

MEDIA

Florida school board forced to remove dozens of books after parents read 'graphic' passages aloud

One concerned citizen was escorted away from the podium by security while reading



By **Nikolas Lanum** · Fox News

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GOP pushes for parental access to schools, lessons, books

Fight for Schools executive director Ian Prior says schools focus too much on social issues over academics and parents should have more transparency in their children's education.

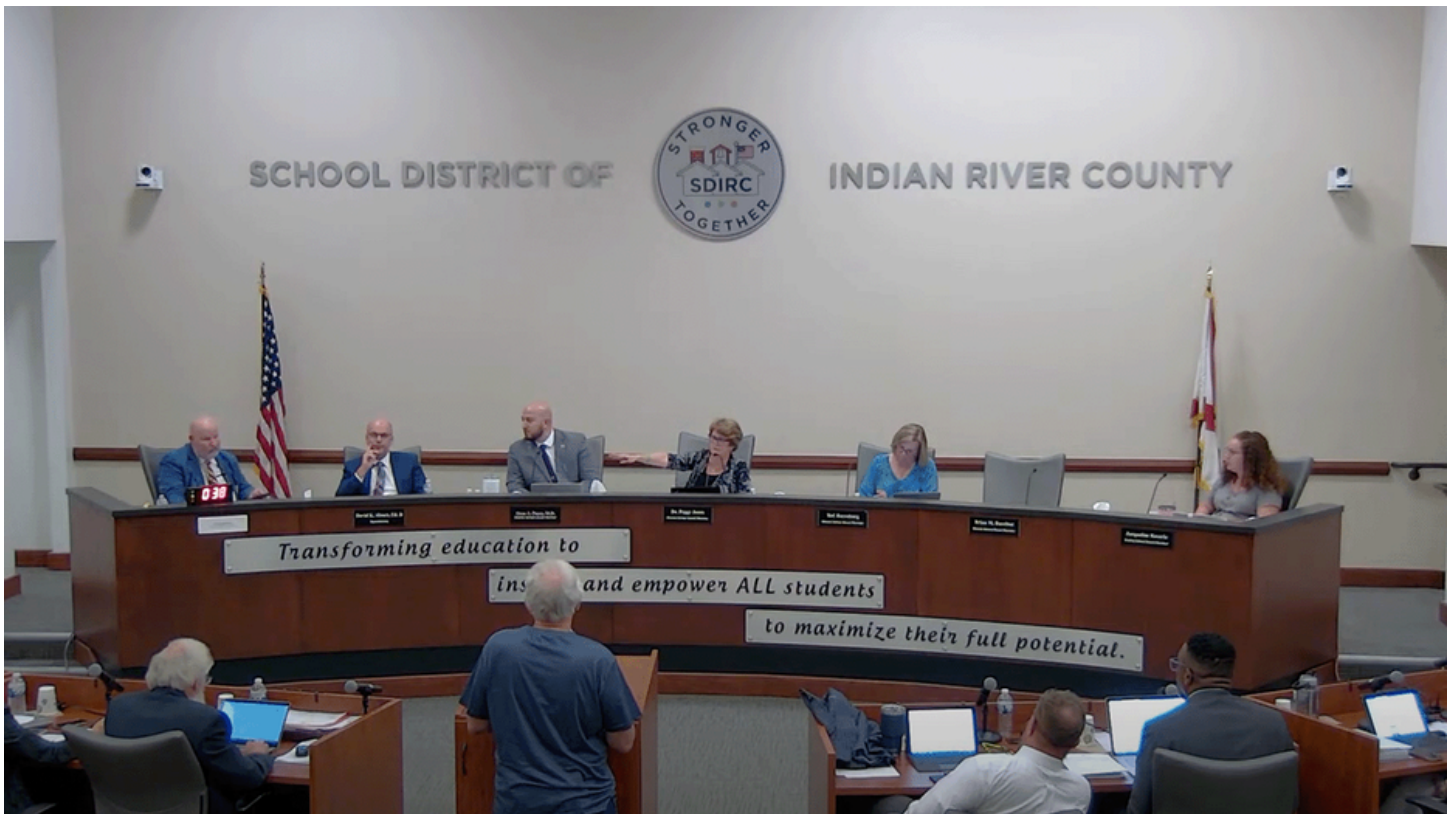
A Florida school board [voted unanimously to remove](#) several dozen books from school shelves after concerned citizens read graphic excerpts from the hotly debated novels.

The board decided to remove the books in question because of a rule signed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in May that states parents "shall have the right to read passages from any material that is subject to an objection."

Under HB 1069, if a school board denies parents the right to read passages considered "pornographic" or "harmful to minors," the school district must discontinue the use of such materials.

During the Monday meeting at the Indian River County School Board, over 30 parents and community members successfully had the books removed when they were cut off from speaking at the podium.

[CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICT SETTLES WITH MOTHER AFTER SCHOOL 'TRANSITIONED' DAUGHTER WITHOUT HER CONSENT](#)



The Indian River County (Florida) School Board unanimously voted to remove books from school shelves during a meeting Monday. (Screenshot/School District of Indian River County)

In one viral video posted to social media, Pastor John K. Amanchukwu Sr. was interrupted by the board while reading the book "13 Reasons Why" by Jay Asher.

"As if letting him finger me was going to cure all my problems," Amanchukwu Sr. read from the book.

"Sir, I'll stop you there," one board member responded.

When Amanchukwu Sr. continued reading from the book, [security swiftly escorted him away](#) from the microphone.

Another parent was cut off while attempting to read a passage from the book "Living Dead Girl" by Elizabeth Scott, describing an incident where an adolescent is pushed and has her pants forcibly removed.

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT ON BEING SUED BY CALIFORNIA AG OVER PARENTAL RIGHTS POLICY: THIS WILL 'EMBOLDEN' OTHERS



Pastor John K. Amanchukwu Sr. read a passage from the book "13 Reasons Why" that described adolescents discussing sex acts. (Screenshot/School District of Indian River County)

"We are adults and if there are children out there. I understand that. I understand that. But we don't want to be reading that aloud," Indian River County School Board Chairwoman Dr. Peggy Jones told the parent.

"Even with the first letter, this is really graphic. And we have a rule here. Nothing obscene. We haven't heard the actual words but I think we've heard enough," Indian River County School Board member Jacqueline Rosario said to another parent.

Rosario, speaking with Fox News Digital, noted that she was the only board member that voted to remove the books read at Monday's meeting back when they first voted on the issue in 2022. She also claimed that board members chose to ignore laws (Fl. St. 847 and 1006.28) on pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit content by making the books available in school libraries.

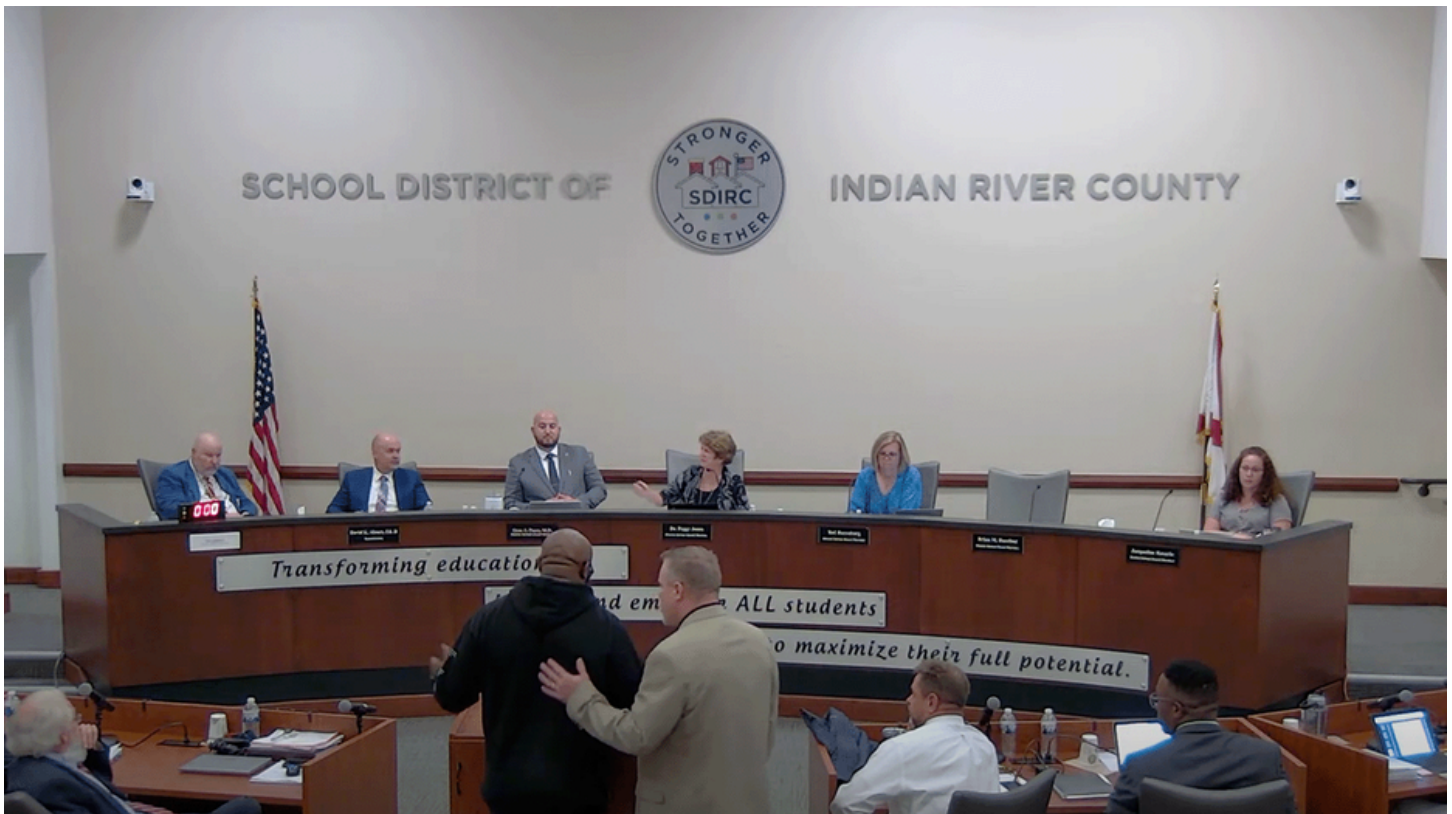
"The difference now is, HB 1069 has allowed parents to read explicit books at board meetings. And if they get shut down, then the book is immediately removed. This is a good thing," she added. "It is the litmus test for acceptable age appropriate and standards driven library books. If you can't read them at a board meeting, then you can't have them in our schools. All that is needed now is for a "passage" to be read and the book can be removed immediately. The superintendent and board members refused to acknowledge the gross content made available to kids until now. Finally, they don't have a choice. It's about time the truth be made known. Explicit, sexually graphic, pornographic, and obscene material does not belong in any school."

While it is unclear how many books were removed, dozens of people read passages [from different books](#).

The unanimous motion from the board called to "have the books removed that were read — which either had to be stopped or given a warning — to be removed immediately."

The board further stipulated that the books would be removed "as long as there's verification that what was read was actually in the book that is on the shelves."

[CALIFORNIA AG TO SUE CHINO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT OVER PARENTAL NOTIFICATION POLICY](#)



Pastor John K. Amanchukwu Sr. was removed from the podium by security after being told by a school board member to stop reading. (Screenshot/School District of Indian River County)

Some board members were frustrated with how citizens at the meeting conducted themselves, according to CBS 12 News.

"You could just pick up the phone and call the superintendent and say, 'Hey, here's an excerpt from this book. And let's get it taken care of that way because things have changed,'" Vice Chair of the Indian River County School Board Teri Barenborg told the news outlet.

In a comment to Fox News Digital, the School District of Indian River County (SDIRC) said the board listened to the community and unanimously voted to take "bold" and "swift" action to remove the books.

"Our Board Chairman, Dr. Peggy Jones, upheld the individuals' First Amendment rights while at the same time providing warnings regarding content. All Florida school districts are currently awaiting the dissemination of the list from the FLDOE with materials that were removed or discontinued as a result of an objection during the 2022-2023 school year," Cristen Maddux, a public information officer with the Office of the Superintendent, said.

The parental rights group Moms for Liberty pushed the effort to remove the books. The group's Indian River County Chapter chairwoman, Jennifer Pippin, told [Florida Voice](#) she was "happy" with the decision but "disappointed" in board members who "made us challenge these books twice" for two years.

Pippin said the group plans to challenge more books that are currently listed on the district website, including "Tilt" by Ellen Hopkins, "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi, "Collateral" by Ellen Hopkins and "The Assassin's Blade" by Sarah J Maas.

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Nikolas Lanum is an associate editor for Fox News Digital.

Conversation 3.3K Comments

51 Viewing

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konawind

1 day ago

It would not require parents to take this kind of action provided the school board members and administrators for the district are doing their jobs.

Reply

332

6

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13 replies

Christie906

1 day ago

I can't believe these school board members think this was appropriate for kids to read but it's not appropriate for the school board members to hear. Thank goodness for Ron DeSantis for making this law. It needs to be like this in every state.

Reply · 👍 139 🗨️ 3 · Share

👉 3 replies

markrid

1 day ago

I'm still trying to wrap my head around the concept that a book is not fit to be read at a board meeting by adults, but IS fit to be read in a public school by children.

Reply · 👍 588 🗨️ 6 · Share

👉 61 replies

CreamGravy

1 day ago

If any member of the faculty or school board actually cared about the children, they would not have allowed the books into the school curriculum to begin with, regardless of the law. All reason and sanity seem to be gone and school are now government reeducation and grooming centers.

Reply · 👍 182 🗨️ 2 · Share

👉 7 replies

D doyouwonder

1 day ago

Desantis needs to change the rule that if parent(s) object to a book and the school board declines the immediate removal of the book, then the president of the board MUST read the selected passages selected by parents at the next board meeting. No exceptions.

Reply · 👍 61 🗨️ 1 · Share

👉 2 replies

B barracuda70

1 day ago

This is a clever, terrific, common-sense rule, for which I applaud Governor DeSantis for approving, and parents, for actively applying. Makes all the sense in the world. If you can't hear it read in an adult setting, then remove from the school libraries. How can the Left argue against that logic? ...

See more

Reply · 👍 92 🗨️ 2 · Share

👉 4 replies

V vonstrohiem

1 day ago

A Florida school board [voted unanimously to remove](#) several dozen books from school shelves after concerned citizens read graphic excerpts from the hotly debated novels.

As if these books ever had any place in a school library to begin with! Good for the parents!

Reply · 👍 216 🗨️ 4 · Share

👉 9 replies

B bamabeachbums

1 day ago

If an adult can't read book passages in an adult school board setting with parents concerned with the content of the books THEIR children have access to. Then the books shouldn't be available to the children.

Reply · 👍 45 🗨️ 1 · Share

👉 2 replies

kfranklinj

1 day ago

When parents, and people in general, hear what the passages actually say, it is indefensible. There is no rational argument for keeping them available in school. Any sexually explicit books should not be in school libraries, no matter the sexual orientation, gender, whatever. Parents are just...

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Reply · 👍 17 🗨️ · Share

👉 2 replies

doclr11

1 day ago

If otherwise good citizens would just research who is running to be on school boards, show up on Election Day and vote wisely, none of this would be happening.

Reply · 👍 104 🗨️ 1 · Share

👉 9 replies

Ambayek

1 day ago

This is probably one of the few laws that I agree with Cons. Parents SHOULD have a full right to know what their kids are reading. My daughter brought a book home that my wife and I thought was very inappropriate for a 10 years of old girl to read, We made her return it immediately; however, upon...

See more

Reply 16 1 Share

P Proud-Pure-Blood-No-Vax

1 day ago

This is the law that does it for you? How about the anti-grooming laws? Or the anti-transitioning laws? Or all the laws meant to protect children? You know that dems are fighting these types of laws all the time right?

No decent parent can possibly be a liberal.

Reply 4 Share

1 reply

o Oakley17941

1 day ago

Sounds to me, dad, like you need to go into school and have a little heart to heart with that librarian.

Reply 3 Share

Show 3 more replies

K ken1118

1 day ago

Kudos to Ron DeSantis for his rule - which required this to happen!

Reply 168 5 Share

P politiciansareliars

1 day ago

There should be a new law stating that at least one school board member have to read a book that is accusable by children and sign off on it before allowing it be on the school shelves, and if later on material on the book found to be unacceptable for children then the member who signed it off have...

See more

Reply 5 1 Share

1 reply

P politiciansareliars

1 day ago

DeSantis does not even need to campaign or advertise for himself, what he does is the best campaign and advertise. Vote DeSantis in 2024 if you want law and order and sanity be back.

Reply 8 1 Share

Show 5 more replies

captbly123

1 day ago

Makes sense. If a book is too offensive for adults to read it to other adults during a meeting it shouldn't be in a public school. Kids can still legally get and read these books so they aren't actually banned in Florida. School libraries just don't have them.

Reply 11 Share

1 reply

N NewGrandDaddy

1 day ago

I have a concern which I think is more important than removing these books from the students' library.

My concern is "how did these books appear on the shelves of the students' library in the first place?"

Some person associated with or employed by this town's school system must have identified these...

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Reply 10 Share

theodg

1 day ago

I have been asking those very same questions in many of my posts!

The ALA and the National level teachers associations are national level orgs that are dominated by progressives. Its is those orgs that have gained control at a national level in collusion with federal level hypocrats!

While Education...

See more

Reply · 4 · Share

E **EscapeFromNY74** ...
1 day ago

Surely as educators they put time, effort, and thought into the reading selections so why is it so overboard to read from the books they claim are suitable for children aloud?

They got caught. Kudos to the parents for doing what the schools would not which is to look out for the kids best interest

Reply · 12 · Share

LaiKhe#3 ...
1 day ago

Governor DeSantis and the Florida legislature have done a remarkable job in the area of education. We have school choice, where the money follows the student, and a student may choose public, charter, private, parochial, or home schooling (if state education standards are followed); Schools are n...

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Reply · 9 · Share

J **juliet7bravo** ...
1 day ago

Reasonable enough. If the books aren't fit to be read in public to adults, what business do they have in school libraries?

Reply · 13 · Share

↪ 1 reply

M **mds71** ...
1 day ago

I applaud every single parent who is taking a stand and advocating for their students.

Reply · 13 · Share

P **PMcCoy** ...
1 day ago

I am not for burning or banning books. However, simply, if a book can't be read aloud at a school board meeting then that book should not be allowed in the school's library, especially the K-12 age group. Reevaluate for middle school and senior high school.

Reply · 11 · Share

↪ 1 reply

Y **youreallycare632** ...
1 day ago

The only reason the board voted that way is because the new law forces them to. If it was up to them it would be business as usual and the books would have stayed.

(Edited)

Reply · 16 · Share

SquirrelzFerHire ...
1 day ago

"You could just pick up the phone and call the superintendent and say, 'Hey, here's an excerpt from this book. And let's get it taken care of that way because things have changed,'"...Parents are in school board meetings doing this because superintendents, principals, and other school and district ...

See more

Reply · 11 · Share

- **--treebark--** ...
1 day ago

A round of applause for the parents!! Great job! Thank you Gov. DeSantis and FL Congress.

Reply · 17 · Share

carolb132 ...
1 day ago

Thank you Gov DeSantis for a law that allows parents to read in meetings and books removed without long court battles by the Dems.

Reply · 16 · Share

kbbb1999

1 day ago

Would probably be a little harder but removing the people who approve the books may be a more permanent solution.

Reply 19 Share

Pavane

1 day ago

"Under HB 1069, if a school board denies parents the right to read passages considered "pornographic" or "harmful to minors," the school district must discontinue the use of such materials."

That is a clean and simple method to remove inappropriate material from public schools. Does this work with ...

See more

Reply 9 Share

S Saint_Michael_The_Archangel

1 day ago

I think we can all agree...if it's too vulgar for parents to read aloud at a School Board meeting....it probably doesn't belong in the classroom.

Reply 133 2 Share

M mrpanda870

1 day ago

Obviously we can't ALL agree. There's a subset of the human race that has no limits to its perverse ideologies and will never agree with the majority.

Reply 11 1 Share

s stu1235

1 day ago

or the children's school library to be read by children!

Reply 6 Share

Show 4 more replies

V victory5

1 day ago

If it can't be read aloud in front of adults its got no business being in the school library.

Reply 72 1 Share

2 replies

sonnyinlv769

1 day ago

"You could just pick up the phone and call the superintendent and say, 'Hey, here's an excerpt from this book. And let's get it taken care of that way because things have changed"

No thank you. We'll continue reading IN PUBLIC in front of the board so all can see and hear that you heard it being re...

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Reply 14 1 Share

A americayay499

1 day ago

I was a librarian for 10 years. I will fight for the right of public libraries to include these books any day. School libraries, however, are not and have never been comprehensive collections. They are curated to target their audience. If the taxpayers don't feel certain texts suit that audience, s...

See more

Reply 12 2 Share

B bandito_01

1 day ago

It shouldn't have come to this; Is the school board so removed from the schools that they don't know what is in their libraries? - or is it that they know, but would rather sweep it under the rug? In either case they need a new school board.

Reply 6 Share

H hahahahawhatever

1 day ago

Now, Libtoids, before you get all bent, a BAN removes books from circulation and makes them illegal to own. Moving age inappropriate materials to a place better suited for the intended audience is NOT A

BAN. You can still buy the porn for your kindergartners if you like.
Reply ▾ 👍 88 🗨 1 ▾ Share

c **constitutionalconservative418** ...

1 day ago

If something is too obscene to read at a school board meeting, then it is too obscene to be included in a SCHOOL LIBRARY!

School libraries also do not furnish drugs, alcohol or cigarettes to children...because children are not mature enough to handle these adult substances. But, under liberals de...

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♦ **usamericathebestus** ...

1 day ago

Nailed it....but doubt they understand...

Reply ▾ 👍 10 🗨 ▾ Share

👤 1 reply

👤 Show 5 more replies

B **Billyraybob830** ...

1 day ago

If you can't read the passages to a bunch of elected adults at a school board meeting then the content (according to the school board members who stopped the reading) should not be in schools.

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I **ih8trols090** ...

1 day ago

That's because common sense is dead. People want to show how "accepting and open minded" they are. The problem is, they are so open minded their brains fell out

Reply ▾ 👍 8 🗨 ▾ Share

👤 1 reply

R **Ross81-06-05** ...

1 day ago

What's even funnier is the likes of ABC and NBC would sensor their coverage of the readings because of the content, then insist it is appropriate for children.

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👤 1 reply

Jay0430 ...

1 day ago

The bigger question is who is responsible for putting these vulgar books in the children's library? They need to be removed from their position. Perhaps the governor should explore making a law to that effect.

Reply ▾ 👍 10 🗨 ▾ Share

D **DarkShadow#13** ...

1 day ago

The law is there, it just needs to be **enforced**. Florida State Code **847.012 Harmful materials; sale or distribution to minors or using minors in production prohibited; penalty.—**

(1) As used in this section, "knowingly" means having the general knowledge of, reason to know, or a belief or ground for ...

See more

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orfla ...

1 day ago

I live in Florida. A number of years ago, Rush Limbaugh donated several sets of Rush Revere books to my son's elementary school library. I kept checking with my son every couple of days to see when they showed up because I wanted to see how popular they were. After a week or so of him not seeing th...

See more *(Edited)*

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