

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

November 18, 2022

School Board
Broward County Public Schools
600 S.E. Third Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Members of the School Board,

The National Coalition Against Censorship is an alliance of national nonprofit groups dedicated to protecting freedom of expression, including the rights of K-12 students, teachers and staff. We are writing in regard to the District's recent removal of the children's book, *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* by Jill Twiss.

As we understand it, the decision to remove the book was based on the August 12th finding of the Broward County Public Schools District Review Committee that stated, "The title is a picture book that is inappropriate due to the negativity towards the government."

That action was improper because, as you know, the Supreme Court has warned that "school boards may not remove books from library shelves simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books" *Board of Education v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853, 872 (1982) (plurality opinion). Just last year, the Court reaffirmed the principle underlying *Pico*, stating that public schools have a responsibility to protect unpopular ideas. *Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B. L.*, 594 U.S. ___, 141 S. Ct. 2038, 2046 (2021). Therefore, the removal of the book raises serious First Amendment concerns.

We urge the district to return the book and to ensure that book review committees do not use improper criteria when evaluating books.

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
The Author's Guild
National Council of Teachers of English
PEN America

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