



Community Voice

Parent's Experience Raises Serious Questions about KSD's Ability or Willingness to Respect Parents & Protect our Children

During a KSD Board meeting I approached the Board members & Administrators to show them images from sexually explicit books that I had concern about being available to children in our schools.

I should note that one of the books I was showing photos from, *Gender Queer*, was not in the KSD libraries. I had been misinformed about that book and regret that oversight, but there are numerous other books with similar content in our KSD schools and this issue needs to be addressed.

Following this Board meeting, **my child's elementary school principal pulled my child out of class, showed a photo of the cover of *Gender Queer* to my child and asked if the child had told me that this book was in the school library.** This was done without my knowledge or consent. Before that moment my young child was not involved in this situation and certainly did not know about that book. Because of this conversation with the principal my child was asking me to define "queer" and was very confused about why the principal was asking these questions. As a parent I wanted to delay this discussion until my child was more mature. **It was a huge overstep by the school administration to bring my child into this discussion without my consent.**

Fast forward a few months, and I heard on the KSD Board Work Session that the **"system"** the District has for ensuring that kids do not check out controversial or sexually explicit books that may be deemed as age-inappropriate **is essentially that their school librarians would "redirect" a child if he/she selected a book that they knew the parents would not be okay with.**

You can then imagine my surprise when my child brought home the book *The Breakaways*, which I had been aware of and which I had seen on the KFEI site. This book shows images of children kissing in bed during a sleepover and has very mature themes, despite just looking like a fun graphic novel

about sports from the cover. **Sadly, my child had already read this graphic novel on the bus ride home and was faced with all kinds of questions about transgender, kids making out and sleeping together, etc. It was beyond disappointing.**

How am I supposed to trust KSD's assurance to parents who are concerned about what their kids are being exposed to at school as, **"We know your kids and we know your families, and we won't let your kids get books you would not approve"**? They have never asked what I would or would not approve, so how can they know what is right for our family and children? Without some real change how can we expect the District to make good on that promise?

What is really ironic is that I was banned from attending KSD Board meetings in person for a year because I approached the Members and Administrators with the pictures from a book I did not approve for my child. Then a couple of months later my child brought home a book with the same themes and image types. I know that KSD is capable of setting guidelines and following them when it suits them, as my experience of being banned from meetings is proof of that. We as a community and as parents deserve the respect to be engaged in the process and treated as primary partners in our children's education.

All examples and narratives that KFEI shares are **verified**.

If you would like to submit an experience or resource that you think the KSD community should be aware of please do so [here](#).

Sources of examples will be protected as confidential, but all accounts must be fully verified and supported by documentation and/or firsthand experience. The integrity of this effort is critical and KFEI reserves the right to use discretion when choosing what to share.