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From: **Jonathan Vanderhoof** <j.vanderhoof@sau63.org>

Date: Thu, Oct 13, 2022 at 9:23 AM

Subject: Fwd: Request for Reconsideration of Instruction Materials

To: Sarah Edmunds <s.edmunds@sau63.org>

Sarah,

Sorry I somehow sent the below email before I had completed it. I just want to continue for a moment with some of the concerns I have with this book. Some of the stories in this book are

Loving On Me is Prayer: Queer Journeys into Black Girl Self-Love
Your Complete Guide to Shane's Sex Life
Five Things People Want to Know about Their Junk
Looking "Straight"
How Anyone Can Help Trans People in Their Lives

In skimming through the book the other night I saw quite a few things that I would find objectionable for a school to provide to an eleven year old middle school student. In looking at some reviews some of the things mention that I find concerning are alcohol, sexual assault, oral sex, digital sex, vaginal sex, masturbation and sexual organs, drawn illustrations of nude men and women.

Again I would be willing to review the book further if it was provided to me.

Thank you for considering this issue,
Jonathan

Reconsideration of Library Materials
Inbox

Jonathan Vanderhoof

Mon, Nov
7, 9:38
PM

to me, Darlene

Superintendent Weaver,

I am writing in regards to policy KEC. A book in the library at WLC was requested to be reviewed by another parent and myself. The other parent had submitted the first request for review so mine was not necessary I was told by the principal.

The process was that a committee of 7 individuals were to review the book and decide if it should remain in the school library. The committee voted via secret ballot 4-3 in favor of keeping the book. In accordance with policy KEC I am requesting review by the superintendent regarding reconsideration of the appropriateness of this book.

The book is Body Talk, 37 voices explore our radical anatomy by Kelly Jensen. After the committee decided that the book was an appropriate book to be provided to and marketed to our children I borrowed

the book and have read it in its entirety. In an effort to keep this organized I will do my best to follow and answer the questions as asked in policy KEC-R.

1. To the objections I have regarding this book I will start with pages 51, 103, and 194. These pages have drawings of naked women mostly (there is an image of a human on page 194 with a penis and breasts so guess that is a man and a man on page 51). These three pages are in my opinion enough to make this book inappropriate for our students. These are drawings not photographs but they are still inappropriate. I will leave the issue of these three pages at that with the assumption that you will see them yourself before your decision.

The chapter "How Anyone Can Help Trans People in Their Lives". Says it is written from the perspective of a "trans man" yet never defines what a "trans man" is. This chapter is just a list of things that the reader is told that they can not disagree with. Basically demands put on everyone around the "trans" person that they must obey and no discussion is allowed. This chapter starts on page 202 and I will just put down here the first sentence from the first bullet point of "Believe them. If a trans person tells you what their truth is, it is not up for debate, interpretation, or analysis." This is how this chapter starts and it just gets worse from there. This is not a list of how to help "trans" people, it is a list of demands that "trans" people and their activist are trying to put on everyone else. This is to cut off discussion and questions about this thing that is happening in our society. Not allowed to discuss if this is good or bad for the individual or society just shut up and accept it because that is how it is.

Now onto the chapter beginning on page 178 "Body Positive". Do you know who Aly Raisman is? If you do, you may say something like "yes she was in the 2012 Olympic games and won two gold medals and a bronze then in 2016 she won another gold and two silver medals". So what is the problem with her talking about body positivity? The problem is that the only focus is about her being naked in a magazine. That is where this book puts the worth of this two time olympian. Is that what we should be teaching our students? You can succeed but you haven't really accomplished much until you get naked for everyone to objectify and fantasize about using you for your physical body for their satisfaction. That is where your true value is. This is the wrong message for our students.

I won't go through every chapter but just highlight some of the other issues I see throughout the book. There are many points in the book where there is the assumption of racism against the writers and people who look like them. No examples are given, it is just assumed that everyone knows society in this country is racist. There are discussions about sex of all kinds. I won't get deep into this just read the book. There are several discussions about what you wear that gives you power. Dressing provocatively gets you attention. Maybe we should teach our students that is not necessarily the kind of attention they want. There are all kinds of words and phrases throughout the book that are not appropriate; person who menstruates (a woman?), "white, straight, cis, able, bodies are who docors help", are just a few examples. Again read the book I am sure you can find many more that you may find objectionably for your child.

What Kind of value is there in this work? I found a few chapters in this book that could have been helpful if not for the indoctrination aspect of them. So unfortunately I really did not find much value in this book the way it was written.

The result of students reading this book would not be positive, This book is about how people will treat you badly because of your body or how you can use your body to get what you want. Here is the really bad thing it teaches students. Words are reality if someone says "I am" that is true. Guess what words are not reality words are only used to communicate reality or lies or ideas. Not all reality is easy to explain, not all ideas are good ideas and not everyone is interested in what is best for you so you better learn that words are not reality really quick or things like this book could really screw you up badly. Additionally students may think their body is the only important thing and that could have devastating effects on them. They can get confused and seek advice from the wrong people. People who don't know that words are not reality like their friends instead of their parents.

I would not recommend this work to anyone and I certainly would not want minors reading it. If they were to read it I would hope the parents are aware and it was not something they obtained from the school library.

Skipping down to number 8 on KEC-R what do I think the purpose of this work is. I think this book is all about indoctrination, it is all about blaming society for everything. It is to make you think that "normal people" are bad and that they will never accept you and a lot of time they are out to get you. The purpose is to try and turn people at a young age to a worldview that will justify anything and excuse any consequences as not your fault.

I would like this book to be removed from the school library. I want to be clear on this. I am not advocating a "book ban" if this book were in a public library I would not like it but I would not ask for it to be removed. If I take my children to the library I am responsible for what they read there. In the school library you are responsible for what they read and having this book there for minors is irresponsible given that many parents I believe would have objections.

I do not have a recommendation for a book to replace this book as I do not know what the intended objective was when this book was purchased. If you want to give me more information about why this book was added to the library I could probably find something much more appropriate if that is a requirement for getting this book out of the library.

I could have made this request five times longer than it is but will stop here. Please consider what I have written as you read this book and make your decision.

Thank you,
Jonathan

