

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

May 3, 2023

Board of Education
Plattsmouth Community Schools
1912 Old Highway 34
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

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 protest the removal of more than 10 books from school libraries in violation of the district review policy.

Policy 6300 gives the district only two options in handling book challenges: 1) "Any materials identified in a complaint may remain in use pending its review and its disposition by the board of education"; or 2) "in the case of challenged media material the Principal may place the material on a reserve shelf where it may be checked out by students only with written parent permission." Therefore, the policy does not permit books to be completely removed until the board makes a final decision after committee review.

It goes without saying that the district must follow its own policies. Therefore, you must return the books immediately to the school libraries.

Your policy is sound. Requiring books to remain on the shelf pending adjudication discourages people from filing meritless challenges for the sole purpose of limiting students' access to ideas they dislike. In addition to preserving students' rights to access information, following your policy will help prevent District staff from spending wasteful amounts of time adjudicating baseless claims.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher Finan
Executive Director
National Coalition Against Censorship

CC: Superintendent Dr. Richard E. Hasty

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

A project of the National
Coalition Against Censorship

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