

**Meeting Minutes**

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**Special Open Meeting****10/14/2013 3:45:00 PM**

JP Knapp Professional Learning Center

**Attendees - voting members**

Dr. Bill Dobney     Chair  
Jackie Simmons    Vice Chair  
Dwan Craft        Board Member  
Karen Etheridge   Board Member  
Darnell Gaddis    Board Member

**Attendees - other**

Allison Sholar     Superintendent  
Alexandra Carter   Student Board Member  
Rick Lage          Student Board Member  
Thomas Poston     Student Board Member  
Katie Traylor      Student Board Member

**I. Approve Agenda**

Motion made by: Jackie Simmons

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting

Unanimously Approved

**II. School Library Book Check-out Procedure**

Mr. O'Briant explained the process of using the parental controlled book check-out form. Any book in question would remain on the shelf until the parent contacted the media specialist. He added this was a workable procedure supported and reviewed by the media specialist. It is believed that Currituck County Schools is the only district in the state that will utilize the parent control form. The Board discussed the limitation of the procedure. Parents will have to opt-in. If approved, the form will be distributed as requested this year with a link on the districts website. Next school year the form will be included in the parent- student handbook. It was also suggested that an automated call should made to parents.

**III. Public Comments**

Chris Thornton, a Currituck citizen, stated he appreciated the Board's efforts but believed the proposed book check-out form is not the appropriate answer to the book challenge because it leaves out the uninvolved parent. Mr. Thorn read an article about the dangers of pornography. Mr. Thorn asked the Board to use their authority to remove the book "A Bad Boy Can Be Good for A Girl" from the school's library.

John and Elissa Cooper, concerned parents, read the definition of pornography as defined in the Webster's Dictionary. Mr. Cooper said he would not read sections of the book due to minors being in attendance. He asked the Board to please keep in mind the decision concerns the school's library not the public library. He presented sections of the book that referenced school life. He believes censorship is necessary and appropriate when it protects minors. Mrs. Cooper mentioned the school's dress code and how it places restrictions on students. She felt the book could lead a young student into promiscuity.

Sidney Phillips, a sophomore at Currituck County High School, said she found no educational value in the book.

Lauren Cooper, a sophomore at Currituck County High School, said she was shocked by the content in the book. She referred the book to pornography. She asked the Board to please remove the book.

Susan Overton, a Currituck citizen, stated she did not have an issue with the book. She felt students that had a problem with the book's content should have put the book down and not made a spectacle of it.

John Snowden, a Currituck citizen, named various books that once were considered controversial but now are seen as works of arts. Many are required readings in schools. He feared that banning books could lead to the banning of other pieces of art. Mr. Snowden suggested using parental control to regulate the book.

#### **IV. Book Challenge Recommendation (Action)**

The Board considered a parental request pursuant to Board Policy 3210 to remove the book A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl from the Currituck High School Library.

In light of the new book check-out rules and producers, Darnell Gaddis made the motion to keep the book in the CCHS library.

Jackie Simmons thanked Mr. O'Briant for creating the check-out form. Mr. O'Briant thanked media specialist and said the form was ready to be released.

Karen Etheridge requested to make a motion to remove the book. Dr. Dobney said there was already a pending motion.

Attorney DuBuisson said that Mrs. Etheridge could make a statement. Mrs. Etheridge said she wanted to remove the book from the school's library due to vulgarity, inappropriate content and child pornography.

Motion made by: Darnell Gaddis

Motion seconded by: Jackie Simmons

Voting

Dr. Bill Dobney - Yes

Jackie Simmons - Yes

Dwan Craft - Yes

Karen Etheridge - No

Darnell Gaddis - Yes

#### **V. Adjourn Meeting**

Motion made by: Karen Etheridge

Motion seconded by: Jackie Simmons

Voting

Unanimously Approved

Chairperson

Secretary