



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Ad Hoc Challenge Materials Committee Meeting

March 2, 2022

9:30 AM

Curriculum Resource Room

AGENDA

- Review of Challenge to Instructional and/or Media Materials Process
- Challenged Materials
 - Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen
 - Everywhere Babies
- 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: Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen by: Jazz Jennings

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:

- 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.



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Voting Committee Members in Attendance:

Director of Elementary School Curriculum & Instruction

Director of Middle School Curriculum & Instruction

Director of High School Curriculum & Instruction

Elementary Coordinator of English Language Arts

Secondary Coordinator of English Language Arts

School-based Administrator Representative

Diversity & Inclusion Representative

Curriculum Advisory Representative

Non-Voting Committee Members in Attendance:

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: Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen

Author: Jazz Jennings

Publisher or Producer: _____

Request initiated by name: [REDACTED]

Student Name: N/A

Telephone Address: [REDACTED]

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

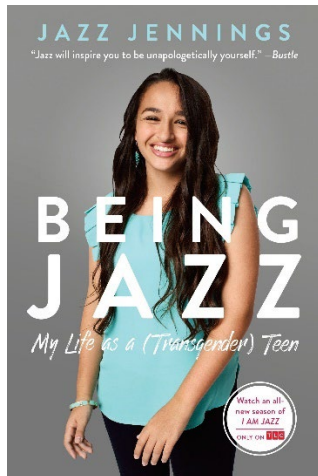
It is expected that the material in question has been read, viewed, or listened to in its entirety. Please complete the following questions. If insufficient space is provided, attach additional sheets.

(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.)
Glorification of the transgender lifestyle possibly inspiring other teens to follow a destructive path.
4. What do you believe is the theme or purpose of this material?
A limited view of the LGBTQ+ lifestyle, not giving the whole story.
5. What do you feel might be the result of a student using this material?
If a student selects transition as a result of this book, it may result in irreversible damage.
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 if presented as the entire story. Look at where this young person is today!
8. Have you read any critical reviews of this material? If so, what? Please be specific. No
The Board proudly stated that they did not have the book "Jazz". The implication was that Jazz was not an appropriate book (as quoted in print media). Yet the companion book is in the media centers.
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] Signature of Objector Date (M/D/Y)

Please submit to the school principal for review.



26 on the FLCA Report

Being Jazz by Jazz Jennings

Pg. 6-7 When I was around two years old, I had what I now refer to as the Good Fairy dream. After a long morning of playing with Ari's dolls, dressing them up and staring enviously at the smooth area between their legs, I took a nap in my sister's bed. I had no idea that I was asleep—the world seemed crystal clear as a grown woman wearing a blue gown floated into the room. She wasn't quite like the imaginary creatures you see in cartoons, but I knew instinctively that she was a fairy, thanks to her gossamer wings, the glowing light all around her, and the magic wand that suddenly appeared in her hand. Other than those fantasy details, she looked and acted like an adult, full of purpose and authority. I don't remember her exact words, or even if she spoke out loud a tall, but I knew why she was there. She promised to use her wand to turn my penis into a vagina. I was ecstatic when I woke up. I felt like all the answers to my prayers were possible. The dream had felt so true, so real, that I knew it was just a matter of time before the fairy would appear again and do what she's said she could do. I ran downstairs and found my mother sitting in our living room. "When is the Good Fairy going to come with her magic wand?" I asked. "The Who?" "The Good Fairy, who will turn my penis into a vagina!" My Mom tells me now that this was a huge turning point for her, the first time she truly began to realize that what I was going through probably wasn't a phase. I remember being crushed when she said no fairy was going to come for me. I had been filled with so much hope when I'd woken up, and it was destroyed within a matter of minutes. In response I started to assert myself even more

Pg. 9 Mom has a master's degree in clinical counseling, so she decided to start doing some research in her copy of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders about what I was experiencing. The DSM is a huge book that lists all the different mental conditions known to the medical world. It gets revised and updated as doctors learn more about mental health, and back then the most current version still included something called gender identity disorder. The word "disorder" has a negative connotation that's pretty offensive to transgender people. (the same manual used to list being gay as a disorder too.)

Pg. 11 I was three when we went in for the appointment, and I liked Dr. Marilyn right away. She had a very calm and soothing voice like Grandma Jacky's that made me feel safe. Dr. Marilyn pulled out two stuffed dolls that looked like fake Cabbage Patch Kids you'd find on the counterfeit toy market, with an important difference—they were anatomically correct. She asked what I had between my legs, and I pointed to the penis. She then asked what I wanted, and I pointed to the vagina. That was the first day I ever heard the word "transgender." I remember feeling this overwhelming sense of relief that there was finally a word that described me—a girl who had accidentally been born into a boy's body. No one really knows why people are born transgender, but there are a few medical theories. The most talked-about one is that a hormonal imbalance during pregnancy might cause it. Some doctors believe it might be a brain structure thing. It's even possible that it's genetic. No one knows for sure, but whatever the reason, it's real and no one's fault. Dr. Marilyn made sure I understood that there was nothing wrong with me

Pg. 113 I got in trouble for using the girls' bathroom, and I should have the right to use that bathroom. I'm not different from anybody else, and I can lock the door and make sure they don't. After dealing with a few less-than-supportive principals, we now had a new, super-liberal principal named Ms. Percy. Ms. Reynolds had joked before she left when I started first grade that Mom—probably meaning me—had driven her into retirement. And we'd had two other principals in the years after Ms. Reynolds left who hadn't done anything to improve my situation. Then Ms. Percy came in, and she made it clear from the start that she had my back no matter what. Not too much later the school board finally updated their policies to catch up with the regulation put out by the Office for Civil Rights of the US Department of Education that "prohibits discrimination against students on the basis of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. Translation: I got to use the girls' bathroom! I could finally pee in peace

Chapter 17... Don't be afraid to step out of the shadows, because you are not alone. Be true to yourselves, and live authentic lives in the gender you identify with. I want people to understand that we are just like everyone else."