

March 6, 2023

Dr. Scott Rocco, Superintendent of
Hamilton Township School District
90 Park Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08690

Dear Dr. Rocco:

This complaint is being submitted pursuant to *District Policy 9130 Public Complaints and Grievances* for the removal of the book entitled A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities by Mady G. and J.R. Zuckerberg and published by Limerence, from all school libraries as well as district e-book availability to students. Currently, this book is available in Nottingham and Steinert High School's library (maybe others in the district as well). This book's content is not suitable for the maturation level of the children it is available to and contains adult content, sexual situations, vulgarity and may lead children into dangerous situations. It also conflicts with standards in the district's own policies.

Explanation and details of these concerns, along with a sincere request for your attention to the Hamilton Township Board of Education policies and NJ Law are found in this letter. We ask that you read the examples taken directly from the book which are listed below.

Reference is made to *District Policy 2530 Resource Materials* that states "[t]he Board of Education shall provide resource materials to implement district and school educational goals and objectives..." (emphasis added). *District Policy 2530* further states that "[t]he Superintendent shall be responsible for the selection and maintenance of all resource materials...."

Reference is made to *District Policy 5610 Suspension* which states that a student who is guilty of "habitual use of profanity or of obscene language...shall be liable to punishment and to suspension or expulsion from school."

Reference is made to *District Policy 2361 Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources* that notes:

Internet Safety Protection

As a condition for receipt of certain Federal funding, the school district shall be in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and has installed technology protection measures for all computers in the school district, including computers in media centers/libraries. The technology protection must block and/or filter material and visual depictions that are obscene as defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United

States Code; child pornography, as defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code; *are harmful to minors including any pictures, images, graphic image file or other material or visual depiction that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way, with respect to what is suitable for minors, sexual acts or conduct; or taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.* (emphasis added)

This Policy also establishes Internet safety policy and procedures in the district as required in the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act. Policy 2361 addresses access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web; the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online; unauthorized disclosures, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

It is highly recommended that you read the entire book and ask yourself what are the educational goals and objectives of the school district that A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities is serving, given the examples highlighted below, and whether this book is suitable to the maturation levels of the children in the district who have access to it.

A Quick Guide to Queer and Trans Identities, By Mady G and J.R. Zuckerberg is a book that is highly inappropriate for any student in the Hamilton township School District and should be removed.

This book's publisher, Limerence, Inc. is of concern. The term limerence is defined by the American Psychological Association as follows:

limerence n. an intense sexual desire and a strong concern for the other person in a romantic relationship

From the Limerence Press website is a description of its genre:

"Limerence Press, an imprint of Oni Press, publishes quality erotica, sex education, and gender and sexuality studies comics."

Notably, the publisher, Limerence, uses a butterfly as its symbol which is printed on the back cover of the book. *Please see attached FBI symbols of pedophilia.*

1. Material is appropriate for all maturity levels.

A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities is introducing to middle and high school children an adult sub-culture based solely on sexual practices. The book uses

childish cartoon images to introduce *underage* children to an extensive exposure of sexual possibilities and behaviors in anticipation of their own experience, which is a definition of grooming. The content of this book is in no way appropriate for school aged children K-12.

The book's print size is tiny as if hiding its content. The print size also requires a heightened focus to read thus increasing concentration on aberrant sexual information most adults do not know.

2. Material is used for opposing views, with guidance, for critical thinking.

A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities should not be used for critical thinking, with or without guidance, as it is potentially in violation of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice 2C:34-3 Obscenity for persons under 18. Please see code below.

3. Materials will represent many religions, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to American Heritage.

Most Christian, Muslim and some Jewish families would object to the premise of A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities as being oppositional to the teachings of revealed truth.

4. Factually accurate and of genuine literary and artistic value

Much of the information included in A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities is not factually accurate, nor does it have the support of the scientific or medical community. The information is sourced in the LGBT+ community in the very recent years. Some of the definitions are re-packaged versions of deviant behaviors, i.e, Cupiosexual- feels sexual but only in "scenarios they don't participate". (Pg 62) This is potentially voyeurism, which remains a crime in most states. It also encourages sex involving more than two people. Exposing children to multiple partner sex is to be rejected for school aged children K-12.

The use of cute creatures invokes innocence while the text coaxes the young reader to question his or her gender and sexuality.

A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities is reckless in the promotion of hormone use in young bodies that have healthy levels of natural hormones. Estrogen is a Class 1 carcinogen according to the American Cancer Society (<https://www.cancer.org/healthy/cancer-causes/general-info/known-and-probable-human-carcinogens.html>). It is known to cause virulent cancers of the breast as well as blood clots, stroke and depression, when elevated in women. Testosterone risks include cancer, high blood

pressure, blood clots, stroke, depression, and heightened aggression.

(<https://nida.nih.gov/publications/research-reports/steroids-other-appearance-performance-enhancing-drugs-aped/what-are-side-effects-anabolic-steroid-misuse>).

These known risks are serious when hormones are given to the corresponding gender. We have no data available on the damage when injected or ingested into healthy bodies of the opposite sex. These life-threatening risks are not addressed in A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities.

5. Quality and durability It suffices to say this is irrelevant considering the serious problems of the book.

6. Relates to, supports and enriches the course of study adopted by the Hamilton School Board.

A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities does not fit into any course of study unless the Hamilton School board has adopted standards to teach sexually curiosity designed to lead a child to later sexual activity. Deviant sexual behavior is presented in terminology recently coined by LBGT+ activists. The board has NOT determined a course of study of Placio-sexual, Lithosexual, AutoChorisexual or any of the other themes some adults have on their minds.

The subject matter is unnecessary for the education of children. Is it a concern in light of the 4th Stage of The Sexual Grooming Model.

“Desensitizing the Child to Sexual Content and Physical Contact -This stage usually happens right before abuse occurs. During this fourth stage, the perpetrator prepares the minor for abuse by desensitizing them to sexual content (such as showing them pornography and nudity) and increasing non-sexual touch.
www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/protecting-children-sexual-abuse/202010/how-recognize-the-sexual-grooming-minor

Following is a partial list of citations found in A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities. These are to be considered desensitizing children for later sexual experience. How would these concepts aid adults who prey on children for sexual experiences?

Pg 18 – The word Queer “in a lot of ways, transformed from a slur into a word that symbolizes unity and camaraderie amongst “Queer” people, which is why we personally choose to use it as well.” Pictures of LBGT+ subculture through flags and fists.

Pg 20- Bisexuality, asexuality, pansexuality, homosexuality

“A common way of identifying different types of attraction like these is via the Kinsey Scale”

The Kinsey Scale was developed by Alfred Kinsey, whose unscientific work included sexually abusing hundreds of children and infants, caused Indiana to recently defund the Kinsey Institute. ([Indiana lawmakers back defunding Kinsey sex institute | AP News](#))

Pg 21 Invitation to learn more of sexuality from adults through cartoons

Pg 26-Biological sex being “debunked” as unscientific. Sex acts primarily in genitalia. Claiming “chromosomes, hormones, genitalia and internal anatomy does not constitute male and female.” This is patently false and contrary to scientific education.

Pg 28- “Male and female are just baselines”. “Some have no gender”. Encourages self-labeling” of gender. Again, people are born with biological genders. It is scientifically untrue to promote otherwise.

Pg 30- Cartoon creatures affirming anything goes for gender.

Pg 34- Discouraging as “ages old” that girls and boys have natural interests. Encourages mixing natural gender looks such as “Hard Femme, Soft Butch, Soft Masc”. Encourages experimentation with appearances as simple way to affirm sexuality.

“ The feeling of a bra strap around my ribs or my girly underwear riding up would make me feel like I’m wearing sandpaper. Now that I’ve switched to undergarments that I’m more happy seeing myself in, I’ve realized that my awareness of those regions of my body were what was causing my discomfort.”

Pg 37- Insinuates people who disagree are not polite. “However, not every place is created equal as far as safety in expression goes.”, as two looming crows scowl.

Pg 38- People may have to stick with “outdated” societal expectations in order to appease others or even preserve their own health and well-being in a potentially dangerous environment”

“A good way to start experimenting changing gender is at Halloween or a fancy dress party.”

“Costumed occasions can be a great way *into* experimenting with one’s personal appearance without attracting too much attention that can come from judgmental or bigoted people.”

“Change your Avatar on gaming sites”.

“One of my male cousins proceeded to inappropriately come on to me. (picture shows guy with whiskers and two smaller girls)” Insinuates incest.

Pg 46 “Debunking” accepted scientific facts on gender concern by showing them like absurd aliens.

Pg 48- “A type of dysphoria that has only recently begun to be discussed is non-binary dysphoria. Dysphoria can manifest in some unique ways for some non-binary people

that might not be shared by those with binary genders. Levels of dysphoria can shift more fluidly and can include dysphoria about having a human body, period. Some (not all) non-binary people feel some kind of connection with non-human characters because they feel those things are “less gendered” than a human body.”

“It is not uncommon for transgender people of all types to identify with some non-human avatar, but it’s particularly common for younger non-binary trans people.”

Pg 50- Cartoon depicting ridicule of established science on biological gender. Showing true concerns are unacceptable.

Introduction of surgery, pills and injectables for gender change

Introduction of prothesis to mimic opposite gender

Top surgery. Look for “gender professional”

Encourage phone search for “trans Femmes online”

“ Seeing other trans femmes I really nice”

Pg 56 Asexuality

Pg 57- Statement by cartoon creature – The changes are small, but I see them coming.

Pg 60 Asexual – Not every asexual person experiences asexuality the same, Sex repulsed, celibate

Pg 62- Asexuality-

Heteroromantic- Opposite sex romance without sex

Homoromance- Same sex romance without sex

Biromantic- Either sex romance

Asexual with high libido

Asexual with low libido

Demi-sexual- Requiring deeper relationship before sex

Cupiosexual- Feels sexual but only in “scenarios they don’t participate”

Placio-sexual, Lithosexual, AutoChorisexual all experience sexual arousal even if not attracted to the person

Grey asexual -Generally do not feel sexual attraction but have few exceptions or limitations

Pg 65- Hallmark of asexual is non-sexual intimacy, kisses, cuddles, non-sexual touch

Pg 69 Coming out- Compares to gay masquerade balls to debutant balls

Pg 75- Preparation and adaptation to coming out

Pg 76 - "Coming out can be a lengthy process for some and might evolve as life goes on. A person might find their personal labels fluctuating and want to come out multiple times for different things-like somebody who comes out as bi as well as trans."

"This is very normal and a person's connection with their sexuality or gender identity may never fully settle."

"Once again, everybody is different and that's one of the things that makes the LBGT+ community so vibrant."

Regards,

Hamilton Residents:

Claire Burns

John Muka

Patricia Staley

Joseph Jesson

Rosemary Griegel

Jeff Hewitson

CC: Susan Lombardo

Dina Thornton

Stacy Byrne

Anthony Celetano

Liam Z. Gonzales

Susan Ferrara

Christina Vassiliou Harvey

Richard Kanka

Jason McSheen

Exhibit A

Section 2C:34-3 - Obscenity for persons under 18a.

Definitions for purposes of this section:(1) "Obscene material" means any description, narrative account, display, depiction of a specified anatomical area or specified sexual activity contained in, or consisting of, a picture or other representation, publication, sound recording, live performance or film, which by means of posing, composition, format or animated sensual details, emits sensuality with sufficient impact to concentrate prurient interest on the area or activity.(2) "Obscene film" means any motion picture film or preview or trailer to a film, not including newsreels portraying actual current events or pictorial news of the day, in which a scene, taken by itself:(a) Depicts a specified anatomical area or specified sexual activity, or the simulation of a specified sexual activity, or verbalization concerning a specified sexual activity; and(b) Emits sensuality sufficient, in terms of the duration and impact of the depiction, to appeal to prurient interest.(3) "Specified anatomical area" means:(a) Less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic region, buttock or female breasts below a point immediately above the top of the areola; or(b) Human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if covered.(4) "Specified sexual activity" means:(a) Human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal; or(b) Any act of human masturbation, sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse; or(c) Fondling or other erotic touching of covered or uncovered human genitals, pubic region, buttock or female breast.(5) "Knowingly" means:(a) Having knowledge of the character and content of the material or film described herein; or(b) Having failed to exercise reasonable inspection which would disclose its character and content.(6) "Exhibit" means the sale of admission to view obscene material.(7) "Show" means cause or allow to be seen.**b. Promoting obscene material.**(1) A person who knowingly sells, distributes, rents or exhibits to a person under 18 years of age obscene material is guilty of a crime of the third degree.(2) A person who knowingly shows obscene material to a person under 18 years of age with the knowledge or purpose to arouse, gratify or stimulate himself or another is guilty of a crime of the third degree if the person showing the obscene material is at least four years older than the person under 18 years of age viewing the material.**c. Admitting to exhibition of obscene film.**(1) Any person who knowingly admits a person under 18 years of age to a theatre then exhibiting an obscene film is guilty of a crime of the third degree.(2) A person who knowingly shows an obscene film to a person under 18 years of age with the knowledge or purpose to arouse, gratify or stimulate himself or another is guilty of a crime of the third degree if the person showing the obscene film is at least four years older than the person under 18 years of age viewing the film.**d. Presumption of knowledge and age.** The requisite knowledge with regard to the character and content of the film or material and of the age of the person is presumed in the case of an actor who sells, distributes, rents, exhibits or shows obscene material to a person under 18 years of age or admits to a film obscene for a person under 18 years of age a person who is under 18 years of age. **e. Defenses.**(1) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under subsections b. and c. which the defendant must prove by a preponderance of evidence that:(a) The person under age 18 falsely represented in or by writing that he was age 18 or over;(b) The person's appearance was such that an individual of

ordinary prudence would believe him to be age 18 or over; and(c) The sale, distribution, rental, showing or exhibition to or admission of the person was made in good faith relying upon such written representation and appearance and in the reasonable belief that he was actually age 18 or over.(2) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under subsection c. that the defendant is an employee in a motion picture theatre who has no financial interest in that motion picture theatre other than his wages and has no decision-making authority or responsibility with respect to the selection of the motion picture show which is exhibited.

N.J.S. § 2C:34-3

Amended by 1989, c.54, s.2; c. 227

Exhibit B

Section 2C:34-3 - Obscenity for persons under 18a.

Definitions for purposes of this section:(1) "Obscene material" means any description, narrative account, display, depiction of a specified anatomical area or specified sexual activity contained in, or consisting of, a picture or other representation, publication, sound recording, live performance or film, which by means of posing, composition, format or animated sensual details, emits sensuality with sufficient impact to concentrate prurient interest on the area or activity.(2) "Obscene film" means any motion picture film or preview or trailer to a film, not including newsreels portraying actual current events or pictorial news of the day, in which a scene, taken by itself:(a) Depicts a specified anatomical area or specified sexual activity, or the simulation of a specified sexual activity, or verbalization concerning a specified sexual activity; and(b) Emits sensuality sufficient, in terms of the duration and impact of the depiction, to appeal to prurient interest.(3) "Specified anatomical area" means:(a) Less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic region, buttock or female breasts below a point immediately above the top of the areola; or(b) Human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if covered.(4) "Specified sexual activity" means:(a) Human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal; or(b) Any act of human masturbation, sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse; or(c) Fondling or other erotic touching of covered or uncovered human genitals, pubic region, buttock or female breast.(5) "Knowingly" means:(a) Having knowledge of the character and content of the material or film described herein; or(b) Having failed to exercise reasonable inspection which would disclose its character and content.(6) "Exhibit" means the sale of admission to view obscene material.(7) "Show" means cause or allow to be seen.b. Promoting obscene material.(1) A person who knowingly sells, distributes, rents or exhibits to a person under 18 years of age obscene material is guilty of a crime of the third degree.(2) A person who knowingly shows obscene material to a person under 18 years of age with the knowledge or purpose to arouse, gratify or stimulate himself or another is guilty of a crime of the third degree if the person showing the obscene material is at least four years older than the person under 18 years of age viewing the material.c. Admitting to exhibition of obscene film.(1) Any person who knowingly admits a person under 18 years of age to a theatre then exhibiting an obscene film is guilty of a crime of the third degree.(2) A person who knowingly shows an obscene film to a person under 18 years of age with the knowledge or purpose to

arouse, gratify or stimulate himself or another is guilty of a crime of the third degree if the person showing the obscene film is at least four years older than the person under 18 years of age viewing the film.**d.** Presumption of knowledge and age.

The requisite knowledge with regard to the character and content of the film or material and of the age of the person is presumed in the case of an actor who sells, distributes, rents, exhibits or shows obscene material to a person under 18 years of age or admits to a film obscene for a