

Ideas offered

Dianne K Shibe <msea@mseak.org>

Thu, Apr 30, 12:33 PM (4 days ago)

to Thomas.Bergey, James.Hart, Sarah, OLE, Ryan.Ponder, Jeff.Taylor, Kelsey.Trimmer, AMY, KATHERINE, Luke.Fulp, MONICA, bcc: Dianne

Dear President Bergey:

It is easy to assume another person's position on an issue if that person does not communicate directly. Therefore, I want to ensure that you understand my position on the decision to remove the 5 books and the NYT from the elective curriculum.

My position is that I want to help resolve this issue. I read in your Frontiersman interview that you wanted to put in place policies so that this does not happen again. To that end, I am forwarding an email I received from the National Coalition Against Censorship which is a group that has offered their resources to assist in a resolution and a prevention of similar concerns in the future. I hope you find this helpful.

I am also attaching responses that I received from the EEOC and the PTPC and the Human Rights Commission. I know that several members of the Board are concerned that a teacher might run afoul of these commissions if they studied any of these five texts with their classes. I was very pleased to discover that will not be the case.

I understand that another concern expressed by a member is that teachers are not counselors and should not have to lead students through such sensitive material. I agree that it can be a delicate balance for a teacher to do so, but it is also incredibly rewarding. I think the solution to this concern is to invest in some excellent professional development in this area. If led by a quality, dynamic instructor, this would be a sought-after PD!

I look forward to hearing from you, and wish the Board success in guiding MSBSD through these concerns.

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In Solidarity!

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