov (for online Video-On-Demand viewing) **Please use County Channel's ALTERNATE STREAM if this meeting is not being broadcast through television: https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCountyChannel**	

From: Mercado, Amelia B <Amelia.Mercado@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 12:08 PM
To: BOE <BOE@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Cc: BCSD Senior Staff DL <BCSDSeniorStaffDL@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: RE: Book Appeals JUNE 2023

Thank you. The committee reviews have been placed in BoardDocs under the June 27th Board Meeting (draft) to comply with the 15 day response window.

Molly Mercado
Administrative Assistant
Beaufort County School District
amelia.mercado@beaufort.k12.sc.us
(843)322-0731

From: Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>

Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 11:03 AM
To: BOE <BOE@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Cc: BCSD Senior Staff DL <BCSDSeniorStaffDL@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: FW: Book Appeals JUNE 2023

Please see the attached appeal submitted by Mr. Covert today.

From: Mike Covert [redacted]
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 10:37 AM
To: Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Book Appeals JUNE 2023

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.

All-

My Appeal to the latest Boo Review Committee assessment is attached.

Thank you-

Michael E Covert
Mike Covert
[redacted]

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Our Locations

From: Mercado, Amelia B <Amelia.Mercado@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 4:53 PM
To: BOEOnly <BOEOnly@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Cc: Cushingberry, Robyn L <Robyn.Cushingberry@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Rodriguez, Francisco <Francisco.Rodriguez@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Board Meeting Documents

Good Afternoon Board,
The documents for our next board meeting are available in BoardDocs under draft meetings. Please let me know if you find anything missing. Thank you!

Molly Mercado
Administrative Assistant
Beaufort County School District
amelia.mercado@beaufort.k12.sc.us
(843)322-0731

Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L

Subject: FW: Book Appeal 7
Attachments: Book Appeal 7.pdf

From: Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 12:31 PM
To: BOE <BOE@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Cc: BCSD Senior Staff DL <BCSDSeniorStaffDL@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Fwd: Book Appeal 7

Please see the attached appeal submitted by Ms. Szalai today.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Ivie Szalai <iszalai@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 12:13 PM
To: Cushingberry, Robyn L <robyn.cushingberry@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <Candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Book Appeal 7

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Ivie Szalai

Dear Beaufort County School Board,

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

- **55- *Ask the Passengers*** by A.S. King **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **56- *Collateral*** by Ellen Hopkins **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **57- *A Court of Mist and Fury*** by Sarah J. Maas **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **58- *A Court of Thorns and Roses*** by Sarah J. Maas **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **59- *Living Dead Girl*** by Elizabeth Scott **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **60- *More Happy Than Not*** by Adam Silvera **— returned to grades 9-12**
- **61- *Perfect*** by Ellen Hopkins **— 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.

As much as I would like to just tell the Board that I am appealing the decisions of the review committees, I feel compelled each time to give reasons for my appeal. I think that it is the right thing to do in justifying my actions in the first place even though I know most of the Board members are not reading them. In the end, it will show that I did my due diligence and the ones who refused to read my appeals did not. It still amazes me that the Board put a book like Push back on the shelves. If any of you had taken the time actually to look at the content of the book, I think that at least a few more of you would have been appalled. I have yet to talk to someone about this topic that has looked at the material and thinks that it is appropriate. And I have talked to a good many people.

Definitions of Pornography from 3 different sources:

Merriam-Webster-

Pornography
noun
por·nog·ra·phy pȯr-ˈnä-grə-fē
1: the depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement
2: material (such as books or a photograph) that depicts erotic behavior and is intended to cause sexual excitement

3: the depiction of acts in a sensational manner so as to arouse a quick intense emotional reaction

Cambridge Dictionary-

pornography
noun [U] disapproving
UK /pɔːˈnɒg.rə.fi/ US /pɔːrˈnɑː.grə.fi/
books, magazines, films, etc. with no artistic value that describe or show sexual acts or naked people in a way that is intended to be sexually exciting

Dictionary.com-

pornography
[pawr-nog-ruh-fee]
noun
sexually explicit videos, photographs, writings, or the like, whose purpose is to elicit sexual arousal.

I highlighted above showing that literature/books can be pornographic. The excerpts from many of the books that were submitted do fall under each of these definitions. So those that want to say that there is no pornographic material in our schools are either uninformed or with no moral compass. I hope those that do have a moral compass choose to do the work to become informed and join us in helping to protect minors from inappropriate material.

Recently I saw a quote from Ernest Hemingway used at a Freedom to Read SC event. *“All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you: the good and the bad, the ecstasy, the remorse and sorrow, the people and the places and how the weather was. If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer.”*

I completely agree with Mr. Hemingway given all of the above; however, I wonder if he would wish a minor to feel like the book Push happened to them? I wonder if he would find it appropriate that a 14 year old could read about how her pussy was poppin' when she was being raped by her father? Wouldn’t that be equated to the mental rape of a 14 year olds mind? How can any of you be alright with exposing minors to this kind of material? The argument that they can access any of this on their devices does not stand up when parents put parental controls on the devices. And it should not even have to be defended because a school is an academic institution where the number one priority should be to protect minors in any form. To say I am disappointed at the outright brushoff from the majority of this board is an understatement.

Ask the Passengers by A.S. King **Rated 3**
Voted to go back into circulation with no restrictions. Meaning this book could now be purchased and placed in Middle and Elementary Schools.
Available at the following schools:
Bluffton High School
Hilton Head Island High School
May River High School
Whale Branch Early College High School
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains alcohol and drug use; profanity and derogatory terms; sexual activities; alternate sexualities.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	**7**
Bitch	**4**
Dyke	**4**
Fuck	**11**
Piss	**1**
Pussy	**1**
Shit	**19**

Collateral 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:
Beaufort High School
Book Summary: A young marine and his girlfriend's relationship becomes stressed with his multiple deployments overseas.
Summary of Concerns: This book contains obscene sexual activities; sexual nudity; profanity; alcohol and drug use and abuse; and violence.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	11
Bitch	4
Cock	3
Fuck	59
Piss	14
Shit	10

A Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Maas **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:
Hilton Head Island High School
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains sexual nudity; sexual activities; violence; and profanity.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	17
Bitch	2
Cock	3
Fuck	12
Piss	27
Prick	26
Shit	18
Tit	1

A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas **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:
Hilton Head Island High School
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains graphic violence; explicit sexual nudity; obscene sexual activities; and mild profanity.

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	5
Bitch	1
Piss	2
Prick	10
Shit	9

Living Dead Girl by Elizabeth Scott **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:
Beaufort High School
May River High School
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains explicit violence including child abuse; explicit sexual activities including sexual assault and battery; and sexual nudity.

More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera **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:
Beaufort Middle School
Bluffton High School
Bluffton Middle School
May River High School
Whale Branch Early College High School

Book Summary:
A teenage boy recalls his memories after attempting to change his sexuality and his hurtful past, by having a memory-erasing procedure.
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains alternate sexualities; sexual activities; sexual nudity; excessive/frequent profanity; derogatory terms; alcohol and drug use; and self-harm including suicide.

Profanity/Derogatory	**Count**
Ass	25
Bitch	25
Dick	14
Fag/Faggot	8
Fuck	116
Piss	20
Pussy	1
Shit	71
Spic	1

Perfect 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:
Beaufort High School
Bluffton High School
HE McCracken Middle School
May River High School
Summary of Concerns:
This book contains sexual activities including sexual assault; drug and alcohol abuse; profanity and derogatory terms; controversial racial commentary; selfharm including anorexia and suicide

Profanity	**Count**
Ass	16
Bitch	13
Dick	2
Dyke	1
Fuck	30
Piss	9
Prick	1
Shit	10

Appeal to the Beaufort County School Board

23 JUNE 2023

Book Review Committee Review

Michael E Covert, Appellant

Beaufort County School Board

2900 Mink Point Boulevard

Beaufort, SC 29902

Current Books Appealed: "*Ask the Passengers"; Collateral"; A Court of Mist and Fury"; A Court of Thorns and Roses"; "Living Dead Girl"; "More Happy Than Not", and "Perfect".*

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Chair Gwodz, School Board Members, Superintendent Rodriguez;

Please consider this as my formal appeal to the above referenced books, supposedly reviewed by separate review committees.

I thank you for receiving this appeal, I would think it would be appropriate and professional of all members acknowledge whether or not you are reading these appeals. I have spoken to four (4) members, three (3) have and one (1) has admitted he has not.

I also want to address an "elephant in the room". Some of the more egregious people that regularly attend School Board meetings in an effort to publicly demean me and some of the other citizens who believe such as I; have been operating a smear campaign. Several of them have posted addresses of some folks online; some have made publicly false accusations; all have been derogatory and now several are quoting me on something inaccurately.
In a previous appeal, I QUOTED from a book from an African American female Doctor of Medicine on the subject of books, or, obscenities etc….however you are allowing people to now take it, tweak it, and call it a quote from me. It is those folks who may not have had an experience in holding public office and acts such as this are harmful and unfair. Acts such as this could actually lead to people NOT being involved in this process because of a hard left leaning, politically motivated group's desires and devious plans. I ask you to address this. NOWHERE in my, or the other complainant's Appeals, have we said ANYTHING derogatory or defaming of these people. The same courtesy should be applied.

I also find it imperative to make perfectly clear— my concern in this issue, and my appeal(s) have absolutely nothing to do with politics in any form. There are those bad actors out there that either have tried to make it or will try to make it political. I have not and will not do so. As a matter fact, since the last appeal, those opposing what Mrs. Szalai and I have been appealing as the "complainants", has gone so far off of the rails and that the only substantive result is that it is THEY that are doing this as a form of politicizing the event(s).

While reviewing this appeal, I ask that each of you have a copy of the ***Beaufort County School District Progressive Discipline Plan Student Code of Conduct*** handy beside you. Throughout this handbook, keeping these books on the shelves is violating your OWN regulations set forth for student conduct. How can you enforce regulations of inappropriate materials with irreverent or inappropriate language; obscene language, gestures, writing, comments etc; the possession of pornography; using obscene language; using violence towards people; using violence

towards females; etc--- when you would be glorifying it through the constant use of these materials. The irony and double standards would be deafening.

The School Board Trustees need to understand and comprehend what is at "play" here:

- Currently, the SC General Assembly also feels that this entire subject is important enough that both houses of the General Assembly have undertaken Bills that would immediately address ALL of the 97 books that were requested to be reviewed, and even more.
- UPDATE to previous Appeal: Now there are Bills that have moved through the House and Senate in the SC General Assembly. There are four (4) that have entered committee and will be passing through next session will no real obstacles. It is important that you understand, **YOU WILL BE IN VIOLATION OF STATE LAW.** If you continue to allow these books to remain in circulation, you are WILLINGLY PROVIDING OBSCENE AND PORNOGRAPHIC METERIAL TO CHILDREN. The Governor has signed off that funds will be withheld from any and all Public School Districts found in violation once signed from the Governor.
- We have support from the SC Department of Education Superintendent Weaver.
- House Bill 3728 has crossed over to the Senate. It is highly anticipated that the Senate will pass amendments to the House Bill3728, and cause of action being a Conference Committee to be formed. Conferees would design a final Bill amicable to both Houses and sent on to the Governor for signature into law. –**NOW DONE!**

******I am only going to address one of the books from this review committee due to time constraints and that it (the book) is most egregious and highly controversial******

"***Perfect***", by Ellen Hopkins

Previously I said I "thought" that this Author, must have some kind of "problem" in life and I actually feel very sorry and concerned for her, I have changed my assessment and I KNOW she has some sort of perverted desire that kids read her books. Adults? Go for it. I hope she finds whatever it is she is missing in life.
"*Perfect*" is all about rape and assault; oral sex involving teenagers; abuse of drugs and alcohol and the effects of overdosing and "how good it feels"; suicide and self-harming including "how-to" on all of the above. How can you—as a school board OF THE PEOPLE, not the government as member Geier has said on the record, allow for THIS book to remain on ANY of the shelves of our public school libraries? Yet—if you follow the precedence you have already set, you won't even talk about it- you'll disregard it—and you'll let go back into circulation.
The largesse data is pointing in one direction--- there are multiple books filled with pornography and obscenities that DO NOT have a place in our public school system. You are charged with providing a safe environment for our children to learn……not a haven for indoctrination. Not a refuge for grooming.
Studies have shown that what a child learns has a direct reflection on how they behave as an adult. Ex: Children that grow up with domestic violence are largely perpatrators of

Domestic Violence. Children that grow up in a drug filled nest, are more than 75% more likely to be addicted as a young adult and adult.

There are several key points to consider:

- The overall purpose of school education is to give students the skills to support himself or herself in a career and economically contribute to society. **Nothing in the books reviewed can be applied to that statement.**
- Public School Boards **MUST** be cognizant of and pay special attention to the risk associated with this type of material, based on past and current case law. The RISKS included herein include, but are not limited to, the actual demise and denigrating of our society. You are **WILLINGLY** approving material that:

  a) YOU don't allow to be read at your own meetings
  b) Are NOT allowed to be read on television
  c) Are NOT allowed to be read on the radio
  d) NO PASTOR that I have talked to would allow them to be read in church or synagogue or mass
  e) The MAJORITY of parents DO-NOT-APPROVE-OF

- The suggestion or accusation from outside influencers that the Beaufort County School District in removing these books is "unconstitutional" and "violates the First Amendment rights of students", is **clearly and unequivocally incorrect.** As is briefed about previously, this has been settled over time and even in cases such as *Pico*, where those same groups utilize sound bites et al, because of the plurality ruling, is backfiring on them.
- Public Schools utilize Public Tax Dollars to build and operate, maintain etc. Just as the groups who complained and won court battles over Bibles in schools; 10 Commandments in schools; prayer in schools; have been successful because the public-school setting must be "for all". Continuing to provide this vulgar material in our Public School system is unconscionable and not in favor of the "for all" mantra.

Again, let me reiterate--- there is/are **NO FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTION TO OBSCENITIES OR PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL.**

This overreaching subject is not only catching the eyes and ears here in Beaufort County and in EVERY County in SC, but there are country- wide reports of this:

- UFC Champion Holly Holm recently stated in an interview after winning a match, "sexualizing children is one of the legs of the left-wing three-legged stool. The other two are "everything is racist" and "any opposing viewpoint on the internet is misinformation. Stop sexualizing children," as her post fight comment.

- In Texas, more than 1500 parents have signed a petition by Texas Mothers calling their school board to remove 90 pornographic books from the public school libraries in Keller Independent School District
- There have been several video s released by parents in the State of Maine, where they are showing up at School Board meetings and demanding this type of indoctrination and grooming of THEIR kids stop!
- A group named, "Parents Defending Education" released the information on Kutztown Area High School in Bucks County, PA, they were offering students the books "*Gender Queer*" (featuring transgenderism and graphic illustrations of sex acts) and "*All Boys Aren't Blue*" (the memoir of a "queer" young male of color, including his first sexual relationships)
- PDE has also released the information on the Mesa County Valley School District 51 in Colorado due to them offering resources for all teachers including 15 "Great New LGTBQ Middle Grade Books"; 30 "Essential LGBT+ Books for YA Readers"; books with LGBT Character for grades PreK-3, Grades 4-7 and Grades 9 and up; several diverse children's books supporting LGTBQ inclusive elementary schools

However, let's be real about this entire thing. It **IS** all about control and politics, from those that are up in arms. Across this Nation and in South Carolina, teacher's unions and library associations are the two driving forces. **IF YOU THINK THERE AREN'T TEACHERS UNIONS, you haven't been paying attention**. SC For Ed, as one example, is as close to a "labor union" as one could get. The NEA is active in this state as well. Both are very clear about wanting to transform education into something it was never designed to be; racially and socially just, and equitable. Teachers unions, and those that are want-to-be, collaborates wiuth LGBT activist groups and provides numerous resources for teachers to promote homosexuality and transgenderism in schools. Library groups like the ALA, (American Library Association) supports 100% of exposing children to sexually explicit and confusing materials. They even have a "Bill of Rights" that states "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views". That organization believes that parents **CAN BE KEPT** in the dark about what their children read, as another "right" states, "All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess **a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use**". The ALA makes it perfectly clear, crystal clear, that all books should be available to all students. "Restricting access to library materials **based on age or grade** level does not respect the individual needs, interests, and abilities of patrons and violates the Library Bill of Rights" (my emphasis)

Again, in case you haven't been watching, there are teachers and librarians (emphasis on librarians) in this County who are promoting this very, exact, thing.

Ironically, over the past year or two, there have been two teachers, oddly at the same school, in Beaufort County, that were overreaching in the above instances and even one sending our "surveys" to her students….that *"we can keep this between us if you don't want your parent or guardian to know."* There are at least TWO librarians that we have

not exposed yet, but will if the school district does not take action to their behaviors EXACTLY what they A.L.A. dictates above.

It is my contention that these books be removed in totality from the Beaufort County Public School system.

Chairwoman Dr. Gwodz, School Board Members and Dr Rodriguez, I believe my appeal to be just; to be inclusive of **EVERYONE**, not just a select few. The only rational choice here is to do the following:

- The Appeals I have submitted should ALL BE READ in their entirety.
- The books referenced by me in this set of appeals, are not worthy of being in any part of a child's learning curriculum. There is nothing to be gained in middle or high school from glorifying rape; sexual abuse; sodomy; drug abuse, slavery, prostitution, etc. **If you believe there is, then publicly say that**. It will be the demise of your elected position.
- If Beaufort County School District is ready and fully prepared to take on the very expensive legal battles that **YOU ARE NOT IMMUNE** from both professionally and personally, then continue to ignore and approve the very same things you **WOULD NOT ALLOW** to be read in public at your meetings. You are damaging human minds with the continued approval of these materials.

I continue to believe that a system of OPT IN rather than OPT OUT, placing the onus on the parent, not the librarian or teacher, would be a great compromise for both sides. Would there be a cost possibly to do this? One time yes, but very minor, however you have to ask yourselves--- "What is the worth of the child in keeping them safe?" If you need additional help with the OPT IN suggestion, please feel free to reach out.

I thank you all for hopefully taking the time to read my Appeal in its entirety and ask for your relief in proper ruling of overturning the committee's review for the book's mentioned herein.

Respectfully;

Michael E Covert
[redacted]

To the media of which this has been given a copy of: It is time the media in the South Carolina Low Country and Coastal Georgia markets begin to also share in the news of this subject, as "the rest of the story". There are people on "the other side" making false claims, political attacks and claims for their own edification. There are people on the School Board who think this is a "joke", "not their responsibility", and would rather "cow-tow" to those that are loud and oppressive in lieu of talking with both sides for fear of their political legacy ending abruptly.