



# Canyon Independent School District

**Darryl Flusche**  
Superintendent

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Jared Patterson  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Representative Patterson,

We are writing in regard to your March 2, 2022 request. At Canyon ISD, we are dedicated to providing a safe learning environment for every student we serve – a goal I am certain lies at the heart of your effort. However, as we diligently pursue this, we do not feel comfortable that a non-binding pledge leaving many important terms undefined and subject to a wide variety of interpretations advances our efforts. We are also concerned that the subjectivity of some of the key terms used in the letter could unintentionally create legal liability depending on future definitions.

There are undoubtedly materials in libraries across our state and nation that are not appropriate for students – as we have discovered right here in our own district. Our school board and the entire team at Canyon ISD is committed to working diligently to uphold a strict standard for the resources available to our students.

Over the last 18 months, we have heard from parents, students, and educators on the subject of both library offerings and instructional resources made available throughout our district. In response, Canyon ISD has taken steps to establish an Instructional Resources Committee, composed of parents, educators, and professional staff, to review challenged materials used in instruction and have done what we understand to be allowable under state and federal law to ensure our students have access to a wide variety of literature that is both age appropriate and meets the requirements imposed on school districts through the TEKS while complying with restrictions on districts relevant to the removal of existing titles.

Our school board is currently reviewing the model policy recently offered by the Texas Education Agency pertaining to the appropriate steps for removal of titles from our library shelves to further enhance this process as we move ahead. We are thankful for engaged and diligent parents who are empowered to make decisions for their own children that reflect the specific standards and values of their own families, and we hope to continue forging partnerships with the parents and families we serve as we work to empower every student in our district for lifelong success.



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We have little doubt that public education will be a major topic in the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, and we look forward to working with our lawmakers as these efforts develop. There are certainly areas where legislative and regulatory guidance is critical for Canyon ISD and districts throughout Texas. As you continue your work, we respectfully ask you to remain mindful of the importance of local control in the success of schools across our great state.

Thank you for your service and your efforts in the Texas House of Representatives.

Respectfully,

Canyon ISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent



Bill Jenkins, President



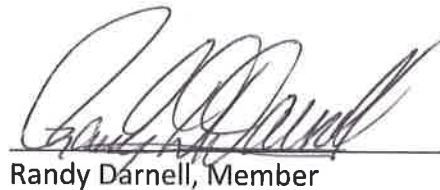
Jenni Winegarner, Vice President



Matt Parker, Secretary



Linda Hinders, Member



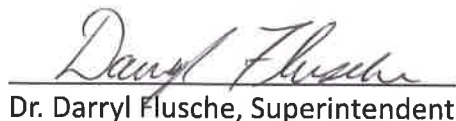
Randy Darnell, Member



Katharyn Wiegand, Member



Claudia Burkett, Member



Dr. Darryl Flusche, Superintendent