



July 25, 2022

The Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) stands in solidarity with the Central Bucks School District students, parents, educators, administrators, and community members who support every child's freedom to read.

First and foremost, we recognize and respect the work that trained, certified school librarians do to connect students with the right book at the right time. These librarians carefully select resources for the school library collection that meet the academic and literacy needs of all of their students. They guide learners to age-appropriate, reliable, and authoritative books and resources within the library. Librarians also advocate for parental involvement in their student's reading journey. They encourage open conversations with parents to identify appropriate reading choices for their children, respecting parents' beliefs and the unique learning needs and reading comprehension levels of each child. Further, these school librarians already 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. PSLA stands behind the professional expertise and sound judgment of Central Bucks School District's school librarians.

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 also 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 Central Bucks School District student's right to read, their access to school library collections, and their First Amendment rights!