

**Tuck, Kathleen**

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**From:** LaVelle Gardner <lgardner@nsd.wa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:06 PM  
**To:** Board  
**Cc:** Jac Webb;Owen  
**Subject:** Book banning

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Dear board members,

As a parent of current and past NSD students, I **vehemently disagree** with the wholesale banning of books from our school library shelves without any due process. There was a committee and process in place so I completely disagree with board member Valle's motion of just pulling the books because of the opinions of a few parents who are defining what is appropriate and what is not. Has Mr. Valle read any of these books? Have the board members who voted for this ridiculous action even read these books? I'm so sick of the extremist actions taken by the new board members who seem to have no touch with the many of its constituents.

If this is the route you choose to go, why don't you let me come up with a list of books that make me angry and your book banning board members can vote to remove those books forever too? It's absolutely ludicrous that there was no process and by executive action, you feel you can overstep your roles.

Thank you so much, Ms. Siimpson for continuing to be a voice of reason and intellect in what I see as a continuing process of moral and intellectual disintegration on our board. I am from your district and will continue to support you in your efforts to represent our district.

LaVelle Gardner



**Tuck, Kathleen**

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**From:** John Pintz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:26 PM  
**To:** Board  
**Subject:** Book banning

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Nampa School Board:

As a retired educator, I think your decision to ban books from Nampa schools to be going down a very slippery slope. To learn that this decision was made without going through proper procedures is additionally shocking.

The citizens of Nampa did not elect board members to inflict such decisions on our school children. What should we expect next, book burning? Such arbitrary decisions are an embarrassment to our community and to the state.

John D. Pintz  
Nampa resident



**Tuck, Kathleen**

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**From:** Russell, Gregg  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2022 8:27 AM  
**To:** Robert Otten  
**Subject:** Re: Book Banning

Thanks Bob. Really appreciated you showing up. Happy to meet in July. I'll be out the first week of July but any time after that. Let me know a day and we can get together!

Gregg

Gregg Russell, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Nampa School District

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**From:** Robert Otten <[robert.otten@nsd131.org](mailto:robert.otten@nsd131.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 19, 2022 1:33 PM  
**To:** Russell, Gregg <[grussell@nsd131.org](mailto:grussell@nsd131.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Book Banning

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Sorry I left before my name was called at the meeting on Thursday. I e-mailed this to Chairman Kirkman. This is so if they say anything about it, you will be aware. I don't think they will even consider what I said. I need to visit with you again sometime in July if you are available.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robert Otten <[robert.otten@nsd131.org](mailto:robert.otten@nsd131.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Book Banning  
**Date:** June 18, 2022 at 11:32:37 AM MDT  
**To:** Aimee Burns <[Aimee.Burns@nsd131.org](mailto:Aimee.Burns@nsd131.org)>

I sent this to the board on Friday morning after waiting for two hours to give it on Thursday evening. I understand that I wouldn't have been able to give this until 9:45 on Thursday. I was in bed by that time. I thought you might like to read this so you know I am still fighting.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robert Otten <  
**Subject:** Fwd: Book Banning  
**Date:** June 17, 2022 at 7:51:08 PM MDT  
**To:** Julie Dranginis <

This is what I sent to the board

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robert Otten <  
**Subject:** Book Banning  
**Date:** June 17, 2022 at 8:53:41 AM MDT  
**To:** [t\\_jkirkman@nsd131.org](mailto:t_jkirkman@nsd131.org)

Chairman Kirkman and Members of the Board:

I waited for two hours last night to make comments to the board about the issue of book banning and finally left as it was getting late and I needed to get home. I don't know whether your switching of the public comment section was a ploy to get rid of people who wanted to speak on this issue or not, but it certainly appeared that way to me. Therefore I am emailing you today with my comments. Having sat on the board for five and one half years, I realize that difficult decisions have to be made and that you cannot please all the people all of the time.

However, I am appalled at how the banning of these 22 books was handled. The more I learn about the situation the more appalling it becomes. To allow one person to challenge these books and then ban them forever without proper evaluation is ludicrous. There was a process going and it was working but you as a board decided at the last minute that it was not working for you. Then all of a sudden the books were banned. The new process for evaluating books must be fair, unbiased, and very transparent with written reasons why a book is banned. If a committee is used then that committee should have both sides represented. Also I think you as board members need to read any book that someone wants banned so you can form your own opinion and not just take the word of the person asking for a book to be banned.

One of the great opportunities for parents is too read the book the the child brings home and have discussions with

their child about the pros and cons about that book. This will lead not only to a greater understanding of the book but will also allow the parent and child to understand the position the parent is taking. It is a great way to bond with a teenager. If the parent is uncomfortable with doing this then all they have to do is fill out a form, present it to the teacher and the student will not be allowed to read it. Thus it would not be necessary to ban a book. Some of these books present situations that some students of Nampa are living and they may provide ways of dealing with that situation.

In part, three of you were elected to the board because you were against government mandates about masking and closing of schools and the loss of freedom. Yet you as a government entity mandate what students can read or not read. This is a violation of a student's first amendment rights.

I will close this epistle with a quote from a very famous author which says and

I quote, "Book banners, after all, insist that the community should see things their way. When a book is banned, a whole set of thoughts is locked behind the assertion that there is only one valid set of values, one valid set of beliefs, one valid perception of the world. Its a scary idea, especially in a society which has been built on the ideas of free choice and free thought." This is a quote from Stephen King.

Thank you for your time and I would hope that these 22 books would be evaluated when the new process is finalized and some if not all will be returned to the shelves of the library.

Sincerely,  
Bob Otten





**Tuck, Kathleen**

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**From:** Robert Otten <robert.otten@npsd.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 8:54 AM  
**To:** Kirkman, Jeff  
**Subject:** Book Banning

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Sincerely,  
Bob Otten

**Tuck, Kathleen**

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**From:** John Pintz <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 5:42 PM  
**To:** Kirkman, Jeff  
**Subject:** Re: Book banning

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Mr. Kirkman,

Thank you for your response.

Yes, a clear and consistent policy for curriculum materials that are being challenged is certainly necessary.

I am also cognizant of the fact that individuals who voluntarily give of their time and effort to support our schools/community deserve respect and recognition. The challenges of our current societal issues are no small matter for our schools and school boards to navigate.

Again, thank you for your explanation.

John Pintz

On Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:57 PM Kirkman, Jeff <[t\\_jkirkman@nsd131.org](mailto:jkirkman@nsd131.org)> wrote:  
Mr. Pintz,

Thank you for your concerns to which i agree. The decision was not to ban but remove and yes, I know there was a "forever" added at the last second to the motion.

However, despite the tightrope semantics, I do believe this issue is not at an end as there is always an opportunity to revisit the motion after a solid and transparent process is in place to address any challenges to books in NSD libraries.

That was the issue for me, there is and has not been a consistent, transparent, and proper procedure in place. Even the current grievance policy does not specifically address the process for challenged books.

Speaking only for my decision and no one else's, it was made to "pause" everything until the board puts a proper and transparent procedure in place. My decision was made based on the lack of an established process.

Please understand, I am only speaking to my decision and not for other trustees, whether they voted for or against.

Again, bringing the issue and a possible action item back to the board is always a possibility.

If you would like to talk some more about this, let me know.

Jeff

**From:** John Pintz <[jpintz@nsd131.org](mailto:jpintz@nsd131.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Kirkman, Jeff <[jkirkman@nsd131.org](mailto:jkirkman@nsd131.org)>  
**Subject:** Book banning

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Mr. Kirkman,

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The citizens of Nampa did not elect board members to inflict such decisions on our school children. What should we expect next, book burning? Such arbitrary decisions are an embarrassment to our community and to the state.

As a tax paying citizen in the Nampa School District, I do expect a response.

John D. Pintz  
Nampa resident

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## Tuck, Kathleen

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**From:** Kirkman, Jeff  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 6:21 PM  
**To:** John Pintz  
**Subject:** Re: Book banning

John,  
Feel free to provide some input, if you'd like, for the process. Despite what i tell my kids, i don't everything 😊  
Thanks for reaching out.

Jeff

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**From:** John Pintz <[jpintz@nsd131.org](mailto:jpintz@nsd131.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 5:41 PM  
**To:** Kirkman, Jeff <[t\\_jkirkman@nsd131.org](mailto:t_jkirkman@nsd131.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Book banning

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Jeff

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**From:** John Pintz <[jpintz@nsd131.org](mailto:jpintz@nsd131.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Kirkman, Jeff <[jkirkman@nsd131.org](mailto:jkirkman@nsd131.org)>  
**Subject:** Book banning

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Nampa resident

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## Tuck, Kathleen

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**From:** Hobart Swan <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2022 12:09 PM  
**To:** Simpson,Mandy;mvalle@nsd131.org;tpearson@nsd131.org;btaylor@nsd131.org;jkirkman@nsd131.org  
**Subject:** Book banning

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Hi,  
I just wanted to express my disappointment that the Nampa School District has made this unfortunate decision. If the idea behind it is to shield children from the realities of life by preventing them from learning about people who are different from them, good luck. The people whom you are dismissed through this ban will continue to exist and contribute to our nation, many in very positive ways. It is shortsighted and backward-looking to imagine that you can just will them away like this.

I encourage you to read at least one of these books, put yourself in the shoes of one of the characters you are "cancelling," and see if you can find some generosity and kindness for them in your heart. That would be the Christian thing to do, wouldn't it?

Thanks very much,  
Hobart Swan





**Tuck, Kathleen**

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**From:** Joan Burmester <  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:09 PM  
**To:** Kirkman, Jeff;Simpson,Mandy;Pearson, Tracey;Taylor, Brook;Valle, Marco  
**Subject:** Book Banning

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Dear Trustees,

It is my understanding you will be addressing the issue of the books that were to be banned "forever" from the school district at your upcoming meeting.

In my reading I came across these sayings by Judy Blume. I think we would probably agree that she is a respected author by all of us. I thought she had some pretty powerful thoughts.

"I believe that censorship grows out of fear, and because fear is contagious, some parents are easily swayed. Book banning satisfies their need to feel in control of their children's lives. This fear is often disguised as moral outrage. They want to believe that if their children don't read about it, their children won't know about it.



**Tuck, Kathleen**

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**From:** Joan Burmester  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:19 PM  
**To:** Kirkman, Jeff;Simpson,Mandy;Pearson, Tracey;Taylor, Brook;Valle, Marco  
**Subject:** Book banning

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The send button got hit before I wanted it to. This is a continuation of my first email.

And if they don't know about it, it won't happen."

She also said in another quote "Let children read whatever they want and then talk about it with them. If parents and kids can talk together, we won't have as much censorship because we won't have as much to fear."

Kids are exposed to so much on cell phones today that maybe we should ban them!

Thank you for serving.

Joan Burmester

