

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 Beyond Magenta by Susan Kuklin and published by Candlewick Press, 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 Beyond Magenta 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.

1. Material is appropriate for all maturity levels.

Beyond Magenta is authored by Susan Kuklin and it presents several underage children struggling with the mental and emotional rejection of their own gender. Through subjective stories of depression, self-loathing, rejection by peers, suppression of normal growth and development, the reader is led to believe changing gender is the remedy to deep psychological dysphoria. Every page includes inappropriate to illegal material that should not be introduced to minor children as no child, kindergarten through 12 grade, has the maturity or life experience to navigate the adult theme or the falsehoods that are presented in this highly emotional text.

Beyond Magenta is saturated with details of sexual behaviors, crude and profane language and the promotion of highly toxic hormone "therapy". It is so unbalanced in terms of truth and reality it can only be seen as propaganda for sexual deviancy in children.

Beyond Magenta 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>).

Estrogen 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 Beyond Magenta. However, fashion and stylized photo shoots of cross dressing as precursor to “transition” are throughout the book.

Beyond Magenta presents violence as acceptable. In one chapter, an especially disturbed child, “Mariah”, threatens his grandmother with a knife for which he was placed in a psychiatric hospital. Multiple experiences follow at the hospital such as children engaging in sexual acts, asking for sex or giving sexual favors, wanted and unwanted. All with no moral comment. Both boys and girls are discussed in terms of their body parts, objectifying all in the sexual obsession of the sub-authors.

Beyond Magenta must be removed immediately from every school in Hamilton Township School District as it fails to meet Policy 2530 in pertaining to maturity levels of the students.

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

The book Beyond Magenta should not be used for critical thinking exercises, 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 below.

2. Materials will represent many religions, ethnic and cultural groups and their contribution to American Heritage.

Beyond Magenta references the Roman Catholic faith and Catholic schools in ways that can cause spiritual doubt. One child states, “I hated religion class”. Many of the children speak of their families or schools as Catholic, all giving impression of deviating from the teachings of the Roman Catholic faith.

Far from celebrating the Roman Catholic Church’s tremendous contributions to American Heritage, such as successful school systems, hospitals and the formation of millions of people who serve our country up to her highest offices this book clouds the reader’s understanding with a false perception of the Catholic Faith. In addition, most Christian, Muslim and some Jewish families would object to the premise of the book as oppositional to the teachings of revealed truth.

3. Materials are factually accurate and of literary and artistic value

The basic premise of the book is to convince the reader that attempts to mimic the opposite sex will cure gender dysphoria. In fact, there is no medical evidence for this. The

growing phenomena of gender issues has been barely explored and certainly is far from scientific conclusion.

It is not true that artificial hormones are safe in any form. They should not be promoted to anyone as without risk, let alone children. In fact, the US Congress held hearings on the dangerous use of anabolic steroids (testosterone) for athletes due to the high risks involved. This book does not cover the truth of hormone use. Beyond Magenta can be called deceitful as the children who read this have no reference for the medical realities of hormone use.

There is no literary value in a book that promotes reckless hormone use in children, conveys violence, is saturated with sex as an act with no relationship, causes spiritual doubt and is meant for indoctrination to an agenda to normalize gender dysphoria. This is not beneficial to the children suffering this situation nor those reading this book. It is not an appropriate book for children under 18 years of age and must be removed from all Hamilton Township Schools.

Beyond Magenta 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-apeds/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 Beyond Magenta.

Materials are of quality and durability

It suffices to say this is irrelevant considering the serious problems of the book.

4. Materials relate to the support and enrichment of the course of study adopted by the Hamilton School Board.

Beyond Magenta does not fit into any course of study of the district unless the Hamilton School Board has adopted standards to teach profanity, the use of sexually arousing thoughts designed to lead a child to later sexual activity, violence, or the reckless use of hormones in young healthy children.

The evidence of the above statements are presented below. This list is limited as there is barely a page that does not include inappropriate material.

Pg 3- Non-factual statement of boy getting a menstrual period. Body dysphoria.
Discussion of taking testosterone. "When Jesse got his period, he was confused. "

Pg 4- Gender dysphoria, inaccurate pronoun used

Pg 5- Body dysmorphia, inaccurate pronoun used. “ When Jessy started puberty, reality came crashing down. There was one thing he did not want.” “Breasts! I was starting to develop breasts. Oh, crap.”

Pg 6 – Child had a date with 2 boys= a threesome

Pg 10- Discussion on “transitioning”

Pg 11 Promotion of steroid use- testosterone, painful reaction of mother to her daughter’s gender confusion, gender confusion, normalizing gender confusion

Pg 13- Gender confusion

Pg 14. Catholic school mentioned in discussion of LGBT issue, promotion of boys using girls bathroom

Pg 16- Reckless promotion of hormone use

Pg 19- Reckless promotion of hormone use

Pg 21- Body dysphoria, fixation on body parts

Pg 32- “F” word x 2

Pg 33- Violence, “F” word, pussy, “I am saving up for a vagina”.

Pg 34- Laments that “genetic women” have vaginas and when men date a “trans woman” “doesn’t he miss a vagina?”

Pg 35- “F” word

Pg 36- Catholic school mentioned

Pg 41- Typed into Google “transsexual”, friend’s “mom” is transgender and “has the boobs and hair and body”

Pg 43- “...if people think I am a man, it sometimes turns me into a very violent person”

Pg 53- “hated Religion class”

Pg 55- Horney boy, reckless promotion of hormones

Pg 56= Foreplay, sex, promotion of hormones, focus on sexual feelings and behaviors

Pg 60- Reference to religious figure of the Madonna

Pg 74- Boy has desire to insert a tampon when “transitioned” surgically. Acknowledges it will be only to make him feel like the “real deal”.

Pg 75- Dick, pussy

Pg 77- Cross dressing

Pg 78- Mother is alcoholic, uses drugs and is a prostitute, boy threatened his grandmother with a knife and was removed from home and placed in a psychiatric hospital.

Description of sexual assault of young boy to a little girl:

“I thought about a guy in my neighborhood telling me girls have vaginas. I looked at her and thought, this must be a girl. So I went up to her and told her I liked her and she said she liked me. We started kissing. I picked up her skirt and looked in her underwear, ‘Where is your dick?’ ‘What’s a dick?’ ‘You don’t have what I have’ ‘Well what do I have?’ And I put my hand down there and felt a little hole thing”

Pg 80- At age 6 boy was sexually mature, kissed other guys, performed oral sex on them

Pg 84- Boy threatened and pushed pregnant teacher to the floor

Pg 85- Obsession with penis size

Pg 86- Boy, 13 years old, thinking drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes gives a deeper voice. Psych meds make him lethargic and slow witted.

Guy makes minor give oral sex, kids wanting to have sex with boy in psychiatric hospital

Pg 88- Boy fought with grandmother when “off his meds”, became aggressive, broke a bottle over a kid’s head requiring stitches

Pg 89- Sex re-assignment surgery

Pg 90- “Clitoris looks like a little penis”, “most gay guys don’t want that”

Pg 91- Hormones and what they do to a body but omitting risks. Erections, breasts.

Pg 95- Gender “F” = blending male and female clothing

Non-factual - “Gender is one variable in a person’s identity and sexual orientation is another factor. The two are not connected”

Pg 96- Minor child changing given name

Pg 98-113- Transgender fashion shoot

Pg 113- Teen discussing wanting “top surgery” but not “bottom surgery” because she is “not dysphoric”. Reckless mention of hormone shots.

Pg 115 – Reckless mention of testosterone shot at age 16

Pg 122-“When people say I look male or female, it messes with my head”

Pg 124- Girl takes off shirt to play shirts and skins

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

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 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

9:6-1. ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, CRUELTY AND NEGLECT OF CHILD; WHAT CONSTITUTES

Abuse of a child shall consist in any of the following acts: (a) disposing of the custody of a child contrary to law; (b) employing or permitting a child to be employed in any vocation or employment injurious to its health or dangerous to its life or limb, or contrary to the laws of this State; (c) employing or permitting a child to be employed in any occupation, employment or vocation dangerous to the morals of such child; (d) the habitual use by the parent or by a person having the custody and control of a child, in the hearing of such child, of profane, indecent or obscene language; (e) the performing of any indecent, immoral or unlawful act or deed, in the presence of a child, that may tend to debauch or endanger or degrade the morals of the child; (f) permitting or allowing any other person to perform any indecent, immoral or unlawful act in the presence of the child that may tend to debauch or endanger the morals of such child; (g) using excessive physical restraint on the child under circumstances which do not indicate that the child's behavior is harmful to himself, others or property; or (h) in an institution as defined in section 1 of P.L.1974, c. 119 (C. 9:6-8.21), willfully isolating the child from ordinary social contact under circumstances which indicate emotional or social deprivation.

Abandonment of a child shall consist in any of the following acts by anyone having the custody or control of the child: (a) willfully forsaking a child; (b) failing to care for and keep the control and custody of a child so that the child shall be exposed to physical or moral risk without proper and sufficient protection; (c) failing to care for and keep the control and custody of a child so that the child shall be liable to be supported and maintained at the expense of the public, or by child caring societies or private persons not legally chargeable with its or their care, custody and control.

Cruelty to a child shall consist in any of the following acts: (a) inflicting unnecessarily severe corporal punishment upon a child; (b) inflicting upon a child unnecessary suffering or pain, either mental or physical; (c) habitually tormenting, vexing or afflicting a child; (d) any willful act of omission or commission whereby unnecessary pain and suffering, whether mental or physical, is caused or permitted to be inflicted on a child; (e) or exposing a child to unnecessary hardship, fatigue or mental or physical strains that may tend to injure the health or physical or moral well-being of such child.

Neglect of a child shall consist in any of the following acts, by anyone having the custody or control of the child:(a) willfully failing to provide proper and sufficient food, clothing, maintenance, regular school education as required by law, medical attendance or surgical treatment, and a clean and proper home, or (b) failure to do or permit to be done any act necessary for the child's physical or moral well-being. Neglect also means the continued inappropriate placement of a child in an institution, as defined in section 1 of P.L.1974, c. 119 (C. 9:6-8.21), with the knowledge that the placement has resulted and may continue to result in harm to the child's mental or physical well-being.

