

From: Holly Ferguson hjferguson@prosper-isd.net
Subject: Re: Book Reconsideration Request Submission - Prosper Citizen Group
Date: January 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM
To: ProsperCitizenGroup prospercitizengroup@gmail.com
Cc: bjtrammell@prosper-isd.net, pisdboard@prosper-isd.net, jwbridges@prosper-isd.net, wbbeavers@prosper-isd.net, dsmith@prosper-isd.net, jthomson@prosper-isd.net, dldixon@prosper-isd.net, kpcavender@prosper-isd.net, alwilborn@prosper-isd.net, gkbradley@prosper-isd.net, stshirley@prosper-isd.net, jrcrownover@prosper-isd.net, bbhickey@prosper-isd.net, tmbiggs@prosper-isd.net, Scott.Sanford@house.texas.gov, Drew.Springer@senate.texas.gov, justin.holland@house.texas.gov, jared.patterson@house.texas.gov, smelton51@gmail.com, Pam.Little@tea.texas.gov, ellisSBOE@gmail.com, Prosper CitizenGroup info@prospercitizengroup.com

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President Charles and Prosper Citizens Group Members,

Thank you for your communication regarding the concern of 82 books in Prosper ISD. Prosper ISD has over 327,000 books in our library collection. Please be aware the standard from Pico which governs book banning decisions is that school officials may not remove books from the school library simply because they dislike the ideas in the book. However, school officials may remove a book from a school library if it is not age-appropriate for the children of the school.

No educator in Prosper ISD wants obscene or otherwise inappropriate materials in our libraries. If we do have age-inappropriate books in some libraries, we want to know about them. As we have made clear through our Prosper Promise initiative, we want to partner with parents in making sure our children are receiving a stellar education here in Prosper ISD. As such, we are reviewing the 82 books you have listed to determine if we have the title if it can be checked out by students, and if it is a book that we can immediately determine that does not belong on that campus without the need for a formal review process.

A few items we would like to make adjustments to based on your concerns:

- Please feel free to submit the topics and/or titles to your school librarian that you would not like your child/children to have access to. We can set an alert on your child's account to honor your wishes.
- In addition, we want to make you aware that you have access to all library book titles on your campus through Destiny. You and your child can log in to the PISD Portal and preselect books for the child to be able to pick up from their library at their convenience.

However, if you would like to move forward with the formal review process, each book will require a Request for Consideration form. As soon as you submit a form for each book, we will establish a committee to review each book pursuant to state law, our Board policy, and District practice. Please note, however, that a formal review of 82 books will be time-consuming. We will move as quickly as we reasonably can while still making sure we are educating the more than 22,500

students currently enrolled in Prosper ISD, but it will likely take months for us to complete a full formal review of 82 separate books. If you decide to move forward with those 82 separate reviews, we thank you in advance for your patience while we work through that process.

On Tue, Jan 18, 2022 at 2:13 PM ProsperCitizenGroup <prospercitizengroup@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Bernadette, Prosper ISD Board Members, and Prosper ISD Administration,

Please see the attached PISD Library Reconsideration Form Request, along with a list of 82 books that are inappropriate for our schools and should be removed. Among other reasons outlined in our request, these books are inappropriate because many of them violate the Texas obscenity law that prohibits distribution of obscene material to minors. Yes, you read that correctly. Children in PISD currently have access to books that contain sexually obscene material.

In addition, as outlined in our request, we also ask that the District take additional steps to ensure that our schools are free of this type of material:

1. The District should conduct a formal review of its libraries for similar content that promotes the sexualization of our children and pushes ideologies that all parents may not agree with. This content should be removed from PISD libraries.
2. The District should have a more formalized and transparent process by which books are purchased for its libraries and vetted before being made available to children. The current process allows for this type of inappropriate and harmful material to slip through the cracks and into our schools with little, if any, oversight.
3. We would advocate for school libraries to have the ability to notify parents of books that are checked out by their students. Unless students bring home library books, parents may not know what books are being borrowed and read by their students. The ability of parents to request automatic notification would allow parent engagement and transparency for those parents that choose this option.

As you review the books identified, we ask that one of our PAC ISD Committee members and/or PAC leadership be allowed to participate in the discussion to ensure a positive and productive dialog with the ISD Reconsideration Committee. We understand that the Reconsideration Committee is entirely hand selected by the District and this creates serious questions regarding the objectivity and authenticity of the process.

Lastly, we request an acknowledgment of this submission and some available times that we can meet to discuss these issues in greater detail.

Warmest Regards,

Doug Charles, Board Chair & President

Prosper Citizen Group PAC

CC:

Scott Sanford, Texas House Representative

Drew Springer, Texas Senator

Justin Holland, Texas House Representative

Jared Patterson, Texas House Represe

Pam Little, Texas State School Board Member, Vice Chair

Sue Melton-Malone, Texas State School Board, District 14

Keven Ellis, Texas State School Board, Chair

Prosper Citizen Group PAC

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I am currently reading *Managing Transitions Making the Most of Change* by Dr. William Bridges and Susan Bridges.