



Canyon Independent School District

Darryl Flusche
Superintendent

May 9, 2022

Canyon ISD Staff & Parents,

I am writing in regards to a letter that was sent to all Texas school districts by Rep. Jared Patterson on March 2, 2022. His House district is in the north Dallas area including parts of Frisco. The letter is requesting that Texas school districts sign a pledge that states,

“From this date forward, (district name) pledges to neither knowingly partner with, purchase from, or associate with in any way a vendor who has supplied child pornography to public schools. (district name) also pledges to take all necessary steps to root out and remove explicit and obscene books, as such materials have no place in school district libraries.”

Regarding the pledge, it is not Canyon ISD’s practice to sign non-binding pledges drafted by third parties. The language in the pledge is undefined, particularly the portion referencing “obscene books”. Every individual could have a differing opinion on what is “obscene”. Complying with the pledge apparently expects school districts to evaluate every title ever sold by a vendor to public schools prior to choosing to purchase from that vendor.

The facts in our organization:

- 1) Canyon ISD is in agreement that inappropriate materials should not be available in our schools nor in our libraries.
- 2) Through the years, the district has adhered to board policy for removal of library materials due to protections by the First Amendment. The Supreme Court decision in 1982, *Board of Education v. Pico*, established that the district cannot arbitrarily remove books from the library because it disagrees with the subject matter.
- 3) As we move forward, the CISD Board of Trustees will be considering a model for a new policy provided by the Texas Education Agency on April 11, 2022. This suggested policy provided districts with a draft process to remove library books that do not meet acceptable standards.
- 4) Additionally, CISD has enhanced the process for purchasing library books to engage parents and community to review lists of book titles for a time period prior to their purchase; and to submit a form to omit a title prior to an order being placed.
- 5) Each parent can restrict access of their child to any specific library books by informing the school.



Canyon Independent School District

Darryl Flusche
Superintendent

There are approximately 1,100 school districts in Texas and only 31 have signed this pledge. Despite this data, we believe that districts across Texas, including Canyon ISD, would rather not purchase nor retain library books that fall below an acceptable standard. We appreciate Rep. Patterson's concern related to vendors. With the new TEA guidance, we believe that we have an avenue to pursue a solution in CISD rather than expecting individual districts to conduct an evaluation of the sales history of each vendor.

I have included the letter that we sent to Rep. Patterson in response to the request he sent across the state. Please know that CISD is willing to work with legislators who serve our area in crafting legislation to further address this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darryl Flusche". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Darryl Flusche
Canyon ISD Superintendent