

**SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: Public Hearing for Reconsideration of Objections to School Library Materials  
(Tuesday, February 4, 2025)**

*Generated by Miriam Testasecca on Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

**Members present**

Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Anthony Coleman, Linda Thomson, Jennifer Collins

**A. Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM**

1. Call to Order by School Board Chair
2. Roll Call by Superintendent
3. Pledge of Allegiance by Tony Coleman

**B. INTRODUCTION by School Board Attorney Upchurch**

1. Purpose of Hearing: Mr. Upchurch discussed.
2. Format: Mr. Upchurch discussed.
3. Introduction of Participants: Mr. Tim Forson, Superintendent, Mrs. Dawn Sapp, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mrs. Kim Dixon, Director for Instructional Materials and Media Services and Mrs. Jean Moore, objecting community member.

**C. Public Hearing on Reconsideration of Objections to School Library Materials**

**D. Presentation of Appeal - Mrs. Jean Moore (5 minutes per title)**

1. Tower of Dawn
2. Strange Truth
3. Storm and Fury
4. Half a Yellow Sun
5. Nineteen Minutes
6. Normal People

**E. Staff Response - Mrs. Sapp stated that all six books should be retained for grades 9-12 and Mr. Forson concurred.**

**F. Public Comment - Mrs. Slough opened public comment.**

1. Kerri Gustavson, 92 Magnolia Beach Tr., Ponte Vedra, FL 32081  
Mrs. Gustavson spoke about book content.
2. Susan Horwitz, 412 F St., St. Augustine, FL 32080  
Ms. Horwitz spoke about book banning.
3. Mary Ann Cordray, 2052 Crown Dr., St. Augustine, FL 32092  
Ms. Cordray spoke about book banning.
4. Rebecca Patel, 90 Brookline Trail, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081  
Mrs. Patel spoke about book banning.
5. Ralesh Patel, 90 Brookline Trail, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081  
Mr. Patel spoke about book banning.
6. Martha Carreras, 805 Marian Way, St. Augustine, FL 32092  
Ms. Carreras spoke about book banning.

7. Lisa Lewis, 405 Boat Club Rd., St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Ms. Lewis spoke about book banning.
8. Melissa Paul, 1612 Jody Ct., St. Johns, FL 32259  
Ms. Paul spoke about book banning.
9. Bonnie Wahiba, 924 Lilac Loop, St. Johns, FL 32259  
Ms. Wahiba spoke about book banning.
10. Ann Tressler, 1314 Redrock Ridge Dr., St. Johns, FL 32259  
Ms. Tressler spoke about book banning.
11. Nancy Tray, 25 Crawford Ct., St. Johns, FL 32259  
Ms. Tray spoke about book banning.
12. Susan Nowell, 3260 Turtle Creek Rd., St. Augustine, FL 32086  
Ms. Nowell spoke about book banning.
13. Ervin Bullock, 1808 Vista Cove Rd., St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Mr. Bullock spoke about book banning.
14. Susan Jenness, 4280 Coastal Hwy., St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Ms. Jenness spoke about book banning.
15. Michelle Jennings, 3015 Aqua Vista Ln., St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Ms. Jennings spoke about book banning.
16. Dr. Kim Elmore, 5012 Medora Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32080  
Dr. Elmore spoke about book banning.
17. Nadine Hughey, 175 Adelanto Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32092  
Ms. Hughey spoke about book banning.
18. Ann Pavelle, 132 Duringo Dr., St. Augustine, FL 32086  
Ms. Pavelle spoke about book banning.
19. Chris Farlow, 108 Permit Ct., St. Augustine, FL 32092  
Ms. Farlow spoke about book banning.
20. Melissa Bashore, 71 Riberia St., St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Ms. Bashore spoke about book banning.
21. Holly Ross, 2220 Durbin Creek Blvd., St. Johns, FL 32259  
Ms. Ross spoke about book banning.

Online Comments from: Cheryl B., Hazel Robinson, JoEllen Parkey,  
Kimberly and Tamara Haleem

#### G. Board Discussion and Vote - Mrs. Slough

##### 1. Tower of Dawn

Motion by Kelly Barrera to restrict to grades 9-12 with parent permission, second by Tony Coleman

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Anthony Coleman, Linda Thomson, Jennifer Collins

##### 2. Strange Truth

Motion by Kelly Barrera to restrict to grades 11-12 with parent permission, second by Linda Thomson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 3/2

Yea: Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Linda Thomson Nay: Tony Coleman, Jennifer Collins

### 3. Storm and Fury

Motion by Kelly Barrera to restrict to grades 11-12 with parent permission, second by Linda Thomson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 4/1

Yea: Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Linda Thomson, Tony Coleman    Nay: Jennifer Collins

### 4. Half a Yellow Sun

Motion by Kelly Barrera to restrict to grades 11-12 with parent permission, second by Linda Thomson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 4/1

Yea: Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Linda Thomson, Tony Coleman    Nay: Jennifer Collins

### 5. Nineteen Minutes

Motion by Tony Coleman to retain ,no second

Motion by Jennifer Collins to restrict to grades 9-12 with parent permission, second by Kelly Barrera

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Linda Thomson, Tony Coleman, Jennifer Collins

### 6. Normal People

Motion by Kelly Barrera to restrict to grades 11-12 with parent permission, second by Linda Thomson

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 4/1

Yea: Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Linda Thomson, Jennifer Collins    Nay: Tony Coleman

### H. Closing Comments by School Board and Superintendent

Ms. Collins, Mrs. Barrera and Dr. Thomson thanked everyone for their comments.

Mrs. Slough stated that the law gives Mrs. Moore the option to appeal.

Mr. Coleman reminded everyone of parent/student/teacher Bill of Rights.

### I. Adjournment - Chairman Coleman - 11:39 AM