

Rapid Response for 5/21

School Board Meeting 7 PM

The May 7th Committee of the Whole elevated two separate issues for your awareness: Independence Law Center and Book Banning.

Independence Law Center

School board members Emily Zimmerman (current board president) and Scott Landis (current VP), held a meeting with Randall Wenger, chief counsel of Independence Law Center. This meeting did not violate Sunshine Act Laws, however, was not held in good faith. In March of 2022, when legal representative changes were being considered, a public meeting was held interviewing 4 separate law firms. Firms interviewed were Fox Rothschild; Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams; Appel, Yost and Zee, and Kegel Kelin Litz and Lord (now part of Saxton & Stump).

Mr. Landis has publicly asserted that conversations with Independence Law Center are part of due diligence, and it's good business to listen to the advice they offer. Scott asserts that ILC offers a unique perspective SPECIFICALLY on Title XI law. This is a direct link to LGBTQ Issues, specifically, bathrooms, and sports.

ILC gets in the door by offering its services ``pro bono," with promises to write policies for the district on books and curriculum, bathroom policies, and other LGBTQ+ issues, but across Pennsylvania, these "free" policies have been very costly to taxpayers. More info can be found here: [The Dangers of ILC](#)

Book Banning

At the same May 7th meeting, there were major changes to the current policy and procedure suggested. Those suggestions were:

- 1) Move to an opt-in process. Books that contain any of the following topics: Mental health, violence/weapons, sexual content, trauma, drug/alcohol use, language, gender identity and LGBTQIA, or religion would require parent or guardian permission for each book/topic, likely every school year.
- 2) Discontinue the Library Resource Review Committee. This committee reviews all newly purchased titles and shares information to the public about new books. Books are then voted on for approval or denial for placement for students. This committee is formed with Librarians, teachers, community members and students.

There were public statements by board members that the public has no awareness of the books in school libraries. There were also assertions made that there is a lack of trust that teachers will remove books not permitted on library shelves from their classroom shelves.

Calls to Action

Objectives

- Intentionally creating welcoming and supportive school environments for all.
- Protect literary freedoms and access for our students.
- Honoring the dignity of our fellow humans who identify as transgender and within the larger lgbtq+ community, supporting their safety, and affirming they are seen and loved.

1. Show up/speak up

Your presence at school board meetings is vital!

Some general guidelines about attending and speaking

- NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION: This meeting will be held at the **WARWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**
- Doors open at 6:30. Meeting begins at 7:00pm.
- **If you would like to speak, you must email Boardsecretary@warwicksd.org before 3:30 that day.**
 - Include your name and topic.
 - If you are speaking to a topic listed on the agenda, you will be called to speak at the beginning of the meeting.
 - If you are speaking to a general topic not listed on the agenda, you will be called to speak at the end of the meeting.
- You can sign up to speak at BOTH the beginning, and end of the meeting! Just include those asks in your request to speak to Boardsecretary@warwicksd.org
- Speakers must be residents or taxpayers of this district, district employees, or district students.

Agenda:

<https://www.warwicksd.org/website/document/?d=board/bdmtgagenda-6644fb50b2fad.pdf>

-Preview of the to be signed agreement with Warwick and ILC:

<https://www.warwicksd.org/website/document/?d=board%2F4att5-21-24.pdf>

Speaking tips

- Know your goal in speaking/writing
 - What's your story to tell?
- Practice and time yourself (needs to be less than 3 minutes)
- Be respectful

Do not:

- Shame anyone
- Do not curse, or speak disrespectfully

Do:

- Keep it simple
 - Repeat your main point multiple times
 - Use dramatic pauses
- Tell a story (data is important, but stories get remembered)

2. Let Your Voice Be Heard

Email the School Board

Sending letters to the school board, and to local newspapers can make a huge impact on decisions that are made. The school board can be reached collectively at the following email address:

Schoolboard@warwicksd.org

Please consider CC'ing WeAreLititz@gmail.com so we can keep track of advocacy efforts. Sending an email to either schoolboard@warwicksd.org or individual School Board members will result in posting a copy of that message to both the entire School Board and Superintendent, Dr. April Hershey.

Letters to the Editor

This is an easy and effective way to elevate the conversation about the issues facing Warwick School District. Your voice and opinion matter

[LNP Lancaster Online](#)

3. Follow and Share Socials

We will be using Facebook, Instagram and TikTok to help spread the word. Follow us and spread the word.

Our Websites

www.wearelititz.com

www.grandmasforlove.com

4. Sharing is Caring

Talk to community members, friends, and family. Do they know about the potential consequences of the board's decision? Feel free to copy, paste, and share this resource with others: [Rapid Response for 5/21](#)

Questions: Email us at wearelititz@gmail.com

Resources:

Key Facts and Arguments on Independence Law Center

ILC gets in the door by offering its services "pro bono," with promises to write policies for the district on books and curriculum, bathroom policies, and other LGBTQ+ issues, but across Pennsylvania, these "free" policies have been very costly to taxpayers. More info can be found here: [The Dangers of ILC](#)

If Warwick follows the playbook of other school districts that are involved with Independence Law Center, changes in policy will be fast and furious.

Policies crafted by ILC:

[216.2. STUDENT RECORDS – NAME, SEX, AND GENDER IDENTITY](#)

[123.1. SEX-BASED DISTINCTIONS IN ATHLETICS](#)

The above policies were passed rapidly at South Western School Board in York quickly because they waived the 30 public review period. If you read their recent meeting notes below, specifically the comments at the end, you will see that they have quickly moved onto DEI and book banning.

[South Western York Recent School Board Minutes](#)

Articles:

- [How a Lancaster charity linked to a private Christian college influences public school policy in PA](#)
- [Lancaster County elected officials' proposals seek to erode the separation of church and state in public education](#)
- [Hempfield graduates reflect on how ILC policies affected them](#)

[Warwick School Board Plans Vote to Add Religious Firm](#) (LNP)

[Warwick School District Considers Change to Policy](#) (WGAL)

[South Western School Board Documents](#)

[Evening Sun Article](#)

[West Virginia Transgender Sports Ban Overturned](#)

[Dover School District Parents Worry](#)

Resource Documents:

[Title IX summary sheet](#)

[Title IX Resource page](#)

[U.S. Department of Education Releases Final Title IX Regulations, Providing Vital Protections Against Sex Discrimination](#)

[The Dangers of ILC](#)

[4/30 West Shore School Board Meeting with Education Law Center](#)

[Request for Public Meeting Letter](#)

[Request for Public Meeting DENIAL Response](#)

[Common Questions](#) (coming soon)

Key Facts and Arguments on Books

Information on the Library Resource Review Committee:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16p2EzUW2GWWQwBXFSjzcDzcmR3ZkbMVlYbHcEFX-3Y0/preview>

Newly added books (and vote history)

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14AR2sQ-tFMUX06Bc6woeSlniPfl343_pEn4lQHfDGnQ/preview?usp=sharing

Digital Access to Warwick School District School Library

https://warwicksd.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas087_3742994

Process for Challenging Materials in schools (which has not been used since put in place)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CVxpEm6xPVMp4Y08irDwoKOLkl6FSORP/view?pli=1>

Articles:

- <https://www.ala.org/bbooks/book-ban-data>
- https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/after-moms-for-liberty-chairs-son-raise-s-concerns-over-lgbtq-book-some-say-its-a/article_99d13930-6e09-11ee-a242-c7ae8778a030.html
- https://lancasteronline.com/news/politics/in-competitive-lancaster-county-race-s-republicans-steer-away-from-discussing-library-restrictions-transgender-policies/article_1501d226-6d39-11ee-9e28-a384432a1579.html
- https://lancasteronline.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/republicans-don-t-want-to-debate-letter/article_a1b7954a-5e1e-11ee-b0b2-1bc902a6603a.html
- https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/not-a-hate-group-warwick-school-board-members-defend-meeting-with-lawyer-tied-to-anti/article_b8ff01c8-e0b2-11ed-b412-bf910ef37472.html
- https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/warwick-parents-for-change-criticize-school-district-over-library-books-gender-definition/article_afc44344-7059-11ed-b827-33192d001406.html
- https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/warwick-parent-group-plans-meeting-to-recruit-church-leaders-to-fight-woke-curriculum/article_35925b42-6f5f-11ed-b63d-3be70b560c3e.html
- https://lancasteronline.com/news/regional/warwick-board-discusses-adopting-opt-in-policy-rather-opt-out-for-classroom-materials/article_0aea427c-1750-11ed-961e-5b5bbfc84469.html



5. Campaign Statements and Arguments

(Coming soon)