

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: Public Hearing for Reconsideration of Objections to School Library Materials (Tuesday, June 17, 2025)

Generated by Miriam Testasecca on Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Members present

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

Meeting called to order at 9 AM**A. Meeting Opening**

1. Call to Order by Board Chair
2. Roll Call by Superintendent of Schools

B. INTRODUCTION by School Board Attorney Upchurch

1. Purpose of Hearing

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

Mrs. Slough opens public hearing.

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

1. There's Someone in your House by Stephanie Perkins
2. Check and Mate by Ali Hazelwood
3. Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson

E. Staff Response - Mrs. Sapp and Mr. Forson**F. Public Comment - Mrs. Slough**

1. Doug Russo, 317 JW CT, St. Augustine, FL 32084
Mr. Russo spoke about books.
2. Bonnie Wahiba, 924 Lilac Loop, St. Johns, FL 32259
Ms. Wahiba spoke about books.
3. Kate Dowdiw, 53 Bay View Dr. St Augustine, FL 32084
Ms. Dowdy spoke about books.
4. Carole Garonskas, 208 St. Thomas St., St. Augustine, FL 32095
Mrs. Garonskas spoke about books.
5. Joellen Parkey, 3 Coquina Blvd, St. Augustine, FL 32080
Ms. Parkey spoke about books.

Online: no addresses given

6. Sarah Moulkiss spoke about books.
7. Tamara Haleem spoke about books.
8. Hazel Robinson spoke about books.
9. Anne spoke about books.
10. Cheryl B. spoke about books.

Mrs. Slough closes public hearing.

G. Board Discussion and Vote - Mrs. Slough

1. There's Someone in your House by Stephanie Perkins

Motion by Kelly Barrera to retain for grade 12 only with with parent permission , second by Dr. Linda Thomson

Yea: Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Dr. Linda Thomson No: Tony Coleman, Jennifer Collins

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

2. Check and Mate by Ali Hazelwood

Motion by Kelly Barrera to retain for grades 9-12 with with parent permission, second by Dr. Linda Thomson.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

3. Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson

Motion by Tony Coleman to retain for grades 8-12 , second by Jennifer Collins.

Yea: Tony Coleman, Jennifer Collins No: Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Dr. Linda Thomson

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Motion by Kelly Barrera to retain for grades 9-12 with parent permission , second by Dr. Linda Thomson.

Yea: Jennifer Collins, Kelly Barrera, Bev Slough, Dr. Linda Thomson No: Tony Coleman

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

H. Closing Comments by School Board and Superintendent - Chairman Coleman

Ms. Collins suggests a meeting on guidelines.

Dr. Thomson wants the process to be more clear.

Mrs. Slough and Mr. Coleman appreciates the process.

Mr. Forson stated that student performance for this year looks great.

I. Adjournment - 11:36 AM

**PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
OBJECTIONS TO SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS**

JEAN MOORE

Petitioner,

v.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Respondent.

ORDER

On Jun 17, 2025, the St. Johns County School Board conducted a public hearing on the objections of Jean Moore and Kari Gustavson to the following library books:

- a) “There's Someone Inside Your House” by Stephanie Perkins.
- b) “Monday's Not Coming” by Tiffany Jackson.
- c) “Check and Mate” by Ali Hazelwood.

More particularly, the Complainants appealed the Superintendent’s decisions to retain “There’s Someone Inside Your House” with access restricted to Grades 8-12, and retain the other two titles with access restricted to grades 9-12. After hearing the Complainants’ presentations, District staff’s response and public comment, and being further advised in the premises, the School Board voted to affirm the Superintendent’s decision, with the following modifications:

- 1) “There's Someone Inside Your House” – restricted to grade 12, parental consent required.
- 2) “Monday's Not Coming” – restricted to grades 9-12, parental consent required.
- 3) “Check and Mate” – restricted to grades 9-12, parental consent required

DONE and ORDERED this 24 day of June, 2025.

By 

Anthony Coleman, Chair
St. Johns County School Board

cc: Ms. Jean Moore
Ms. Kari Gustavson
Superintendent Tim Forson