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Fax: 434-8571

February 6, 2007

Art Johnson, Superintendent
School District of Palm Beach County

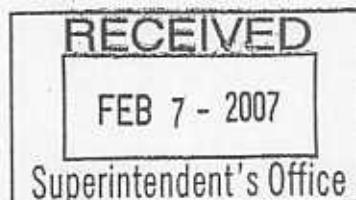
I received your letter that you received my fax regarding the books that are not appropriate to be in any school, that are in A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts.

Did you receive the materials that the Principal of Royal Palm High School told me to drop off, about the inappropriate books there also? I dropped it off about a week ago.

In answer to your letter: The Constitution never mentions the phrase "separation of church and state." That phrase was first used by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802, 14 years after the Bill of Rights was written and sent to the state for approval. The phrase is also not to be found in the notes of the First Congress which drafted the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment does say: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." in fact, the Court has said, on numerous occasions, that separation is impossible. As Justice O'Connor held in speaking for the Supreme Court in *Mergens*, "If a State refused to let religious groups use the facilities open to others, then it would demonstrate not neutrality but hostility toward religion. Therefore, the Constitution does not demand that religion be kept out of our public schools. **This comes from The American Center for Law and Justice.** The Constitution also says freedom of speech.

The books that I mentioned that should be taken out of Dreyfoos, Royal Palm High and every other school in the world, these books are not teaching the kids anything but only poisoning their minds. Kids are in school to get an education and the books that I mentioned have nothing to do with teaching them an education, they are not in school to learn to be a homosexual or to learn to murder an innocent baby inside the mother's womb. Do the right thing and take this poison out of every school.

... is i ... at Royal Palm High and has told me more than one time about different kids that have told ... that they tried to commit suicide because of kids making fun of them. When God was taken out of the public schools that's when everything bad started to happen: school shootings, drugs, bullies, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, gangs, teens having sex and babies, etc..... Until you bring back God and his word in the public schools, no matter what you try to do it won't change. Even the counselors won't change anything, only God can do it. If you teach kids that picking on other kids, making fun of them is against God and teach them other things that are wrong and teach them what is right under God then you will see changes. The changes will not only be at school but in the home as well. Everyone will benefit from learning about God.



1/24/07

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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
3340 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, C-316
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5869

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ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

WILLIAM G. GRAHAM
CHAIRMAN

MONROE BENAÏM, M.D.
VICE CHAIRMAN

PAULETTE BURDICK
MARK HANSEN
ROBERT J. KANJIAN
DR. SANDRA S. RICHMOND
DEBRA L. ROBINSON, M.D.

February 1, 2007

c - Janeen
FYI


Dear _____

I am in receipt of your letter of concern dated January 29, 2007, regarding school materials and religious implementation at Dreyfoss School of the Arts. As you probably know, the school district utilizes a sensitive topic review process for school materials/books. In addition, "separation of church and state" is the prevailing legal concept in determining the level of religion in the schools.

By copy of this letter, I shall direct the appropriate administrators to review your concerns and take appropriate action.

Thank you for your letter and continued support.

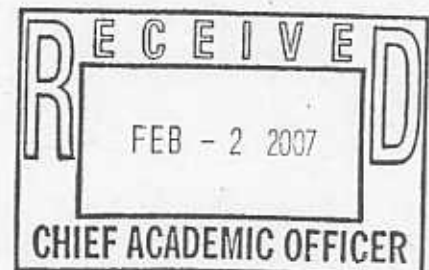
Sincerely,



Art Johnson, Ph.D.
Superintendent

AJ:jb

cc: Ann Killets, Chief Academic Officer
Rod Montgomery, Central Area Superintendent
Ellen Van Arsdale, Principal, Dreyfoss School of the Arts



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1/29/07

Attn: Art Johnson, Superintendent

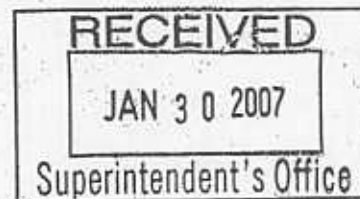
There was a review committee that met on January 12, 2007 regarding books that I wrote against having in Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts. The committee denied my objections about the books stating that my comments were related to my belief system. I wrote specific details on the books with characters names and what in the books that I did not like; this does not have to do with my beliefs, other than that I object to the books content. I did what was requested of me with each and every book and I think this committee needs to reevaluate its decision. I spent a lot of time doing this. I went to the library and wrote down the title and author of each and every book. Do you know how much time it takes to sit down and write details of what you have read from these books for over twenty books? A lot of time! The librarian could have printed out a list of the books that I pulled up on the schools computer but she did not do that for me. That alone would have saved me about an hour or more.

I know that the Constitution says freedom of speech but what about my freedom as a parent to not want my child to read about abortion and homosexuality in their school library. I have the right as a parent to say that I don't want those kind of books in the school library because they are not decent and appropriate for kids to read. My child is not going to school to learn about abortion and homosexuality, which has nothing to do with their education. That is not why I'm sending them to school. If you think that is appropriate to teach children then why don't you tack on murder, rape and sex? You know those things are not good to teach kids and neither is abortion and homosexuality.

When prayer was taken out of the schools that's when all of the bad things started happening like Columbine High School and other shootings. Even Rachael Scott's father said this to Congress. When bullies pick on kids, belittle them, say mean things to them and there are bad teachers also that say mean things to kids and make them feel bad. When I was in high school I had a woman teacher that would only talk to the cheer leaders and the kids that played football. I remember saying hello to her in the hallway and she ignored me, I said hello again and she ignored me again. All of these bad things come about when you take God out of the schools. You talk about freedom of speech but what about freedom of religion. There is no separation of church and state, you won't find that anywhere in the Constitution at all but what you will find it saying is that the Government can not interfere with the churches. That means that they can't make any decisions for the churches, the churches are free to worship God. Think about it, in this world that we are living in today, what is better for a child to watch video's on television to see the people half naked and practically having sex, using lots of profanity and talking about killing police, killing your parents and so on or for them to pray and worship God and be taught to love one another and to respect all people? Also, not to have sex before marriage! If they were taught these things instead of abortion - which is murder - it's a child, not a choice, children having children, homosexuality, then the children would turn out a lot better in life. Children are very mean to each other, call each other names, some kids commit suicide because the way that other kids are treating them. I was picked on a lot in school by several kids. I was picked on for years in school. I remember when I was in Junior High School; a kid that rode my bus killed himself because of problems. These days that we are living in the kids are a lot worse, a lot meaner.

Bring back God, prayer in school. If you do then you will see changes in the youth. If you don't, nothing that you do to try and change it will work. Only God can change people, it happened for me, for the Apostle Paul that was a murder of Christians and for a lot of other people. Only God can make a difference in the youth and in this world.

Thank you,



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Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr.

School of the Arts

501 South Sapodilla Ave.
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
(561) 802-6000

Assistant Principals

Leo Barrett
Tanya Daniel
George Miller

Magnet Coordinator

Jane Grandusky

Principal

Ellen Van Arsdale

January 18, 2007

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

As a result of the written recommendation from the School Materials Review Committee to me, your request to remove the books you reviewed on the topics of abortion, atheism and homosexuality from the media center has been denied.

While both the Committee and I were disappointed that you were unable to accept our invitation to attend the meeting, the Materials Review Committee met Friday, January 12, 2007, reviewed your *Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials* and analyzed all factors and criteria. Subsequently, your *Citizens Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials* was denied based on the following reasons:

1. Your comments on the *Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials* are not sufficiently specific as the School Board procedures require: pages or parts of the books you found objectionable were not cited; the forms were photocopied for each topic (abortion, atheism, homosexuality) with book title and author information inserted at the top of each form; and on the reverse side of each form you added a general summary of the story line with comments related to your belief system.
2. The Committee believes topics of abortion, atheism and homosexuality are social issues that high school students encounter in the media and in some situations within their families and social networks, such as in debate tournaments throughout the School District.
3. The Florida Sunshine State Standards (L.A.E.2.4.7) states that the student *examines a literary selection from several critical perspectives; (SS.C.2) the student understands the role of the citizen in the American democracy and (SS.C.2.1) develops and defines his or her own political beliefs and tendencies.*



4. The Library Bill of Rights states *that Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.*

Any appeal of my decision should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Arthur C. Johnson at 3300 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach, Fl 33406. If I may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ellen Van Arsdale

- c Dr. Arthur Johnson, Superintendent
Ann Killets, Chief Academic Officer
Rod Montgomery, Area Superintendent

16A



Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr.

School of the Arts

501 South Sapodilla Ave.
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
(561) 802-6000

Assistant Principals

Leo Barrett
Tanya Daniel
George Miller

Magnet Coordinator

Jane Grandusky

Principal

Ellen Van Arsdale

January 16, 2007

Ellen Van Arsdale, Principal
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts
501 South Sapodilla Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Re: Book Challenge Requests of [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Van Arsdale:

The School Materials Review Committee met on Friday, January 12, 2007 to discuss the Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials submitted by [REDACTED] parent of a Dreyfoos student. After reviewing her requests and analyzing all factors and criteria the Committee voted to dismiss [REDACTED] request to remove the Media Center books she named on the topics of abortion, atheism and homosexuality for the reasons listed below:

1. The comments [REDACTED] provides on the Citizens Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials are not sufficiently specific as the School Board procedures require. [REDACTED] does not cite pages or parts of the books regarding her objections. The forms were photocopied for each topic (abortion, atheism, homosexuality) with book title and author information inserted at the top of each form. On the back, [REDACTED] did add a general summary of the story line with comments related to her personal belief system.
2. The Committee believes that the topics of abortion, atheism and homosexuality are current social issues that high school students encounter in the media and in some situations within their families and social networks. The topics are social issues that high school students encounter in debate tournaments throughout the School District.



3. The Florida Sunshine State Standards (L.A.E.2.4.7) states that the student “examines a literary selection from several critical perspectives”; (SS.C.2) “the student understands the role of the citizen in the American democracy” and (SS.C.2.1) “develops and defines his or her own political beliefs and tendencies.”

4. The Library Bill of Rights states that “Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.”

Respectfully submitted,



Cookie Davis, Chairman
School Materials Review Committee

c Janeen Pelsler, Manager, Library Media Services

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BOOK CHALLENGE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ellen Van Arsdale, Principal

Cookie Daivs, Chairperson

Margaret Shooshani

Michael Gelfand

Tanya Daniel

Tom West

Jan Evan

 Student

Georgette Smith

Pat Montesino