

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST CENSORSHIP

February 28, 2020

Linden A. Moore, Ph.D., Superintendent
Montrose Community Schools
300 Nanita Drive
P.O. Box 3129
Montrose, MI 48457

Sent via electronic mail to: lmoore@montroseschools.org

Dear Dr. Moore:

The National Coalition Against Censorship is a coalition of non-profit organizations dedicated to the protection of the free expression rights of K-12 students.

We are contacting you in response to the recent incident in which a student whose parents are women was forbidden to write about same-sex marriage for a class assignment. The teacher reportedly said that he or she didn't want to read about the subject and that it would offend other students. We believe the teacher owes the student and her parents an apology for having made such deeply insulting remarks.

In addition, while we acknowledge that school officials have taken steps to ensure that there aren't similar incidents in the future, it isn't enough to have "spoken to the teacher and all...staff about valuing the opinions, beliefs and rights" of students. The school district should publicly declare as a matter of policy that freedom of expression is critical in the education of students and that all school employees are obligated to protect it.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher Finan
Executive Director
National Coalition Against Censorship

Cc: Alan Alguire, President, Montrose Community Schools Board of Education; Mark Schmitz, Vice President, Montrose Community Schools Board of Education; Ronald Loafman, Trustee, Montrose Community Schools Board of Education; Coetta Adams, Treasurer, Montrose Community Schools Board of Education; Charles Wright, Secretary, Montrose Community Schools Board of Education; Annie Rodgers, Trustee, Montrose Community Schools Board of Education; Paul Wade, Trustee, Montrose Community Schools Board of Education

NCAC PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Actors' Equity Association
AICA-USA
American Association of School Administrators
American Association of University Professors
American Association of University Women
American Booksellers for Free Expression
American Civil Liberties Union
American Ethical Union
American Federation of Teachers
American Jewish Committee
American Library Association
American Literary Translators Association
American Society of Journalists & Authors
Americans United for Separation of Church & State
Association of American Publishers
Authors Guild
Catholics for Choice
Children's Literature Association
College Art Association
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund
The Creative Coalition
Directors Guild of America
The Dramatists Guild of America
Dramatists Legal Defense Fund
Educational Book & Media Association
First Amendment Lawyers Association
Free Speech Coalition
Freedom to Read Foundation
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
International Literacy Association
Lambda Legal
Modern Language Association
National Center for Science Education
National Communication Association
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of the Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Teachers of English
National Education Association
National Youth Rights Association
The NewsGuild-CWA
PEN America
People For the American Way
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Project Censored
SAG-AFTRA
Sexuality Information & Education Council of the U.S.
Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators
Student Press Law Center
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Democratic Intellectuals
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ
Office of Communication
United Methodist Church,
United Methodist Communications
Women's American ORT
Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance
Writers Guild of America, East
Writers Guild of America, West