February 2, 2022

Dear Katy ISD Parents/Guardians and Staff,

As you will recall, this past December I shared with you concerns that had been brought to the District’s attention regarding “pervasively vulgar” reading material per Board Policy EF. I also shared Katy ISD’s existing process for instructional resource selections, as well as mechanisms for parents and guardians to review books, including our recently launched Partner with Parents Online Book Review app.

However, in the world of fast pace media, often times facts are left out, or go entirely unreported. This leaves readers and viewers in the position of having to make assumptions based on little information, and the District having to fill in those gaps with the facts. Unfortunately, this is the case with recent media reports concerning library book challenges in Katy ISD.

**Katy ISD Library Book Facts:**

1. Consistent with existing state law, Katy ISD has mechanisms in place for parents to request an informal or formal review of instructional resources (i.e. textbooks, supplemental materials, library books).
2. The District does not deny access to, nor remove, library books based on subject matter for which some people may disagree.
3. Katy ISD Policy EF (Legal & Local) allows school districts to remove materials if the instructional resource is determined to be “pervasively vulgar.”
4. Informally and formally challenged instructional materials and library books are reviewed by a committee of educators.
5. Katy ISD has library collections comprised of over 390,000 titles. The District has removed 9 books, or 0.002% of titles, found to violate the “pervasively vulgar” standard outlined in policy.

I understand that some reading materials represent complex matters that are occasionally a challenge to navigate, or even polarizing for our school community. Katy ISD parents and educators working together is crucial to ensuring that we are consistently doing what is best for our students. We have dedicated teachers, librarians, and administrators at our campuses and across the District who are committed to doing just that for the more than 89,000 students we serve.

Should you have any questions about Katy ISD’s instructional resources, including both instructional materials and library books, please do not hesitate to contact bookconcerns@katyisd.org. District personnel will always follow up with you to provide information pertaining to your concern, as well as assistance with related processes.

Sincerely,

Ken Gregorski, Ed.D.
Superintendent