



May 15, 2024

The Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) stands in solidarity with the **Warwick School District** school librarians, members of the Warwick Library Material Review Committee and members of the community who support every child's freedom to read.

PSLA stands behind the professional expertise and sound judgment of the Warwick School District's librarians. We recognize and respect the work that trained, certified school librarians do to connect students with the right book at the right time. Warwick School District's librarians carefully select resources for the school library collection that meet the academic, literacy, and social and emotional learning needs of all of their students. They guide learners to relevant, reliable, and authoritative books and resources within the library. We support the current Warwick Selection Policy 109.1 including the Library Material Review Committee which has been effectively reviewing and selecting titles to be purchased for school libraries in the school district.

School librarians also advocate for parental involvement in their student's reading journey. They encourage open conversations with parents to identify relevant reading choices for their children, respecting parents' beliefs and the unique learning needs and reading comprehension levels of each child. The Library Material Review Committee provides transparency by the publication of the content advisory list for parents and guardians to help them make decisions for their own students. The school librarians have policies and procedures in place allowing for the review and reconsideration of books in the library collection, should a parent or staff member have concerns about a particular title.

We also advocate for representation in school library collections because representation matters. All young people deserve to see themselves represented in the imaginative stories contained within a book. As author and artist ND Stevenson recently wrote of their childhood, "I searched the world for some reflection of myself somewhere, anywhere [...] Seeing yourself in the world, knowing that you're not alone, that you could actually have a future as yourself – it's lifesaving." Children should likewise have access to literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people. Books are an opportunity for them to experience authentic portrayals of children whose backgrounds, abilities, and circumstances are different from their own. PSLA advocates for policies that include, not exclude, all students.

The Pennsylvania School Librarians Association supports every Warwick School District student's right to read, their access to school library collections, and their First Amendment rights. We staunchly support school librarians in the Warwick School District and urge the school board and administration to support the current School Library Policy.

The Pennsylvania School Librarians Association is dedicated to transforming teaching and learning through quality school library programs.