



Alabama

On August 12, the Alabama State Board of Education passed a resolution banning critical race theory (CRT) in public schools. The resolution passed along both party and racial lines.

The resolution employed language modeled on former President Trump's September 22, 2020 executive order (EO 13850) to ban "concepts that impute fault, blame, a tendency to oppress others, or the need to feel guilt or anguish to persons solely because of their race or sex."

It states that the board does not support any K-12 public education resources or standards used to "indoc-trinate students in social or political ideologies that promote one race or sex above another."

The resolution provides similar prohibitions to the topics of profes-sional development for teachers or employees of Alabama's public educa-tion system.

Deliberately vague provisions such as these have been used since September 2020 to prohibit educa-tion around race and racism; prevent equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) training; chill speech; and justify removal of books from curricula and libraries.

Benard Simmelton, president of the Alabama NAACP, said, "This resolu-tion was conceived out of anti-public education groups that are unfamiliar with the Alabama course of study." He contended the board should instead be concerned with issues such as the unequal punishment of Black and White students.

At a brief public hearing before the resolution was voted on, the majority of speakers opposed it, expressing fears that it would hinder teaching about race and racism and reinforce an inac-curate portrayal of US history.

Terri Michal, a Birmingham City Schools board member, spoke in

opposition to the resolution. She said, "It is not the end of the world if our White children get uncomfortable at school. We have to teach our children not to hide from these issues."

"We have to quit censoring every-thing based off our experience as a White person because the truth is, Black families don't have that luxury. They have to have real conversations with their children about not going out in public with a squirt gun or Nerf gun. They have to have conver-sations about how to handle interac-tions with police," said Michal.

Sara McDaniels, a professor at the University of Alabama's College of Education and chair of their diversity, equity, and inclusion committee, said "We now have educators who are sec-ond-guessing whether they should use a certain example in class or continue to use their curriculum . . . on a cer-tain topic."

McDaniels added that since the resolution's passage, "district leaders [are] wondering whether they can still hold trainings that talk about diver-sity, equity, inclusion, and improving disproportionate disciplinary practices for students."

The board members who voted for the resolution were Governor Kay Ivey, Stephanie Bell, Cynthia Sand-ers McCarty, Belinda McCrae, Wayne Reynolds, Tracie West, and Jackie Ziegler, all White Republicans. The two members who voted against it were Yvette Richardson and Tonya Chestnut, both Democrats and both Black.

Richardson said, "As it stands now, our teachers have all taught about civil rights, they taught about slavery, and it's never been a problem."

Chestnut added that she believes the resolution "will put teachers in a position where they feel uncom-fortable or even fearful to teach the truth."

The resolution from the Alabama State Board of Education is part of a national trend in legislation, regula-tions, and policies restricting educa-tion on racism, bias, and the contribu-tions made by specific racial or ethnic groups to US history.

State Senator Kirk Hatcher said CRT is a way of looking at why "patterns of inequality stubbornly exist." He characterized the anti-CRT movement as "a backlash effort that has the potential to reverse racial reckoning."

Multiple bills have been pre-filed by Alabama legislators which would prohibit the teaching of "divisive concepts."

As reported in the previous issue of the *Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy*, CRT is the culture war catch-all of our times. Opaque defini-tions of CRT and "divisive concepts" are also being used nationwide to restrict education and access to mate-rials on sexism, sexuality, and gender identity.

(See: *Journal of Intellectual Free-dom & Privacy, v.6 iss.3: For the Record: Nationwide*)

Reported in: *Montgomery Advi-sor, August 12, 2021; Montgomery Independent, August 15, 2021.*

North Carolina

North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson proclaimed "There's no reason anybody anywhere in America should be telling any child about transgenderism, homosexuality, any of that filth. Yes, I called it 'filth.' And if you don't like that I called it 'filth,' come see me and I'll explain it to you."

His speech was delivered at the Asbury Baptist Church in June. Rob-inson also criticized critical race theory (CRT) in it. A video of the speech went viral after Right Wing Watch posted it online on October 6.



In response to Robinson's comments, faith and community leaders held a news conference outside his office on October 11 to demand that he apologize publicly and take a meeting with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) leaders.

"It's heartbreaking still to see such hateful words come from somebody. It's pretty hard to hear," said Kori Hennessey, director of education and programs at LGBT Center in Raleigh.

Pastor Vance Haywood said, "This isn't a political issue. It's a human rights issue. You're costing people their lives."

"We have so many things we've had to fight for for such a long time and for something as simple as not being called 'filth' and not being called names in general—it's just not something any of us will be quiet about," said Hennessey.

The Human Rights Campaign issued a statement "calling on Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson to resign for his disgraceful, hateful statements directed at LGBTQ+ people."

When asked to comment, Robinson stood by his early statements and took things further by recommending LGBTQIA+ books be banned from schools.

"There is material out there that is pushing these issues and teaching our children about these issues," said Robinson. "There is material out there that shares intimate details about homosexuality, about sexuality in general, to our students. That has got to stop."

Robinson posted a video on his Facebook page citing the children's book *George* by Alex Gino, *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison, and *Gender*

Queer by Maia Kobabe as evidence of "indoctrination." He said "These materials do not belong in public schools."

In the video he also referred to homosexuality and transgenderism as "filth" and "garbage."

Neither *Lawn Boy* nor *Gender Queer* is part of any school curriculum in North Carolina, though the titles are available in some high school libraries. John Wesley Waugh, a spokesperson for the lieutenant governor, was not able to cite any school where the books Robinson identified were used by teachers.

The Durham Public School system issued a statement that they operate "in alignment with the American Library Association's philosophy regarding the Library Bill of Rights: 'Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves.'"

Their statement continued that, "A diverse collection should contain content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences."

Governor Roy Cooper's office issued a statement reprimanding Robinson without naming him: "It's abhorrent to hear anyone, and especially an elected official, use hateful rhetoric that hurts people and our state's reputation."

Robinson remains unabashedly unapologetic for what state senator Jeff Jackson characterized as part of a pattern of "hateful and discriminatory" comments from the lieutenant governor.

Reported in: ABC 11, October 8, 2021, and October 12, 2021; NBC News, October 8, 2021; WRAL, October 12, 2021.

Texas

Texas state representative Matt Krause, chair of the House Committee on General Investigating, (HCGI) launched an inquiry into books available from school libraries. Soon after, Texas Governor Greg Abbott began demanding the removal of "inappropriate content" from schools.

The Texas Education Agency and every school district in Texas received a letter from Krause which included a 16-page list of 839 unique titles (see the appendix on page 15 for the full list of titles). The letter requested them to report which of those books they possess, how many copies they have, which schools they're located in, and how much was spent to purchase them.

Krause's letter also requests the districts inform Krause of all other books they have on human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, AIDS; all books which contain sexually explicit images; and those which "might make students feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress because of their race or sex."

The letter was dated October 25 and requested a written response by November 12.

In the first paragraph, Krause highlighted Carroll, Spring Branch, Lake Travis, Leander, and Katy as examples of Texas school districts which have recently removed such materials from their collections.

HCGI typically investigates legislative misconduct and wrongdoing by state officials. Its vice chair, State Representative Victoria Neave, called the letter "politically motivated."

Krause's action followed passage of Texas House Bill 3979, the critical race theory (CRT) law restricting how race-related subjects are taught in public schools. His letter includes phrases from the bill verbatim.



According to analysis done by Danika Ellis for *Book Riot*, only 8.3% of the titles pertained to race or racism. This is in keeping with the national trend to codify vague definitions of CRT into statute in order for it to serve as a catch-all for conservative culture war issues.

Most of the works listed (approximately 60%) were works of fiction. 62.4% of the books included lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) characters or subject matter. 13.6% of the titles were sex education books and books about teenage pregnancy. An additional 5% of the books were about abortion or *Roe v. Wade*.

According to Ellis, 163 of the books were included for no discernible reason. Most of these were false hits from search terms like “race relations” and “gender identity.”

Ovidia Molina, president of the Texas State Teachers Association, said, “This is an obvious attack on diversity and an attempt to score political points at the expense of our children’s education.”

Krause is running for Texas attorney general in the 2022 race.

On November 1, Texas Governor Abbott sent a letter to Dan Troxell, executive director of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), regarding “pornography or other inappropriate” materials in Texas schools.

“Collectively, your organization’s members have an obligation to determine the extent to which such materials exist or are used in our schools and to remove any such content,” wrote Abbott. “You have an obligation to Texas parents and students to ensure that no child in Texas is exposed to pornography or other inappropriate content while inside a Texas public school.”

A spokesperson from TASB expressed confusion as to why Abbott contacted them, as their association has “no regulatory authority over school districts and does not set the standards for instructional materials.”

While Abbott’s letter provided no particular guidance or examples, it is impossible to view it in isolation from Krause’s letter as it followed so closely after it.

On November 8, Abbott sent a similar letter to Mike Morath, commissioner of the Texas Education Agency; Kevin Ellis, chair of the State Board of Education; and Martha Wong, chair of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

In this letter, Abbott called on the agencies to “immediately develop statewide standards to prevent the presence of pornography and other obscene content in Texas public schools, including in school libraries.”

Abbott cited *In the Dream House* by Carmen Machado and *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe as examples of the kind of books he wants removed from school libraries. Both are LGBTQIA+ memoirs.

Reported in: *The Texas Tribune*, October 26, 2021; *Book Riot*, November 5, 2021; *The Hill*, October 27, 2021; *KXAN*, November 8, 2021; *NPR*, November 2, 2021.

Virginia

In the final days leading up to the Virginia gubernatorial election, Glenn Youngkin’s ads focused on removing “explicit” books from schools.

One ad features Laura Murphy, a mother who claims her son was traumatized by reading Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* in 2013 and suffered night terrors as a result. Her son, Blake Murphy, is currently associate general counsel for the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC).

In 2017, Terry McAuliffe, Youngkin’s Democratic opponent, vetoed a bill that would have allowed parents to opt their children out of “sexually explicit reading assignments.” The bill was inspired by Laura Murphy’s efforts to remove *Beloved* from 12th grade English reading lists. It was called the *Beloved* Bill.

Beloved tells the story of a formerly enslaved woman haunted by a past that includes killing one of her daughters to prevent her from being forced back into slavery.

It is widely considered one of the most significant literary works of the past 100 years. It won the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights Book Award, the Melcher Book Award, the Lyndhurst Foundation Award, the Elmer Holmes Bobst Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, and the Pulitzer Prize.

Youngkin said he would “ban critical race theory” (CRT) if elected. CRT is increasingly employed in vague and improbably encompassing ways. However, the ad in which Murphy recounts her efforts to ban a book written by a Black Nobel laureate recounting the enduring trauma of slavery provides insight into what Youngkin is talking about when he refers to CRT.

Morrison called banning books from schools the “purist and yet [most] elementary kind of censorship, designed to appease adults rather than educate children.”

Youngkin was elected to be Virginia’s next governor. It would be disingenuous to overlook the role his dog-whistled intent to suppress Black art played in this victory.

Reported in: *The New Republic*, October 26, 2021; *The Washington Post*, October 27, 2021; and *October 28, 2021*.



Jonesboro, Arkansas

Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library board member Amanda Escue resigned during the September 13th board meeting after several unsuccessful efforts to ban library materials and Pride displays.

Escue repeatedly pushed for the board to “govern children’s acquisitions” and for the board to oversee all library displays, guest speakers, authors, and performances. These issues were raised in two separate motions during her first board meeting on August 9, 2021. Escue seconded both motions. Both failed by a 2-3 vote.

Escue then attempted to call a special meeting of the board on August 16 to advance this agenda, but failed to follow protocol. As a result, her motion there was scuttled and the meeting declared unofficial.

The board’s push to control children’s materials, displays, and speakers was a response to the library’s Pride Month displays in June.

At the September 13 board meeting, Escue argued that “sensitive content” including “sexual or romantic attraction, topics of gender theory, and family planning” should require board approval in order to be “considerate of the parent’s role.”

Library Director David Eckert spoke out against Escue’s efforts at every turn. “Once the discussion moves to restrict[ing] access to any type of material, then it turns to censorship,” Eckert said.

Community member John Caldwell agreed. He said he was raised in a religious household where he was beaten because of his sexuality. He said kids like him benefit from access to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) materials.

“I dream of a world where this argument that we are having today will make us laugh at ourselves and dismiss it as insanity,” Caldwell said.

Lexie Brenton also spoke out against board members’ efforts to hamstringing the library staff’s ability to purchase and display materials. She said she knew she was part of the LGBTQIA+ community since she was seven.

“We do not need another generation of children growing up learning to hate themselves like most gay kids learn to do,” Brenton said. “There are kids dying due to the hate we receive because of the public’s lack of education on gay people and the lack of representation.”

Escue said her actions as a board member resulted in unforeseen consequences, prompting her resignation. “I have received a glitter bomb within the last week in the mail. I received a sack of poop in the mail today.”

The board tabled the policies Escue proposed regarding “sensitive materials” for children, tweens, and teens and oversight of guest speakers, guest authors, displays, and performances.

A subcommittee was created and tasked to make a recommendation to the board at their October 11 meeting regarding the proposals.

The subcommittee met on October 6 without providing notice to the public or any media organizations. Escue filed a complaint against the board on October 27, arguing they violated the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by not providing at least two hours’ notice.

An agreement was reached between the library board and Escue in which the board admitted to violating FOIA and agreed to not hold any further meetings without notice,

to receive training on FOIA, and to pay court costs and attorney fees.

No recommendations to the board emerged from the subcommittee’s October 6 meeting.

(See: *Journal of Intellectual Freedom & Privacy, v.6 iss.3: Censorship Dateline: Libraries*)

Reported in: KAIT8, August 9, 2021; August 16, 2021; September 14, 2021; and October 27, 2021.

Paso Robles, California

On August 10, the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District’s board passed a resolution forbidding the teaching of topics it characterized as “elements” or “doctrines” of critical race theory (CRT) in a 4-3 vote.

Board President Chris Arend drafted and introduced the resolution.

The lessons the board banned from being taught in their schools include:

- Racism is racial prejudice plus power
- Racism is ordinary
- Those in power will move away from racist policies only if doing so serves their interests
- The “dominant society racializes different minority groups at different times in response to different needs, such as the labor market”
- People of color have “a presumed competence to speak about race and racism”
- The preservation of slavery was a material motive for independence from England

The resolution allows CRT to be taught only if “such instruction focusses [sic] on the flaws in Critical Race Theory.”

The passed resolution contradicts the district’s Controversial Issues Policy, which was approved by the board on July 14, 1998.



That policy allows controversial issues to be discussed in the classroom if “all sides of the issue are given a proper hearing” and there is allowance for “alternative points of view to be discussed and evaluated.”

During the period for comment, trustee Nathan Williams pointed out that their long-standing controversial issues policy made this resolution unnecessary.

Michael Rivera stated the board needs to “draw a line in the sand” and stand against CRT. “You’ve got to draw the line and say, ‘Not one step further.’”

Some pointed out that CRT is not taught at any K-12 school, as it’s a complex academic theory introduced at the graduate level in law schools. Others argued that Arend’s resolution entirely misinterpreted CRT.

Shannon Gonzalez lamented the board was discussing CRT instead of addressing concrete problems. “We need to be focused on transportation. You’re considering closing a school. Why are you wasting time?”

Joddy Moore, a parent in the district, felt the resolution was worth their time because banning CRT “sends a clear message.”

Trustee Jim Reed argued that “if you actually look at all Whites, we are not oppressive.” He said, “The truth is, not all Americans have been racists and oppressors. Only some have been. . . . They were Democrats.”

This prompted trustee Tim Gearhart to object that Reed’s comments were partisan and should not be allowed on a nonpartisan school board. Arend dismissed Gearhart’s objection and allowed Reed to continue.

Chris Bausch observed that the board had previously adopted a resolution proclaiming their stance against racism and questioned why banning CRT was necessary. He said he

trusted teachers to facilitate robust discussions and teach critical thinking.

“The resolution does not ban CRT,” Williams said. “It explicitly allows it to be included, but only how one side wants it to be. It goes against the very nature of education.”

Dorian Baker, Lance Gannon, and Reed voted for it. Williams, Gearhart, and Bausch dissented. Bausch requested the record show the resolution was not read aloud before voting took place.

Reported in: *San Luis Obispo Tribune*, August 11, 2021.

Sarasota County, Florida

A personal narrative relaying the story of a child attending a Black Lives Matter protest with his father was removed from the Sarasota County School District’s 5th grade curriculum. It was part of a vocabulary practice test.

District leaders sent a letter to parents in October indicating that the narrative was removed because it violated the Florida Department of Education’s ban on teaching critical race theory (CRT) in schools.

The passage was replaced with a nearly-identical narrative about the 1963 Children’s Crusade march in Birmingham.

Both narratives are told from the child’s perspective. Both refer to the heat as “soupy.” Both describe some of the protestors as wearing “their ‘Sunday best’—suits and ties, dresses and hats.” Both include an account of when the child’s father was arrested earlier that year. Both detail the everyday injustices the children are protesting. Both discuss Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The only notable differences between the narratives are that one is set in the present and also includes the phrases “Black Lives Matter” and

“wore masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.”

Trevor D. Harvey, President of the Sarasota NAACP said, “the verbiage changed to flip it to something that has now happened in the past and it is moving away from present day . . . I feel that it is hindering the engagement of the learner by putting them in the past.”

Harvey and others said removing the passage was a form of censorship and amounts to a whitewashing of history.

“Banning the teaching of important milestones in our nation’s history is a detriment to our children and does them a huge disservice,” tweeted civil rights lawyer Ben Crump.

Harvey said, “If you truly and honestly understand CRT you will recognize the way it was written has nothing to do with CRT at all. . . . I get so frustrated. The minute somebody says ‘Black’ or something about slavery, they automatically relate it to CRT, and this is not CRT. It’s just not.”

The chilling effect surrounding bans of CRT extends far beyond the graduate-level academic framework to which it refers.

Reported in: *WTSP*, October 18, 2021; *Patch*, October 15, 2021.

Carmel, Indiana

A group of parents and community members in Carmel, Indiana, has been following online guidance to pressure local school boards to end social-emotional learning (SEL) and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work; ban books; and lift mask mandates. They use the label critical race theory (CRT) as a catch-all for what they oppose.

Unify Carmel has organized protests at meetings of the Carmel Clay school board and the Hamilton County school district north of Indianapolis. Their actions, including



showing up with bullhorns and firearms, resulted in the Carmel Clay school board temporarily suspending public comments and using metal detectors to screen attendees.

In September, the board voted to hold virtual meetings citing a group's "orchestrated" efforts to frighten, intimidate, and threaten teachers and their family members.

Unify Carmel is led by Alvin Lui, an illusionist from California, who has refused to disclose if his daughter attends a school in the district.

Lui said the group is working to "educate and empower parents to take back their school district." Their website states one of their primary goals is to "ensure parental control of academic decisions."

As part of its mission, Unify Carmel's website encourages parents to complain about books they don't approve of.

In the blog post "how to search for inappropriate books," Lui directs visitors to like and follow the Mary in the Library facebook page. Mary in the Library functions as a forum for people to post books they feel are "inappropriate" along with which school libraries own them.

One of the books targeted on Mary in the Library is *Jesus Land*, by Indiana native Julia Scheeres. Her *New York Times*-bestselling memoir details how she and her brother survived abusive fundamentalist parents who sent them to Escuela Caribe, an oppressive Christian "reform school" in the Dominican Republic.

Jesus Land won the Young Adult Library Services Association's Alex Award and the New Visions Non-fiction Book Award. Its publication helped bring attention to Escuela Caribe, leading to its closing in 2011 after other alumni came forward to expose its 40-year history of child abuse.

Referring to Scheeres' memoir, Lui said, "That kind of book is exactly what we as Unify Carmel try to point out. You want to buy it for your kids, fine, but these books have no place in schools."

"We've seen devastating results when you indoctrinate generations of students. We've seen it in the crime and everything you hear about California," said Lui. "If you want to pass on social justice, do that in your home."

Scheeres pointed out that organizations like Unify Carmel aren't interested in simply banning books. "It's not just books," she said. "It's Social Emotional Learning, diversity training—which they see as anti-White.

"And they're posting names and contact info for individual teachers and encouraging people to hound them. This broke my heart: a teacher did a tour of their classroom, which had a rainbow flag, and said it was a place where kids can write down their preferred pronoun, and a group posted this TikTok they had made, repudiating this welcoming behavior. School administrators are being cowed."

"I've got concerns about teachers and librarians," she added. "Where are the people who are going to support these teachers?"

April Hennessey, a Monroe County Community School Board member and former teacher, agreed.

"When we see these attacks launched at our teachers and librarians, I'm concerned because we cannot afford to lose them," she said. "I worry about the future of public education in Indiana. It's really disheartening."

Unify Carmel's site links to a who's who of anti-CRT organizations, including Christopher Rufo, No Left Turn, Southlake Families, Parents Defending Education, and the 1776 Commission. Purple for Parents, a group opposed to CRT, SEL,

and comprehensive sexual education, has shared videos from Lui and Unify Carmel on social media.

Lui and Unify Carmel started a Change.org petition calling for the Carmel Clay School Board to end their DEI work and fire their DEI officer. They caution those signing the petition against donating to Change.org. They instruct donations be sent to the Unify Carmel Political Action Committee, instead.

Reported in: *Star Press*, October 11, 2021, and September 30, 2021; *WRTV*, August 25, 2021.

Johnson County, North Carolina

On October 4, Johnston County commissioners agreed to release \$7.9 million in new school funding that they'd been withholding for months. Their stated reason for withholding funding was Johnston County Public Schools' lack of a policy banning critical race theory (CRT).

April Lee, president of the Johnston County Association of Educators referred to the commission's action as "extortion."

Tamika Walker-Kelly, president of the North Carolina Association of Educators, said "The Johnston County Board of Commissioners and the Johnston County Board of Education are attempting to stoke fears, divide parents and communities, and discredit Johnston County's hard-working teachers, yet all they are doing is hurting our children."

"The fact that an entirely White board of commissioners is using its control of funding to ensure that students don't hear about systemic racism is a powerful example of systemic racism in action," said Justin Parmenter, a Mecklenburg County school teacher.

In order to obtain their funding, the school board's Code of Ethics and



Standards of Conduct was extensively revised. It now includes a provision that “No employee or student shall be forced to have compelled speech or acceptance of ideas that are contrary to their beliefs.”

Another revision states that, “No student or staff member shall be subjected to the notion that racism is a permanent component of American life.”

The provision that “all people who contributed to American society will be recognized and presented as reformists, innovators, and heroes to our culture,” was also added.

Those provisions sit uncomfortably next to this one: “When discussing a controversial topic, which may arise out of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, the staff member shall remain neutral and present the information without bias. These topics must include multiple and varied viewpoints, in an effort to stimulate thought, without persuasion or outside pressure.”

The policy states that teachers failing to comply will face disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Commissioner Fred Smith indicated that the commission’s actions were an effort to locally enact the provisions of House Bill 324. HB 324 would have restricted education around race and racism statewide had it not been vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper earlier this year.

Walker-Kelly objected to the constraints the policy revisions imposed on teachers. “Our students deserve honesty in education, rooted in facts and truth. Loving America and what it stands for means learning about our history, both good and bad. If we censor our history and ignore today’s challenges, we will never live up to our ideals of liberty and justice for all.”

Alan Hall, a district parent, said these anti-CRT efforts to rewrite history were reminiscent of the actions of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who promoted the false notion that the Civil War was a heroic cause and not centered on slavery.

Dale Lands, founder of Citizen Advocates for Accountable Government, a group that has opposed CRT and mask mandates, applauded the commission for withholding funds in order to constrain how history and current events are taught.

“Always keep that in your toolbox and understand that you can use it,” said Lands.

Reported in: *NC Policy Watch*, October 5, 2021.

Newberg, Oregon

On October 22, the Newberg school board held a special meeting over Zoom to allow public comment on their recent ban on political symbols. Vice chair Brian Shannon introduced the policy in order to prevent teachers from displaying Pride and Black Lives Matter (BLM) banners.

Two days before the meeting, Lauren Pefferle, a special education assistant at the district’s Mabel Rush Elementary School, came to work in blackface to protest mandatory vaccination. She said she “was Rosa Parks” and vaccination was “segregation.”

The previous week, a story broke about students holding a virtual “slave trade” of Black Newberg students on Snapchat.

District lawyers and an attorney for the statewide school boards association have said the directive as drafted violates the First Amendment.

Prior to the meeting, dozens of demonstrators gathered along Highway 99 in Newberg waving signs and flags bearing Pride and BLM messages.

Members of the public had up to two minutes each for comment, and nearly 50 residents and students weighed in. All staff and students who testified opposed the ban, though other residents were roughly split.

Newberg residents Peggy Kilburg and John Kitchen argued that BLM and Pride flags were “political symbols.”

Midas Jenkins, a transgender senior at Newberg Catalyst High School, said the ban on Pride and BLM flags tells lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/ questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) that their lives are not valued.

“I am not political. I am human,” said Jenkins.

MaryJane Bachmeier, on behalf of the Newberg Education Association Executive Board, also spoke out against the ban. “Students need to know who their allies are when they feel the need to talk or a safe space just to be themselves.”

Catalyst Success Coordinator Elaine Koskela said she knew two high school students who transferred to McLoughlin High School due to the recent racist incidents and the ban. She argued that putting up Pride and BLM symbols was a way of showing support for her students.

“A board telling me what I can and cannot put on my walls is limiting the ways I connect with students,” said Koskela.

Several speakers criticized the board for not being receptive to community input earlier and only entertaining public comment after passing the policy.

Reported in *Oregon Live*, September 22, 2021; September 20, 2021; and September 15, 2021.



Appendix: Titles Targeted by Texas State Representative Matt Krause

- ¿Qué me está pasando? : las respuestas a algunas de las preguntas más embarazosas del mundo* by Peter Mayle
- "Pink is a Girl Color" ... and Other Silly Things People Say by Stacy Drageset
- #BlackLivesMatter: *Protesting Racism* by Rachael L Thomas
- 10 Things I Can See from Here* by Carrie Mac
- 100 Questions You'd Never Ask Your Parents: Straight Answers to Teens' Questions About Sex, Sexuality, and Health* by Elisabeth Henderson
- 101 Questions About Reproduction: Or How 1 + 1 = 3 or 4 or More* by Faith Hickman Brynie
- 101 Questions about Sex and Sexuality: With Answers for the Curious, Cautious, and Confused* by Faith Hickman Brynie
- 2020 Black Lives Matter Marches* by Joyce L Markovics
- 7 Days at the Hot Corner* by Terry Trueman
- A Baby Doesn't Make the Man: Alternative Sources of Power and Manhood for Young Men* by Raymond Jamiolkowski
- A Case of Need* by Michael Crichton
- A Complicated Love Story Set in Space* by Shaun David Hutchinson
- A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramee
- A Guy's Guide to Sexuality and Sexual Identity in the 21st Century* by Joe Craig
- A High Five for Glenn Burke* by Phil Bildner
- A Home for Goddesses and Dogs* by Leslie Connor
- A is for Activist* by Innosanto Nagara
- A Kids Book About Racism* by Jelani Memory
- A Lesson in Vengeance* by Victoria Lee
- A Line in the Dark* by Malinda Lo
- A Love Story Starring My Dead Best Friend: A Novel* by Emily Horner
- A New Generation of Homosexuality: Modern Trends in Gay and Lesbian Communities* by Bill Palmer
- A Question of Choice* by Sarah Ragle Weddinton
- A Tale of Two Summers* by Brian Sloan
- A Very, Very Bad Thing* by Jeffery Self
- A Woman's Right to an Abortion: Roe v. Wade* by D J Herda
- Abortion* by Tamara Thompson
- Abortion* by Noel Merino
- Abortion* by Noah Berlatsky
- Abortion* by David M Haugen
- Abortion* by Bonnie Juettner Fernandes
- Abortion* by Hal Markovitz
- Abortion* by Norah Piehl
- Abortion* by Mary E Williams
- Abortion* by Allison Lassieur
- Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood* by Kristin Luker
- Abortion Decisions of the Supreme Court: 1973 through 1989: A Comprehensive Review with Historical Commentary* by Dan Drucker
- Abortion: A Documentary and Reference Guide* by Melody Rose
- Abortion: Interpreting the Constitution* by Carol Hand
- Abortion: Opposing Viewpoints* by Tamara L. Roleff
- Abortion: Understanding the Debate* by Kathlyn Gay
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Something Like Gravity by Amber Smith
Sonny's House of Spies by George Ella Lyon
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Teen Sex by Christine Watkins
Teen Sex by Tamara L. Roleff
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The Abortion Controversy by Lynette Knapp
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The Confessions of Nat Turner by William Styron
The Courage to be Yourself: True Stories by Teens about Cliques, Conflicts, and Overcoming Peer Pressure by Al Desetta
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The Cutting Room Floor by Dawn Klehr
The Dateable Rules: A Guide to the Sexes by Justin Lookadoo
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- The Gods of Tango* by Carolina De Robertis
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- The Handmaid's Tale (graphic novel)* by Margaret Atwood, Renee Nault
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- The Reproductive System* by Alvin Silverstein
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- The Traitor Game* by B R Collins
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- The Truth About Sexual Behavior and Unplanned Pregnancy* by Elissa Howard-Barr, Robert N Golden
- The Truth Is* by NoNieqa Ramos
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- Top 250 LGBTQ Books for Teens: Coming Out, Being Out, and the Search for Community* by Michael Cart
- Totally Joe* by James Howe
- Trans Mission: My Quest to a Beard* by Alex Bertie
- Transgender Lives: Complex Stories, Complex Voices* by Kirstin Cronn-Mills
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- Transphobia: Deal with it and be a Transcender* by J Wallace Skelton
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- Two Boys Kissing* by David Levithan



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- Underneath it All: A History of Women's Underwear* by Amber J Keyser
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- Undone* by Cat Clarke
- Unpregnant* by Jenni Henriks
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- Wait, What? A Comic Book Guide to Relationships, Bodies, and Growing Up* by Heather Corinna
- Wandering Son* by Takako Shimura
- Wandering Son. Volume 2* by Takako Shimura
- Wandering Son. Volume 3* by Takako Shimura
- Wandering Son. Volume 4* by Takako Shimura
- Wandering Son. Volume 5* by Takako Shimura
- Wandering Son. Volume Eight* by Takako Shimura
- Wandering Son. Volume Seven* by Takako Shimura
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