

PENNRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Kathleen Brewster-Scheid

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

215-453-2783

Date of Reconsideration Meeting: October 7, 2024

Reconsideration of Resource Material: Ghost Houses

Title of Book: Ghost Houses

Author: Jessica Rudolph

Requestor: Ellen Mancino, parent

Date of Request: 9/26/24

Reason for request to reconsider: This book has both text and pictures depicting extremely graphic acts of violence including murder with a gun and axe, execution by hanging and suicide with a gun aimed for elementary students.

Committee Members:

1. Dr. Kathy Scheid, Assistant Superintendent
2. Mr. Ernest Johnson- Director of Student Services
3. Mrs. Sarah Raber- K12 RELA Supervisor
4. Mr. Tim Keddie- High School Principal
5. Mrs. Kim Mulloy- K12 Library Coordinator

The Book Reconsideration Committee reviewed the book, *Ghost Houses*. The committee was assigned to review the book and respond to the following six (6) questions:

- What is the author's purpose in writing the book?
What are the important topics addressed in the book?
Who is the target audience for the book?
Who would benefit from this book? How so?
Who can be harmed from this book? How so?
Is there an alternative option?

Responses to the questions used to review the book were as follows:

What is the author's purpose in writing the book? Appeal to children's curiosity about ghost stories.

What are the important topics addressed in the book? Historical ghost stories

Who is the target audience for the book? Young readers

Who would benefit from the book? How so? Students interested in ghost stories in historical context.

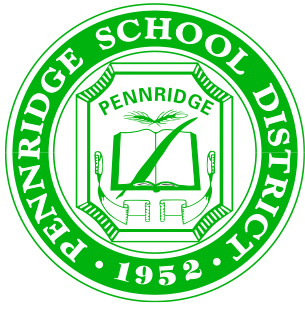
Who can be harmed from the book? How so? Young children who are sensitive to violent depictions of killings.

Mission Statement

It is paramount that our students graduate with knowledge of their talents, passions and what is necessary for them to remain life-long learners and productive citizens. These objectives need to be accomplished in a community-oriented environment that is safe, welcoming, nurturing, student-centered and respectful of all. As such, the mission of the Pennridge School District is as follows:

Pennridge School District strives to provide all students with a well-rounded educational experience where they acquire the 21st century skills necessary for a successful future.

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Is there an alternative option? Yes. There are several options.

Direct reference to language in the Administrative Regulations under Policy 109 specific to age appropriateness:

1. Educational significance and relevance
2. Artistic quality and/or literary style
3. **Is Age-appropriate and suitable for the developmental level of the students who will be using them.**
4. Pedagogical interest
5. Content is comprehensive, well-organized, and unbiased

Recommendation: The committee recommends that Ghost Houses be removed from the elementary libraries. It does not meet the criteria for selection in the Administrative Regulations under Policy 109.

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