

**INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY
MRS. JOHN**

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF RESOURCE MATERIAL

Angela John Tuesday, June 17, 2014
143 Candlewyck Drive 610-444-4649
Avondale PA 19311

Resource to be removed is a Book.

Title: Nineteen Minutes Paperback by Jodi Picoult

1. Please Specify Your Objections.

Page 9: A child steals the mother's prescription drugs and the book explains how she did it so that the mom would not be able to tell she is stealing the pills.

My Objections:

1. The book does not infer that the stealing of drugs is dangerous and unhealthy for the child; instead the stealing of drugs is just entertainment in the book. How dangerous is that! Our younger readers and even our older children in High School still need to be guided, and told that all drugs need to be responsibly handled and "no" we do not steal our parent's prescription drugs. We continue to have "Drug Assemblies" in the school district to enforce this message which is great and should be continued. Why then we do have a library book that shows the stealing and taking of prescription drugs as entertainment!! That is contradicting and confusing to our students!
2. The book explains how the child stole the drugs, so that the mom would not be able to tell she is stealing the pills. This is downright dangerous, explaining to the children how to steal their parents prescription drugs!! I do not need to go further. (FYI-Such is exactly what happened in KMS just this Spring, as a child stole their parent's prescription drugs and then brought the drugs to school to be shared with the other students!!)

Page 9: "God Damn"

My Objections:

1. Offensive to any Christian or Jewish person or other.

Page 120, "Fucking"

Page 125 "Fucking"

Page 187 "Fucking"

Page 332 "Fucking"

My Objections:

1. Offensive and disgusting to anyone, and I hope that the students are not allowed to say this word in the halls of KHS. If they are not, why do we have it in the books they read?

Page 410 "Fucking Whore"

My Objections:

1. Both of the words can have no positive purpose in any imaginable light for children to read and "whore" is offensive specifically to girls and women and those who love and respect girls and women. I am baffled we would have a book in our school district that has this word. The word "whore" is a derogatory word for women and it can be extremely painful.

Page 132 Speaks on Death Wishes

My Objections:

1. With all of the problems we have in our High Schools throughout the country with schools being attack by mentally ill students or adults, we do not need a book that speaks about such incidences without also giving direction to the students and assisting them with their thought process as they read a book with these types of passages. We may have students who came from schools that were attacked or we may have students who have friends or family members who are in schools that have been terrorized. **This information casually included in a book without parental support and appropriate discussion, is just unsafe and irresponsible on the part of us, the adults.**

Page 158 Making fun of a girl with her period

Page 159 Making fun of an undeveloped girl

My Objections:

1. I am offended on behalf of all the children and young ladies in KCSD when I read this. I am sure the boys are not permitted to sexually harass the girls in our school district.

Page 188 "slice off their dicks"

My Objections:

1. I have no idea why anyone would put this in a child's book in a High School. I am offended for boys, men, including my family. This is just senseless. This is inappropriate and wrong.

Page 223-224 Teenage Sex Scene

Page 309 Teenage Sex Scene

My Objections:

1. In the book there are casual teen sex scenes for the entertainment of the young reader!! .This is wrong! The topic of teen sex in a school district should be limited only within the framework of health and wellbeing of the students. Teen sex should not be entertainment for our children within the walls of the High School. The entertainment of sex is called Pornography and the entertainment of underage Teen Sex is appropriately called Child Pornography. . It hard enough for us to keep sex off of our computers at home, now we have to worry about sex scenes in our libraries!
2. Parental notification is necessary of any sex information, even in the library, for which our children are exposed. The parents, so far from my experience in KCSD, must be notified and given a chance to object, about all sexual information exposed to our children within the school distinct. If I am wrong on this, just let me know and I will address that.
3. **Sex is a serious subject.** Adult guidance is needed. For children below the age of 18, sex can be criminal. **I am sure, we at KCSD would not want to encourage teen sex, underage sexually encounters, or child pornography in our school district. Teen sex can lead to depression, a feeling of inferiority, pregnancy, abortion and teen parenthood, for our young ladies. For boys, teen sex allows them to become fathers before they graduate**

from High School or some can be charged with underage sexual intercourse or rape depending on what actually happens. We do not want to encourage this behavior by having causal teen sex entertainment in a book in the library.

Page 313 Rape Scene --She said "wait"and tried to roll away.

My Objections:

1. A child, a student under the age of 18, right now, can read a rape scene in a book, still in the Kennett High School library without the support and guidance of an adult. I can tell you that this is an extremely dangerous situation for a girl who has been raped, for a boy who has raped a girl, for a boy who is mentally ill and now thinks, hey raping girl is an idea I may peruse. I can go on about legal and moral issues why this book should not be in the KHS library.
2. The rape is not condemned. That's painful for those who have been raped to know this is casually placed in our school library.

Sex in School

<u>Sex in Health Class or Nurse's office</u>	Compared To	<u>Sex in "Thriller" KHS Library Book</u>
Parental notification		No parental notification
Adult and child interaction		Child or children reads alone
Educational		Entertainment Thriller
Healthy		Pornography
Adult available to answer questions		No adult present
Accurate, truthful sexual health info		Sex for entertainment, not explanatory
Appropriate sexual parts are spoken.		"Dick", "Fucking", "Whore" used to keep the reader entertained!
Taught to respect yourself and others		Makes fun of underdeveloped bodies
Rape, incest, sexual abuse may be discussed in order to explain to children that if this is happening to them it is not their fault and they can get help, resources are available to them and they can say no to their abuser, being a boyfriend, family member, or anyone who is abusing them.		Rape is part of the entertainment and nothing said that it is wrong, hurtful, and that the girl can get help from her experience.
An adult is there to pick up the pieces of any child that is feeling pain or hurt from anything that is mentioned during a sex health class		No adult there to support child with thoughts during these serious sexual encounters. Child may suffer alone or be encouraged to continue risky, harmful and possibly illegal behavior that can cause depression, teen pregnancy or suicide if the child does not feel supported.

I have my Master's in Social Work and have dealt with children and teens that have been sexually abused and have been suicidal. I know from experience, when you teach or discuss sex with children and teens you need to be truthful, emotionally available and supportive. Books such as these that casually talk about sexual abuse and rape ~~it~~ make abuse and rape acceptable in children's heads. This book is not acceptable in our schools and should not be condoned or promoted.

Decisions that are made about what will be accessible to children help shape the kinds of minds they will come to own---Elliott Eisner

Elliott Eisner (March 10, 1933 - January 10, 2014) was a professor of Art and Education at the Stanford Graduate School of Education, and one of the United States' leading academic minds

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF RESOURCE MATERIAL

(In order to be valid, all sections of this form must be completed.)

Name Angela John Date 6/17/2014
 Address 143 Candewyck Dr. Phone (h) 610-444-4649
Andale PA 19311 (o) _____

Resource to be reconsidered is a:

Book _____ Magazine _____
 Newspaper _____ Audiovisual Resource _____
 Other (please explain) _____

Title Nineteen Minutes
 Author/Producer Jodi Picoult

1. Please specify your objections.

Please See Attached

2. What brought this material to your attention?

The news, media.

3. Did you review the entire material? If not, what parts did you review?

Yes, I reviewed the entire material.

4. Are you aware of the judgment of professional evaluators or reviewers regarding the material? If so, which ones?

No, I am not aware, but would like to know about those who made the "judgment" to include this book in the KHS. Library. What criteria brought the book to our school?

5. What do you believe the material is about?

Teens having sex and taking prescription medicines from their parents.

6. Please comment on the resource as a whole as well as being specific about those matters which concern you. Include what you believe is the appropriate age group for the material, possible harmful effects of using the material, and any good qualities the material may possess.

concerns. teen sex, rape, stealing prescription drugs from parents in our KHS library with no parental knowledge, no adult counseling, no one saying this risky behavior is not safe for children/teens. and the fact that many things are offensive to women & men in textbooks.

Good? Not this book!

Onye Jgb
Signature

6/17/2014
Date

DECISION OF COMMITTEE

Dear Dr. Tomasetti,

In accordance with to policy #109 and at your request, the Resource Material Review Committee met on 8/29/14 to review the high school library book Nineteen Minutes, by Jodi Picoult. Members of the committee included elementary and secondary media specialists, an elementary reading specialist, elementary and secondary principals and a high school English teacher. Mrs. Pedroso chaired the committee as Language Arts Supervisor in the absence of a Director of Instruction, as policy indicates. The committee reviewed the following to inform the discussions:

Board Policy #109, recent reviews, the original Request for Reconsideration submitted by Mrs. John, resources from the American Library Association, recent reviews of the book including the attached eighteenth Edition of the Senior High School Core Collection from H.W. Wilson that recommends the book as part of a core high school collection, Booklist and multiple resources that librarians use in the selection process, a document supporting the novel as "appropriate for 9-12 graders" from the American Library Association, and oral testimony from Mrs. John before the committee.

During Mrs. John's presentation to the committee, the book selection process was reviewed by Mrs. Teixeira, Media Specialist, since Mrs. John had previously asked how this novel came to be in Kennett's collection. Mrs. John presented an additional document written in conjunction with her husband that detailed her concerns regarding the topic of "Sex in School". It is a comparison between the topic of sex being discussed in health or with a nurse and "Sex in Thriller KHS Library Book" being read with no parental notification (attached). She did not object to the novel being used in the district with adult interaction about the difficult topics, but did not feel children should be able to check the book out alone and read without guidance or discussion. The committee also pointed out in the board policy page 1, paragraph #1 under Guidelines that states reasons not to remove a text and explained this to Mrs. John along with rationale for the original selection. Mrs. John voiced her objections to the group and asked for their consideration of removal of the text. Mrs. Pedroso explained the four choices that the committee could recommend and next step in the process; Dr. Tomasetti would be in touch after the committee made its recommendation.

The committee deliberated in closed session and noted that the high school Media Specialist followed all guidelines outlined in Policy #109 in regards to text selection and review. Evidence was provided of such. The group also felt that Mrs. John missed the theme of the novel as a cautionary tale. It was pointed out that Picoult has wide appeal as an author to high school students, that issues in this particular book are very topical, and that collections are not designed around an individual, but rather to provide choices to many readers within the library. The group discussed the issues surrounding censorship and First Amendment rights. The group also discussed the sexual scene Mrs. John described as rape and disagreed with that conclusion. The committee did not consider the book to be pornographic. Mrs. Teixeira noted that during the last revision of Board Policy #109, the Library Bill of Rights that used to be attached had been omitted. All committee members participated in discussions.

A motion was made by Lisa Teixeira to recommend option #1, "that the material will remain in the library collection (no change)".

The motion was seconded by Tricia O'Loughlin and the committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Attached is a signed vote taken by the chairperson. Mr. Duffy was invited and present for the discussions as a high school social studies teacher, but was not included in the vote, as only one high school teacher is allowed to vote in accordance with Policy. Voting members were David Livergood, Tricia O'Loughlin, Michael Barber, Susan McArdle, Christine Wilson, and Lisa Teixeira.

Attachments:

Senior High Core Collection, Eighteenth Edition from H.W. Wilson

American Library Association letter from the Office of Intellectual Freedom

Board Policy #109

Parent Request for Reconsideration of Resource Material

Parent document "Sex in School"

Respectfully submitted by Chair, Jane Pedroso

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane E. Pedroso".

8/29/14

August 28, 2014

VOTE ON Jodi Picoult's book
NINETEEN MINUTES

		<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
elem media	David Livergood	<i>David Livergood</i> ✓	

elem reading	Tricia O'Loughlin	<i>Tricia O'Loughlin</i> ✓	
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elem principal	Susan McArdle	<i>Susan McArdle</i> ✓	
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chair	Jane Pedrosa	NON VOTING CHAIR	
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HS English	Christine Wilson	<i>Christine Wilson</i> ✓	
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HS media	Lisa Te Teixeira	<i>Lisa Teixeira</i> ✓	
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HS principal	Michael BARBER	<i>Michael Barber</i> ✓	
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Motion - L. Text To Retain THE BOOK
2nd - T. O'Loughlin

Statement by Those Persons Who Have Requested in Writing a Place on the November 2014 Agenda

Jeanne O'Neill, former KHS business education teacher, Virginia McGarvey, librarian at KMS, and KHS students Allie Buley and Vikki Eppes, read prepared statements asking the Board to vote to keep the book *Nineteen Minutes* in the high school library collection.

APPEAL OF ANGELA JOHN PURSUANT TO POLICY 109

Mrs. Angela John requested that the District remove the book *Nineteen Minutes*, by Jody Picoult, from the high school library. Mrs. John feels that the book's content is not suitable for high school students. Upon receipt of the request, the District proceeded in accordance with Policy 109. The administration first attempted to resolve the issue informally ("Phase I" of the Policy). Mrs. John was not satisfied and completed a Request for Reconsideration of Resource Material form, which the high school principal forwarded to the chairperson of the Resource Material Review Committee. This Committee was appointed by the Superintendent, as specified by the Policy.

The Committee considered the relative merits of the book and other information pertinent to the complaint, including the Request for Reconsideration and oral testimony from Mrs. John. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend option number one of the Policy, namely, that "[t]he material will remain in the library collection (no change)." The Superintendent communicated the Committee's decision to Mrs. John, who made a final appeal to the Board.

In response to Mrs. John's appeal, the Board conducted an informational gathering with her solely for the purpose of collecting information and educating its members concerning the issue (namely, whether the decision of the Committee should be affirmed or reversed). The Board took no official action at such gathering nor did deliberation occur. The Board conducted a similar gathering with the Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Mr. Perigo, to affirm the decision of the Resource Material Review Committee, that is, that the book *Nineteen Minutes* shall remain in the high school library collection (no change).

The following voted aye: Mr. Alfonso, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Frank, Mrs. LaCosta, Mr. Perigo, Mrs. Reynolds, and Mrs. Schaen. Mr. Stirling voted no; motion carried.