

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

December 15, 2022

Board of Trustees
Frisco Independent School District
5515 Ohio Dr.
Frisco, TX 75035

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

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 understand that as many as 100 books have been removed from district libraries over the last year because of their content. This raises a concern that the criteria that are being applied in judging books are overly broad and that books that have serious value for young people are being eliminated.

We are particularly concerned about the enforcement of the district policy that bans "patently offensive" materials. It targets "Material that includes patently offensive representations or descriptions of sexual acts..." However, the guidelines used by the district's review committee requires that all books with those images be removed, even if the images are not "patently offensive." We have been told by the district's general counsel that the district "has determined that the contemporary community standards in our community would find any images of the listed acts to be patently offensive."

Our concern is that the blanket ban on books which contain sexual images could prevent student access to books which have substantial educational value. For example, your policy would require the removal of art history books that contain works such as Michaelangelo's *Leda and the Swan* or Bernini's *The Abduction of Proserpina*. Most districts allow high school students to have access to books which happen to have sexual images but which are nevertheless valuable. In addition to art history, such books may include science, history, and sex education materials.

For these reasons, we urge you to follow your standard policy and make decisions on whether a book is "patently offensive" on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact us if we can be helpful.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher Finan
Executive Director
National Coalition Against Censorship

Co-signed by: American Booksellers for Free Expression
The Authors Guild
Children's and Young Adult Books Committee, PEN America
National Council of Teachers of English
PEN America

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