

Complaint Form Questions:

Have you seen or read this material in its entirety?

Yes

To what do you object in this material? Please cite specific passages, pages, etc.

- Two references to child hormone therapy (46-47, 104-105)
- Two references to gender reassignment surgery (46-47, 141)
- Deleting web browser search history (105)
- Prolific self-loathing (throughout)
- Confusing use of pronouns (throughout)

What do you believe is the main idea of the material?

I believe the main idea of this material is to present the experience of a "peer" as they navigate life suffering from gender dysphoria.

What review(s) of this material have you read?

I researched this material extensively when this problem arose and read a number of reviews. I believe one's perspective regarding this book is often determined by overarching philosophical presuppositions.

Have you talked to anyone to discuss how the material fits into the overall District program?

Yes

"The reading of George is part of a larger genre novel study focused on an anti-bullying theme, which supports our Social Studies, English Language Arts (ELA), and social emotional learning (SEL) standards. Part of our SEL standards address social awareness, which involves developing empathy and taking the perspective of others. Ms. Latico has also connected the novels to our 6th grade Social Studies Human Rights unit for the 3rd quarter. The selected novels share the perspectives of people included on the list of protected classes of the Anchorage School Board Anti-Discrimination Statement (please see below). In addition, the novel study supports our 6th grade ELA standards."

-Lynn Mayberry-Burke

I also responded to this and was told that due to my challenge as to whether it fits the aforementioned description that the material was also under review by the Teaching and Learning Senior Director. I will be follow up regarding this review as well.

What action do you recommend that the school take on this material?

Immediately remove this material from the elementary library as age inappropriate.

In its place, what material do you recommend that would provide adequate information on the subject?

I do not believe there is an age appropriate way to introduce elementary school aged children to the implication of cutting their penis off (scissor gesture to a child's groin area, pg 141). I would feel the same if the topic of female genital mutilation or circumcision were casually discussed in a classroom that is not even intended to be a health class, which I have the option to opt my children out of.

Additionally, what may be deemed "age appropriate" by some I do not believe can be presented according to BP 6163.1 LIBRARIES/MEDIA CENTERS:

Materials/information that present opposing sides of controversial issues, so that students may learn, with guidance, how to analyze and think critically about what they read.

It seems to me that the only way to discuss, what is by all accounts a controversial issue, in an age appropriate manner is to be entirely uncritical of it, which I believe does a disservice not only to the students learning about this topic, but also to children who are experiencing gender dysphoria which the empirical evidence suggests does not persist into puberty in the vast majority of cases.

Have you spoken with the unit principal?

What was his/her response?

I have spoken with the teacher that was presenting this information to my daughter through which I learned that they had not listed this particular book anywhere in the reading lists or curriculum overviews sent to parents. It was seemingly purposely concealed, and when I requested they inform parents of the subject material presented to their children, the request was ignored. I also spoke to the principal of the school and much of that conversation should be accessible via prior emails and my initial complaint can be forwarded to you as well if need be. Unfortunately I'm told with Covid that the ball was dropped on these reviews. Although, this process began before much was being done regarding Covid, therefore I suspect I was simply "waited out," which I hope is a notion that has been disposed of by this point.