

November 16, 2021

To: Members of the Williamson County School Board and Williamson County Commissioners

RE: Graphic Pornography in Williamson County Schools' libraries

I have come to the conversation on graphic pornography in our schools in a spirit of giving you the benefit of the doubt that you were previously unaware of the degree of obscenity in our school libraries. To me, it's almost irrelevant after last night's meeting because now you do know. And, when we know better, we must do better.

The packet I prepared for you last night is also attached in case you did not get one. You can also review the muted [video footage here](#) (more being uploaded). There additional books that meet the Tennessee definition of obscenity that we did NOT share last night - [review here](#) and check back as I am updating as we work through more.

The kinds of material that are objectionable to parents can be wide-ranging. I did not pick samples of just inappropriate language – I DID pick those examples that fit the definition of “obscenity” under TCA 39-17-9

(6) “Harmful to minors” means that quality of any description or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual excitement, sexual conduct, excess violence or sadomasochistic abuse when the matter or performance:

(A) Would be found by the average person applying contemporary community standards to appeal predominantly to the prurient, shameful or morbid interests of minors;

(B) Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and

(C) Taken as whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific values for minors;

(7) “Matter” means any book, magazine, newspaper or other printed or written material or any picture, drawing, photograph, motion picture film, videocassette or other pictorial representation, or any statue, figure, device, theatrical production or electrical reproduction, or any other article, equipment, machine or material that is obscene as defined by this part;

(8) “Minor” means any person who has not reached eighteen (18) years of age and is not emancipated;

...

(10) “Obscene” means:

(A) The average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;

(B) The average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct; and

(C) The work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value;

(11) “Patently offensive” means that which goes substantially beyond customary limits of candor in describing or representing such matters;

(12) “Prurient interest” means a shameful or morbid interest in sex;

(13) “Sadomasochistic abuse” means flagellation or torture or physical restraint by or upon a person for the purpose of sexual gratification of either person;

(14) “Sexual conduct” means:

(A) Patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated. A sexual act is simulated when it depicts explicit sexual activity that gives the appearance of

ultimate sexual acts, anal, oral or genital. “Ultimate sexual acts” means sexual intercourse, anal or otherwise, fellatio, cunnilingus or sodomy; or

(B) Patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, and lewd exhibition of the genitals;

The content of the books we read last night certainly fits this bill. These books are in our LIBRARIES and even some recommended by the Savas curriculum. I know there is a textbook review process – but as Shelia Cleveland so wisely asked last night- what about library books?

Removing these books from the Williamson County School shelves harms no one. Having them remain is the danger. As Dan Cash pointed out – technology in the schools has strict guidelines around acceptable use yet material that would be blocked on the Chromebooks is readily available in the library. I’ve looked at the Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement (4.406) and many provisions for protection from pornography:

PURPOSE

- The district has taken measures to protect students from obscene information and restrict access to 4 materials that are harmful to minors

Section 2. Email

- Students shall be issued a WCS e-mail account for completing school work. These accounts may be used for participation in WCS internal chat and message boards. The WCS-provided e-mail account is the only e-mail students may use for instructional purposes. The use of profanity, obscenity or offensive language in any communication through WCS e-mail is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Section 4. Student Use of Personal Devices and subheading “Guidelines for Use,” the first statement is:

- Students may not use personal devices to record, transmit or post photographic images, audio or video of any person during school activities or on district transportation unless permission is obtained from an authorized WCS employee.
- The district’s network filters are applied to the “WCS-Guest” network and shall not be circumvented. The district Internet filters are designed to protect students from obscene, pornographic and other material harmful or inappropriate to minors while at school.

Section 8. Workstation / Computer Use

- Student use of any WCS device for illegal, obscene, pornographic, commercial, political or religious 19 activity or for personal profit is prohibited.

How will you address the materials we shared last night? And will you welcome a dialogue as we continue examining what is in our schools?



Kristin McKinney | kbeezyaf@protonmail.com | 615-495-2818