



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Ad Hoc Challenge Materials Committee Meeting

March 2, 2022

10:30 AM

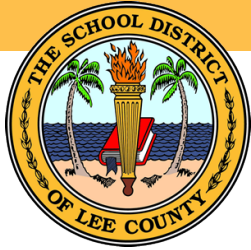
Curriculum Resource Room

AGENDA

- Review of Challenge to Instructional and/or Media Materials Process
- Challenged Materials
 - Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
 - Killing Mr. Griffin
- Good of the Order

BOARD MEMBERS: DEBBIE JORDAN, CHAIR, DISTRICT 4 | MARY FISCHER, VICE CHAIR, DISTRICT 1

MELISA W. GIOVANNELLI, DISTRICT 2 | CHRIS N. PATRICCA, DISTRICT 3 | GWYNETTA S. GITTENS, DISTRICT 5 | BETSY VAUGHN, DISTRICT 6
CATHLEEN O'DANIEL MORGAN, DISTRICT 7 | KENNETH A. SAVAGE, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT | KATHY DUPUY-BRUNO, ESQ., BOARD ATTORNEY



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Committee Response Challenge to Instructional and/or Media Materials

Committee Meeting Date: March 2, 2022

Date Challenge to Instruction and/or Media Materials Form Received: Per Ad Hoc committee, a recommendation was made January 24, 2022, to review the email from [REDACTED] (sent 10/14/21) with a list of materials, reviewed by the Florida Citizens Alliance, based upon citation of objections referencing violation of State Statute FS 847.012. No form was officially submitted for individual books.

NOTE: To be in compliance with Board Policies, complainant submitted a Challenge Form. See pages 5-7 of this response document.

Submitted by: [REDACTED]

Challenged Material: Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by: Sherman Alexie

Complainant: Book is being challenged per FS 847.012.

Decision:

- Recommend continued use of challenged material as instructional materials and for media circulation
- Recommend continued use for media circulation only
- Recommend continued use for instructional purposes only
- Recommend continued use of challenged material with the following guidelines:
This book requires school-based and district-based administrative approval prior to use in the classroom. If approved by school and district administration for instructional use, teachers are required to obtain parental permission prior to utilizing this book for instruction.
- Recommend to discontinue use of challenged material during instruction and remove from media circulation



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Additional Comments and/or Notes:

While this book is in media circulation, it is not included in current district curriculum or coursework. Parents may exercise their parental rights within the Parent Bill of Rights and submit an individual request to their child's school for an alert to be placed on the child's Destiny account, identifying the book as prohibited for media checkout.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Voting Committee Members in Attendance:

Director of High School Curriculum & Instruction

Elementary Coordinator of Mathematics

Secondary Coordinator of Reading

School-based Administrator Representative

Diversity & Inclusion Representative

Curriculum Advisory Representative

Non-Voting Committee Members in Attendance:

Director of Elementary School Curriculum & Instruction

Coordinator for Instructional Technology and Instructional Materials - Facilitator

Content Specialist for Instructional Technology and Instructional Materials - Recorder



Challenge to Instructional and/or Media Material

School or District: Lee County Public Schools Date: June 15, 2022

Please check type of instructional material:

Book: _____ () AV (Video, CD, etc.): _____ Other (Identify): _____

Title: The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Author: Sherman Alexie

Publisher or Producer: _____

Request initiated by name: [REDACTED]

Student Name: N/A

Telephone Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED] Zip Code: [REDACTED]

It is expected that the material in question has been read, viewed, or listened to in its entirety. Please complete the following questions. If insufficient space is provided, attach additional sheets.

(Please sign your name to each additional attachment)

1. What brought this material to your attention? Public Records Request

2. Did you examine the entire material? No If not, what parts did you examine? Selected Excerpts

3. To what in the material do you object? (Please be specific. Cite pages, film sequence, etc.) _____

See attached report.

4. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this material? _____

This book is like soft core porn for children.

5. What do you feel might be the result of a student using this material? _____

Promotes masturbation and porn.

6. For what age group would you recommend this material? 18+

7. In your opinion, is there anything of value in this material? _____

Yes, but only for the right family and only with knowledgeable parental approval.

8. Have you read any critical reviews of this material? If so, what? Please be specific. _____

Yes, but it was long enough ago that I do not recall the location or source of the reviews (mostly banned books)

9. What would you like the school or district to do about this material? Check your choice.

Do not assign it to my child

Other (Please explain) Tag the book to alert the parent to the potential objectionable nature of the book.

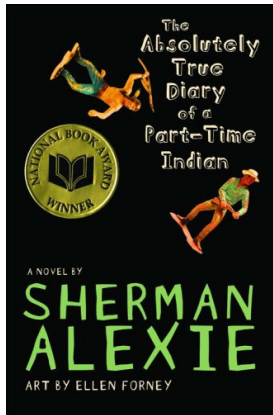
[REDACTED]

June 20, 2022

Signature of Objector

Date (M/D/Y)

Please submit to the school principal for review.



“The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie can be found even in Middle Schools (read children 10-14 years of age) such as Caloosa MS, Challenger MS, Bonita Springs MS, Cypress Lakes MS, Lehigh MS, Lexington MS, Oak Hammock MS, Paul L. Dunbar MS, Success Academy, The Sanibel School, Three Oaks MS, Varsity Lakes MS, and Veterans Park MS, along with a host of High Schools across Lee County!

Read the reviews we have found on the internet about this book. There are 167 copies in circulation in just Lee County Schools! Cape Coral HS has 43 copies alone, Dunbar HS has 28 copies, while South Ft. Myers HS has 20. The only reason you would need that many copies in one school is the book is likely assigned reading.

“Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and allegations of sexual misconduct by the author.” **Why are we promoting a book that the author is known for his inappropriate non-consensual sexual encounters”?**

Many “objected to the language and references to masturbation...”

“The concern was content regarding alcohol, bullying, violence, sexual references, profanity, and slurs.”

Not found suitable for a public school because of “gratuitous and unnecessary” profanity and reference to sexual acts.

A grandmother complained that the book “portrays bestiality and is pornographic”.

The novel “discusses masturbation, contains profanity, and has been viewed as anti-Christian.”

“The book contains numerous depictions of sexual behavior, as well as instances of racism, vulgar language, bullying, and violence.”

One critic says, “It’s objectification of women and young girls...”

Explicit sexual references, encouraging pornography, racism, religious irreverence, and strong language **(including the f- and n-words).**”

“Vulgarity, racism, and anti-Christian content.”

“Some very sensitive material in the book including excerpts on masturbation amongst other explicit sexual references, encouraging pornography, racism, religious irreverence, and strong language ***(including the f- and n-words)***.”

“There are things in the book that might be of concern: prejudice; masturbation (lots of references to "boners"); alcoholism; child/spousal abuse; bulimia; death.”

“Dark, sexual, de-masculinizing, destructive, demonizing, homophobic and hateful topics come up.”