

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

March 8, 2023

Board of Education  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools  
P.O. Box 30035  
Charlotte, NC 28230-0035

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

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 to object to the district's removal of library books without following district policy.

As we understand it, after a parent complained, Interim Superintendent Crystal Hill unilaterally made the decision to remove *Let's Talk About It* and *Sex Plus: Learning, Loving and Enjoying Your Body* from school libraries without submitting them to a review by a formal committee as required by district policy.

The interim superintendent's action not only violated district policy, but was in opposition to the best interests of the district and its students. The formation of a reevaluation committee helps ensure that book challenge decisions are made based on objective criteria which prioritize the needs of students and ensures that all stakeholders needs are heard.

Additionally, removing books without following policy may encourage others to file numerous challenges in the hopes that the superintendent may remove books that would otherwise be retained by a committee. The interim superintendent's actions might ultimately lead to the district wasting time adjudicating vast numbers of challenges.

Therefore, we urge you to return the books to the shelves and submit them to the standard review process.

We understand that challenges to educational materials are often emotionally charged. As a result, it is important that districts adjudicate challenges in a manner which ensures that all parties feel that their views have been considered and that decisions about educational material are made in an objective, nonpolitical manner. NCAC has created a resource to help school officials address the problem of book challenges, *Material Review and Policy Guidelines and Examples*. It is attached.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any further support in this matter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

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

A project of the National  
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