

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lovejoy ISD School Board Votes to Keep Controversial Books in Library Despite Recognizing Obscenity

COLLIN COUNTY, Texas – In a contentious decision, the Lovejoy Independent School District (ISD) School Board voted unanimously to retain books in their school libraries previously identified as harmful, obscene, or pervasively vulgar. This decision follows months of appeals by concerned parent Laura Giles and support from Citizens Defending Freedom (CDF). The entire Lovejoy ISD Board had campaigned as conservatives committed to upholding conservative values.

Timeline of Events:

October 2023: With HB900's implementation, Laura Giles submitted a list of 108 books for review, flagging inappropriate content. She was asked to fill out reconsideration forms for each book. Laura complied by submitting forms for approximately 40 books, requesting an "expedited interim review" per Lovejoy's EFB (Local) policy, which mandates immediate removal of obscene or harmful material pending further review.

Within 10 days, Dr. Laurie Tinsley, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, confirmed the books met removal criteria. However, instead of immediate action, the books were forwarded to a reconsideration committee for comprehensive review.

February 2024: After a three-month delay, the first reconsideration committee response was received on February 21, 2024, deciding to retain "The Poet X." Subsequent refusals to remove other flagged books, including "Concrete Rose," "Freedom Writers Diary," and "Unravel Me," were communicated in early March.

April 2024: Despite setbacks, Laura Giles continued her efforts, escalating her appeal to the School Board, seeking removal of the identified books and a policy change to ensure permanent removal of obscene or harmful material during the interim review.

June 2024: On June 19, a four-hour Level 3 Grievance Hearing took place. The School Board clarified their decision was based on procedural adherence rather than book content. Ultimately, the Board voted 7-0 against Laura's appeal, leaving the books in the library and the existing policy unchanged.

Significant Developments:

- **Public Information Requests:** Laura's initial Public Information Requests (PIRs) on the removal of books through reconsideration and "weeding" processes were provided free of charge. A subsequent request, however, was met with a fee of \$2,899.80, significantly higher than previous requests.
- **Community Support:** On May 17, Laura Giles, State Representative Jared Patterson, and about 20 community members arrived at the administrative office to pay the initial \$414 fee, only to discover the increased charge. Despite this, the payment was accepted without mention of the new fee.

Excerpts Highlighting Concerns: One contested book, "Concrete Rose" by Angie Thomas, contains explicit content inappropriate for minors. An excerpt reads: "D*mn, That was wild. Me and Lise Lying in her bed, all sweaty and panting..." This exemplifies the material in question.

CDF's Stance: Citizens Defending Freedom supports parents and community members advocating for the removal of explicit and harmful content from school libraries. The unanimous decision by the Lovejoy ISD School Board, despite acknowledging the inappropriate content and their conservative campaign promises, underscores the urgent need for policy reform to protect our children.

About Citizens Defending Freedom:

Founded in 2021, Citizens Defending Freedom is a non-profit organization that strategically operates in counties across America to help citizens defend their faith and freedom, all while fighting for transparency in local government. Currently, Citizens Defending Freedom is established in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, and Texas, with plans to continue expanding across America. [Click here](#) to learn more about Citizens Defending Freedom.