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March 16, 2022

The Honorable Jared Patterson
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Representative Patterson,

I am writing in response to your letter, dated March 2, 2022, requesting that Texas school districts sign a “pledge stating that they will not knowingly partner with, purchase from, or associate with in any way with a vendor who has supplied pornographic materials to schools, nor allow pornographic materials to remain on campus.” As I stated in a previous letter sent to you, Frisco ISD is in full agreement that pornography should not be available in any schools and our library selections, including donations, are, and have been for many years, subject to the criteria laid out in our Board policy prior to placement in our libraries.

Regarding the pledge attached to your letter, it is not Frisco ISD’s practice to sign non-binding pledges drafted by third parties. Additionally, the language of the pledge is vague and undefined, particularly with regard to the portion of the pledge referencing “obscene books”. Finally, it is unclear how school districts could comply with the pledge, as it is not feasible for school districts to evaluate every title ever sold by a vendor to K-12 schools prior to choosing to purchase from that vendor.

That said, Frisco ISD is unequivocally committed to ensuring that pornography is not available in Frisco ISD schools.

In Frisco ISD, we take the task of providing access to knowledge and ideas very seriously. As a result, we individually curate each of our 73 school library collections. Even when opening a new campus, we do not purchase book bundles from vendors, but instead provide vendors with specific criteria for developing our opening collections. Each book is reviewed for compliance with those guidelines. When opening our most recent campus, Emerson High School, we received nearly 5,000 titles from our vendor, and found one title that did not meet

the criteria we provided. The title was returned to the vendor for a full refund and was never placed in the library.

This is just one example of how our processes and procedures have been designed to ensure the availability of high quality literary materials from a variety of backgrounds and genres for our students. With hundreds of thousands of titles in Frisco ISD, it is impossible for school staff to read every title prior to a book being placed on library shelves. As a result, our selection processes rely on reviews of books from professional publications. We only use publications that include an age rating for the books.

Occasionally, the age rating provided to a book may not comport with our expectations for appropriate material for K-12 school libraries. In those few instances, we have specific processes in place for members of our community, including teachers, parents, and taxpayers, to request a review of the selection of the material.

To date, we have processed just one formal challenge to a library book because of alleged inappropriate content. That title was rated as being appropriate for 8th grade and above. The book was available in two of our middle school libraries. After review, the District reconsideration committee determined the book was not appropriate for the middle school level and the book was removed from the two middle school libraries. The entire process of review took approximately 9 district business days from receipt of the objection to the issuance of the decision by the review committee.

Additionally, this single instance of a book being placed in a library and then being deemed inappropriate for that level resulted in a change in Frisco ISD practices for selection of materials. Librarians are now instructed to do an additional, individualized review, for any title that is rated at the upper end of a level prior to placing a book in the collection.

Finally, Frisco ISD is committed to ensuring that its policies and practices are fully transparent for our community. The entire library collection for every campus is available publicly on the Frisco ISD website and the District is working to make the online collection even more user-friendly. Additionally, in addition to our Board policies which are already available on our website, we are in the process of publishing all of the guidelines and practices related to selection of library materials on the website as well. We have attached those guidelines to this letter.

While we are unable to sign the pledge attached to your letter, we hope this response provides you with assurance that Frisco ISD continues to work extremely hard to act in the best interests of our students and in partnership with our community, particularly the parents in Frisco ISD.

We appreciate your concern related to the method in which vendors provide books to school districts and believe that the legislature is in a far better position to address any such concerns, as opposed to individual school districts that cannot possibly be expected to evaluate the entire sales history of a vendor prior to use of the vendor. As we have stated to you previously, we stand ready and willing to work with you on any proposed legislation to address these issues and concerns.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you.

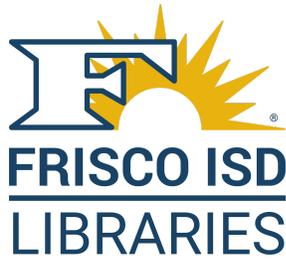
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Waldrip". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Waldrip" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Waldrip
Superintendent
Frisco Independent School District

Cc: Greg Bonnen
Dustin Burrows
Briscoe Cain
Jeff Cason
John Cyrier
Jay Dean
Ryan Guillen
Cody Harris
Brian Harrison
Cole Hefner
Lacey Hull
Matt Krause
Jeff Leach

Ben Leman
Mayes Middleton
Tom Oliverson
Dennis Paul
Glenn Rogers
Scott Sanford
Matt Shaheen
Shelby Slawson
John Smithee
Lynn Stucky
Valoree Swanson
Cody Vasut
James White



Collection Development, Evaluation & Assessment for Library Materials

Collection development involves the identification, selection, acquisition, and evaluation of a collection of library resources to fit the needs of its users and potential users.

The primary objective of instructional resources selected for the library media center are to support, enrich, and assist in implementing the FISD's educational program.

Resources selected shall:

- Enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration students' varied interests, abilities, learning styles, and maturity levels.
- Stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards.
- Present various sides of controversial issues so that students have an opportunity to develop, under guidance, skills in critical analysis and in making informed judgments in their daily lives.
- Represent many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to the national heritage and world community.

Selection of Library Resources

Responsibility for Selection of Library Resources

Although trained professional staff is afforded the freedom to select instructional resources, the ultimate authority for determining and approving the curriculum and instructional program of the Frisco Independent School District lies with the School Board.

Recommendations for library acquisitions shall be the primary responsibility of the librarian, but shall also involve administrators, teachers, other FISD district personnel, and community representatives, as appropriate.

Selection of Library Resources

Selection is at the heart of the collection development process. Skill, knowledge, and the right tools are required to select appropriate library materials that meet the needs of your learning community. There are some practical activities you can do to help with selection of resources for your library.

Stay updated on new resources for your library collection. This is accomplished by:

- Reading reviews by a variety of reputable reviewers.
- Previewing materials whenever possible.
- Consulting trade and national bibliographies.

Know your learning community. Be aware of the following factors:

- What are the different reading levels represented in the learning community?
- What are the ethnic groups (for language considerations) represented in the learning community?
- What are the main occupational groups, hobbies, recreational activities, and businesses in the learning community?
- What is the socioeconomic status of the people in the learning community?
- What is the education level of the community?

Selection Process

1. All selections, including donations, should be compliant with the Board-approved Frisco ISD Selection Policy.
2. All materials must meet standards of copyright and fair use.
3. Librarians are responsible for evaluating the collection and basing budgets and purchases on that ongoing evaluation.
4. Individual materials should be purchased with the entire collection in mind.
5. It is recognized that every book in the library will not be relevant for every student.
6. Material selection should be guided by published, professional reviews. The following review journals may be considered: *Booklist*, *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, *Horn Book*, *Library Media Connection*, *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Voice of Youth Advocates*.
 - Additional print journals are also available at the district level.
7. Minimum best practice dictates that books considered for purchase be favorably reviewed in at least one of these journals (*Booklist*, *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, *Horn Book*, *Library Media Connection*, *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Voice of Youth Advocates*). The review must include at least one grade level served by the purchasing campus.
8. If a favorable review does not exist in one of the above six journals, a book may be purchased at the librarian's professional discretion after thoughtfully weighing the factors listed below. In all cases, the librarian should err on the side of caution when considering any material for which no reviews exist in these six journals. (Note that a special exception exists for graphic novels.)
 - Publisher's reputation
 - Needs of the curriculum
 - Author's reputation
 - Endorsement by professional association
 - The need for a balanced and diverse collection
 - Inclusion in a retrospective collection tool (such as *Wilson Children's Catalog*, *Wilson's Jr. High Catalog* or *Wilson's Sr. High Catalog*)

For graphic novels: If a favorable review does not exist in one of the above six journals, it may be considered for purchase if it meets the following publisher rating:

- E (everyone) or A (all ages) for elementary, middle school, and/or high school libraries
- Y (youth, ages 10+) and T (teens, ages 13+) for middle school and/or high school libraries
- T+ or OT (teens, ages 16+) for high school libraries
- M (mature, 18+) and AD (adult) do not follow selection guidelines and may not be purchased

If a favorable review exists in one of the above journals, it should be given precedence over the publisher's rating system. Graphic novels must be considered for purchase on an individual basis. Series reviews and blanket purchases should not be used.

9. The following are **not** to be used in place of reviews. Although they may be consulted, purchases of these items must follow the same review procedures as other titles. In no case should a blanket purchase or selection of any of the following be made.
 - Award lists or individual award titles
 - National, state, or local reading lists
 - Catalogs, in whole or part
 - Lists or individual titles categorized by interest, reading, or Lexile levels
 - Bibliographies, suggested reading lists, appendices, and the like
 - Vendor-generated lists
 - Advertisements
 - Free or donated books, including book fair selections
 - Recommendations or requests from individuals
 - Librarian's own recommendation after reading the book
10. Books not meeting the selection criteria outlined in this document do not follow district selection guidelines for inclusion and should not be purchased.

Acquisition of Library Materials



Purchasing Guidelines

Recommendations for library acquisitions shall be the primary responsibility of the librarian, but can also involve administrators, teachers, other FISC district personnel, and community representatives, as appropriate.

1. District purchasing procedures through e-finance must be followed.
2. Librarians should exercise fiscal responsibility when making purchasing decisions.
 - a. Purchases should be made throughout the year(s) as new materials become available.
 - b. Purchases should be made in a timely manner in accordance with the fiscal calendar and district deadlines.
3. If asked by the campus principal, librarians may submit budget requests for library materials annually. Requests should be based on projected student population, age of collection, and special needs.
4. Budgets for library materials should be used in their entirety.

Vendor Guidelines

All vendors must meet the expectations and approval process of the Frisco ISD Finance and Procurement departments.

1. Vendors should be chosen based on quality of materials and service as well as pricing.
2. Librarians will purchase from vendors after confirming appropriate reviews exist using Frisco ISD Library Services Collection Development Guidelines.
3. District approved vendors.

i. Baker and Taylor	viii. Junior Library Guild
ii. Barnes and Noble	ix. Lakeshore Learning
iii. Bound to Stay Bound	x. Mackin
iv. Childrens Plus	xi. Office Depot (supplies)
v. Demco (supplies)	xii. PermaBound
vi. Fat Brain Toys (supplies)	xiii. School Specialty (supplies)
vii. Follett Library Resources	

Opening Day Collection (ODC) Expectations

Frisco ISD has a specific process that must be followed throughout the process of curating an opening day collection.

1. An ODC committee is formed in the spring of the year prior to the opening of the new campus.
 - a. Committee includes 2 librarians from each campus level (2 elementary, 2 middle school, 2 high school) and the Coordinator of Library Services.

- b. The bids received from vendors receive a blind evaluation from the committee, using an evaluative rubric.
2. After the committee reviews the rubric together, it should come to a consensus on the vendor that is the best fit for the opening campus.
3. Vendor assembles collection.
4. Committee members review every item that could potentially be in the collection prior to placing the order. Committee reviews collection for the following elements:
 - a. Age appropriateness
 - b. Alignment with acquisition guidelines
 - c. Representation
 - d. Sophistication
 - e. Literary Appreciation

Resources

- [Example Invitation](#) for Vendor to participate in the bid process.
- Library Materials/[Collection Development Guidelines](#)