

Parents
Against
Bad
Books
In
Schools

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Parents **A**gainst **B**ad **B**ooks **I**n **S**chools
www.pabbis.org

- ✓ Raise Awareness
- ✓ Show Book Content
- ✓ Help Protect Parents' Rights

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

WHY ARE WE HERE?

- Increasing use of controversial books in K-12 schools
- Used without warning or consent
- Use of this material conflicts with values and beliefs
- Use of this material undermines parental rights

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

- These books are in the curriculum and library; in regular, AP and IB classes; and on required and suggested reading lists
- The controversial material is getting more explicit, graphic and extreme
- Extreme material is not required by any Standards of Learning, instructional or curriculum objectives
- Are there any limits to this trend?

CURRENTLY "ANYTHING GOES"

Rape, incest, oral sex, bestiality, pedophilia, homosexuality, sex associated with violence, torture, excessive vulgarity, anti-religious material and other extreme content

- Very explicit and graphic descriptions

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

Parents have a right to decide what
their children will not read

Minor Students are not Adults

Public Schools are not Private Homes

Public Schools are not Public Streets

Public Schools are not Public Bookstores

School Libraries are not Public Libraries

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

- Schools should not censor values and beliefs
- Schools should not take away the right to choose our own values

True Freedom
has boundaries
in a healthy, orderly
society

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Putting Extreme Content

**“IN CONTEXT”
does not make it
INOFFENSIVE**

- That's why Hollywood has movie ratings -

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School boards have discretion to remove books that are pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable without violating the First Amendment.

--- Pico v. Board of Education, 1982

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

Virginia Law (22.1-208) states the entire scheme of instruction in public schools shall **emphasize moral education** through lessons given by teachers and imparted by **appropriate reading selections.**

Virginia Administrative Code (8VAC 20-170-10) calls for special emphasis on the thorough evaluation of materials related to **controversial or sensitive topics** such as sex education, moral education and religion.

Virginia Law (22.1-277.02:1) sets prohibitions against **profane language** or conduct by students.

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School values



Hollywood values

- School is for all parents -

**Not just those who think graphic
sex and violence are ok**

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

- Inclusiveness means including those who are offended by extreme material
- Forced diet of extreme material is unacceptable
- Schools should not be a moral minefield
- It is not reasonable to expect parents to already know what is in books or to have to quickly read them ahead of their children
- Parents should have an "off switch" for extreme material

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

- PABBIS firmly supports the 1st Amendment
- We support both freedom of speech and freedom of religion/belief
- Students are minor children, under the care of their parents until they reach legal age
- Their parents 1st Amendment rights are the real issue. The right for the consumer (not the producer) of the speech to exercise their right not to listen
- Schools should not violate a families religion, beliefs or values
- Discretion and good taste should be exercised when using taxpayer money

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

- PABBIS is not trying to take away anyone's right to read any book
- Parents who want their children to read extreme controversial material are not restricted from doing so
- Such books are available in public libraries and bookstores
- Removing a book from a school setting does not mean it is "banned" from the community, just that schools cannot endorse age-inappropriate, vulgar, obscene and violent reading material in their libraries and classrooms

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

Name calling (Nazi's, fascists, anti-intellectual, right-wing, religious lunatics, etc.) and lies will not help the situation or make the issue "go away"

"Ban" and "Censor" are inflammatory, misleading and loaded words

Parents practice censorship constantly with their children. For example, not very many allow their minor children to watch the *Playboy* channel, go to internet porn sites, or read *Penthouse*

Schools (like everybody else) practice selection and censorship. They select certain books and "censor" or "ban" others

**WHAT IS REALLY BEING BANNED AND CENSORED ARE
OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS**

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Intolerance and hostility
toward those who don't
want to read extreme
material is not the answer

-- ISSUE WILL NOT GO AWAY

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

PABBIS formed:

- To let people know about this important issue
- To let people know about book content
- To let people know what they can do about it

WHAT DOES PABBIS WANT?

- 1.** Minimum Standard of Decency reflected in book selection criteria
- 2.** Upfront, Informed Parental Consent disclosing controversial content in required and recommended books

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

Over 1500 Fairfax County voters signed a petition requesting a policy for minimum Standards of Decency in FCPS book selection

To date this petition has been ignored by FCPS – Why?

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The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) recognizes that parents have a right to choose what their children will not read.

The NCTE says a book rationale should be done prior to book selection and that special emphasis should be placed on controversial material so that parents know when to select an alternate book.

NCTE guidelines for preparing rationales call for attention to book language, action and situations.

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

Email to PABBIS:

"It really should be a no-brainer - we have a rating system for movies, why not for books? Too much violence and sex earns a movie an "R" rating - the same type of thing in a novel should earn an "R" rating for a book - not allowed to read without parental consent."

"We have been successfully rating movies for decades without bringing about the fall of democracy in America, why can't we do the same with books in a school?"

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

Email to PABBIS:

"My senior reads hundreds of pages a week, and reads every book she gets her hands on. I do not want her reading [graphic] books--and she doesn't want to read them either. But she has no way of determining when a book has inappropriate material in it. And because she reads dozens of books a month, there is no way I can "pre-read" the books to help her choose.

If a book has sex, a lot of bad language, violence etc, I think that parents as well as students should be informed of it. Some have suggested a permission slip. That would be OK because then a "red flag" would go up to warn us. ..[Currently we] have no idea, until too late, that the book has material in it that she finds offensive. These parents who feel that this is censoring, or who tell us to parent our children--read the books first--are nuts. There is no way I can read every book my children come home with."

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

- Without book rationales and Upfront Informed Parental Consent, parental rights will continue to be violated
- People would prefer to have their child select another more appropriate book ahead of time

The Challenge Process
is biased for a
predetermined outcome

- retroactive, bureaucratic, and slow -
- Parental rights still violated -

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“Anything-goes extremists”
DON'T HAVE A RIGHT
to
force their beliefs on your children

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

Schools must respect parental rights and values with:

- Minimum Standard of Decency
- Upfront, Informed Parental Consent

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STANDARDS OF DECENCY

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**A SCHOOL'S
CIVIC DUTY
IS NOT**

HOLLYWOOD VALUES

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**UPFRONT
INFORMED
PARENTAL
CONSENT**

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Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

**SCHOOLS PLEASE
DON'T
CENSOR
OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS**

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**WHY CAN'T FCPS
TELL US WHAT
IS IN THE BOOKS?**

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**PARENTS HAVE A RIGHT
TO DETERMINE WHAT
IS INAPPROPRIATE
FOR THEIR CHILDREN
BEFORE
THEY ARE EXPOSED TO IT**

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“IN CONTEXT”

≠

INOFFENSIVE

Parents Against Bad Books In Schools

**A VULGAR DESCRIPTION
is NOT an
“IDEA”**

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**TAKE
X-RATED
MATERIAL
OUT
OF THE SCHOOLS**

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**DON'T
BAN
OUR VALUES**

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EXTREME CONTENT

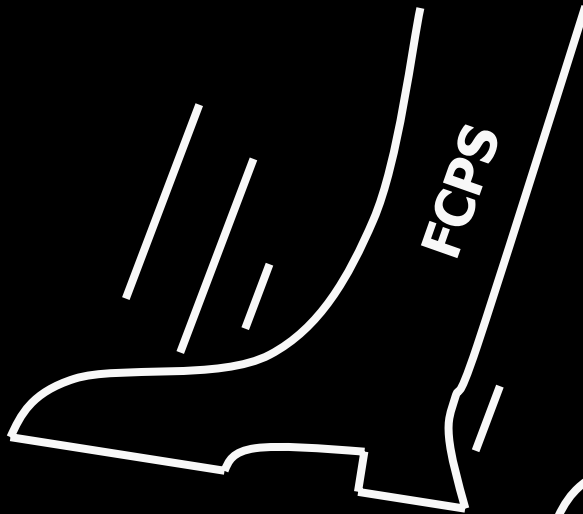
VULGARITY

PROFANITY

GRAPHIC SEX

EXPLICIT MATERIAL

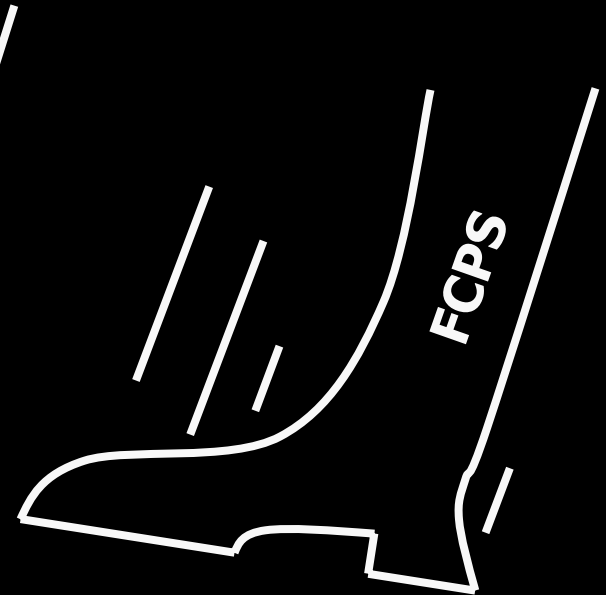
GRAPHIC VIOLENCE



VALUES



BELIEFS



Parental Rights

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**DON'T
BAN
OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE
OUR OWN VALUES**

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OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE OUR OWN VALUES

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