

Michelle Contich
Lipscomb Elementary

SUBJECT: Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

Dear Ms. Contich,

I am a mother of four, my oldest graduated BHS in 2017, one child just graduated from 5th from your school this year, one is moving on to 1st, and one is still in pre K but will be attending Lipscomb in Fall 2022. I am writing to express grave concern over the Great Minds Wit and Wisdom curriculum, rolled out in the 2020-2021 school year. I'm sure you have heard that this curriculum has been a topic of much discussion over the past several months due to its dark content, age inappropriateness, and racially charged instruction. My son, who is moving on to BMS in the fall, spoke to me in depth about some dark material that was taught. Graphic pictures of boys laying dead in a pile, a young boy with a sword through his throat are just two examples. His teacher tried her hardest to bypass these images quickly but, they still were available for the children to see because, this is the curriculum that was chosen by this district. I request you review another WCS parent testimony at the Moms for Liberty CRT101 Event (Attachment 2), minute 39:30. Additional concerns have been shared on Instagram @Dr_Mr.Golden.

Per Williamson County Board of Education Policy 4.403, dated 6 April 2019, I am formally requesting a "Reconsideration of Instructional Materials," to include the Wit and Wisdom curriculum, the supplemental use of Brain Pop, and the library's GALE database. I further request an exception to policy, as stated below.

4.403, if followed to the letter will not yield a timely result before the coming 2021-2022 school year. Furthermore, the Board of Education addressed the Great Minds Wit & Wisdom curriculum at their 13 May 2021 work session (Attachment 1). At minute 3:01:00, Nancy Garrett (District 12) suggested that a curriculum review, to include "teacher inputs, student inputs, and community inputs," should be reported on at the June board meeting. Superintendent Golden responded, "Yes ma'am, I think that's a great idea." Jay Galbreath (District 6) suggested "solicitation of feedback" at 3:18:53. Since 4.403 could easily exceed 30 working days, by its own admission, I request the following exception to policy.

Exception to Policy: Since multiple principals are receiving this same request and because the issue is already up for review at the county level, it is my recommendation and my request that this issue be immediately elevated to the WCS Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, so that multiple schools may simultaneously review the material in a timely manner so that a decision may be reached in time for the 2021-2022 school year.

I submit 15 June 2020, 10:00 am, at the auditorium in the WCS Central Office, or a WCS gymnasium, for this review to take place. Parents across the county are prepared to make a centralized presentation on this matter. This format will not exceed 90 minutes. I, and parents like me, simply wish to be heard ahead of the 17 June Board of Education work session and 21 June board meeting when the Wit and Wisdom results will be discussed.

Please respond to myself at the information above and to [REDACTED] or (615) 905-1996.

Respectfully,

Jennifer L Jackson

Williamson C. Parent

Attachments:

1. WCS Work Session Live Stream, 13 May 2021

<https://livestream.com/accounts/5076979/events/9664074/videos/> [REDACTED]

2. Moms For Liberty CRT101 Live Stream, 19 May 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vleR5pSUA0&t=6s>

3. Form 4.102p “Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials”

<https://doc-0g-6k->

docs.googleusercontent.com/docs/securesc/afqg80erd5ovabf1523p78k71dsdmou3/kq64moesvnpakf21u003naa4r1hgas2c/ [REDACTED]

[000/07368197949743902708/06084833187915929210Z/19LQXMpe0y2zWOF32n_9bXick41Z6ebc_?](https://docs.googleusercontent.com/docs/securesc/afqg80erd5ovabf1523p78k71dsdmou3/kq64moesvnpakf21u003naa4r1hgas2c/000/07368197949743902708/06084833187915929210Z/19LQXMpe0y2zWOF32n_9bXick41Z6ebc_?)

[e=download&nonce=gr5mb1ga7tnbq&user=06084833187915929210Z&hash=te43ead61tga0cd916cg5p3oalr7j79i](https://docs.googleusercontent.com/docs/securesc/afqg80erd5ovabf1523p78k71dsdmou3/kq64moesvnpakf21u003naa4r1hgas2c/000/07368197949743902708/06084833187915929210Z/19LQXMpe0y2zWOF32n_9bXick41Z6ebc_?e=download&nonce=gr5mb1ga7tnbq&user=06084833187915929210Z&hash=te43ead61tga0cd916cg5p3oalr7j79i)

Sent from my iPhone

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Sent from my iPhone

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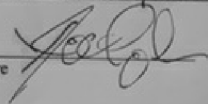
Respectfully,

Joe Pasquale
June 1 2021
Williamson County Parent

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Williamson County Board of Education Standard Operating Procedure	
4.102p	Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials (Part of Board Policy 4.403) Page 1 of 3
Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials	
Author <u>Multiple Authors</u> Paperback _____ Hardcover _____ Title <u>Wit & Wisdom K-5 ELA Curriculum</u> Publisher (if known) <u>Great Minds LLC</u> Request initiated by <u>(see 4.403 Request Letter)</u> Telephone _____ Address _____ City _____ Zip _____	
Complainant represents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Himself/Herself <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Organization) <u>Moms For Liberty</u> _____ (Other group) _____	
1. Have you been able to discuss this work with the teacher or librarian who ordered it or who used it? Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. What do you understand to be the general purpose for using this work? a. Provide support for a unit in the curriculum? Yes _____ No _____ b. Provide a learning experience for the reader in one kind of literature? Yes _____ No _____ c. Other <u>It is the primary ELA curriculum</u>	
3. Did the general purpose for the use of the work, as described by the teacher or librarian, seem a suitable one to you? Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If not, please explain. <u>This Curriculum is in violation of SB0623-it is - Age Inappropriate subject matter, Racially divisive, Emotionally charged, Demeaning content in violation of HB0580/SB0623</u>	

Williamson County Board of Education Standard Operating Procedure	
4.102p	Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials (Part of Board Policy 4.403) Page 3 of 3
13. What would you like your library/school to do about this work? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not assign/lend it to my child <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return it to the staff selection committee/department for re-evaluation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please explain. <u>Remove entirely the Wit and Wisdom ELA curriculum as it is impossible to extricate individual books from lesson plans.</u>	
14. In its place, what work would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of the subject treated? <u>Revert to previous McGraw Hill Wonders curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year while a new, more suitable curriculum can be properly vetted + reviewed</u>	
Signature 	Date <u>1 June 2021</u>

please pardon the ridiculous grammar & other eccentricities courtesy of iPhone spell check.

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From: Stephanie Murphy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 6/1/2021 9:55:37 AM
To: Katherine Lillard
Cc: Moms For Liberty - Williamson County, TN; angela durham; Daniel Cash; Eliot Mitchell; Brad Fiscus; Jennifer Aprea; Jay Galbreath; Eric Welch; KC Haugh; Nancy Garrett; David Allen; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; tom.tunnicliffe@williamsoncounty-tn.gov; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Jason Golden; MFL-[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];

Subject: 4.403 Request and Attachement

Attachments: [4403 Request Wit & Wisdom signed.pdf](#), Attachment 3 of 4403 request letter 4.102p Wit & Wisdom.pdf

WARNING: THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS - Do NOT reply, click links, or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning:
I respectfully request review of the 4.403 request letter and attachments. I have posted the letter within the body of email, in the case of any IT issues.
God Bless,
Stephanie Murphy

Stephanie Murphy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
District #5

Date: 1 June, 2021
Kathy Lillard, principal of College Grove Elementary School
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

Dear Principal Lillard:

I have a child entering 3rd grade and Kindergarten, and I am writing to express grave concern over the Great Minds Wit and Wisdom curriculum, rolled out in the 2020-2021 school year. I'm sure you have heard that this curriculum has been a topic of much discussion over the past several months due to its dark content, age inappropriateness, and racially charged instruction. As an example I request you review a WCS parent testimony at the Moms for Liberty CRT101 Event (Attachment 2), minute 39:30. Additional concerns have been shared on Instagram @Dr_Mr.Golden.

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//signed//SMM// 1 June 2021

Stephanie M. Murphy

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