

**NATIONAL  
COALITION  
AGAINST  
CENSORSHIP** **KIDS'  
RIGHT  
TO READ**

March 15, 2021

Board of Trustees  
Leander Independent School District  
204 W. South Street P.O. Box 218  
Leander, TX 78646-0218

Dear Board members:

The National Coalition Against Censorship and the other groups signed below are dedicated to protecting the freedom to read, the First Amendment, and high-quality public education. We are writing about a recent challenge to several books that are part of the book club curriculum at Tom Glenn High School.

We would first like to congratulate you on your instructional materials challenge procedures, as well as the transparency with which the book review committees have operated.

However, we have noted that two of the three books which have been recommended for permanent removal by the 10th grade committee address LGBTQ themes. That is particularly concerning because, as we understand it, the initial parental complaint was in part based on opposition to inclusion of LGBTQ-themed books among those offered to students.

We understand that school districts sometimes come under heavy pressure to yield to the concerns of the most vocal parents. So, we hope the District is taking steps to ensure that the committee makes its decisions without being swayed by anti-LGBTQ prejudice or by a desire to appease parents whose complaints might be motivated in part by such prejudice. Any decision that reflects viewpoint discrimination would raise serious First Amendment concerns.

We know that curriculum decisions, particularly decisions surrounding challenged works, are very difficult and can stir strong emotions on all sides. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance. We have decades of experience helping districts to navigate those challenges in a manner which ensures that all stakeholders feel that their concerns have been heard and considered.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher Finan  
Executive Director  
National Coalition Against Censorship

Co-signed by: American Booksellers for Free Expression  
American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom  
The Authors Guild  
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund  
Freedom to Read Foundation  
National Council of Teachers of English  
PEN America  
PEN America Children's and Young Adult Books Committee  
Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators

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Aaron Johnson, Member, Place 6  
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