

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 5/5/2021 5:05:14 PM
To: Stephanie Zeiger <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: April 27th Thompson's Station Church Meeting

Dr. Zieger, thanks for your email and for sharing your thoughts about the Wit and Wisdom curriculum.

I hope that you will participate in one of the Listening Sessions with Fostering Healthy Solutions, and I hope that you will complete the parent survey going out tonight.

Sincerely,
Nancy

Nancy Garrett
District 12, Williamson County School Board
[REDACTED]

From: Stephanie Zeiger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: April 27th Thompson's Station Church Meeting

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All,

I am writing in response to the meeting April 27th called by Dan Cash, District 2 representative at Thompson's Station Church. Following the meeting, I walked away worried and concerned about the many opinions expressed by Mr. Cash and others. As both a mother of a 2nd grader and 4th grader in the Williamson County school district and an educator, I feel it is important that you hear from me.

I was very concerned about the narrative from Mr. Cash. He started the meeting with a prayer and then began explaining how some of the books our students are reading are not age appropriate. In particular, he shared concern for the books about civil rights in 2nd grade. In the handout given at the meeting (see attached), all the books in the Civil Rights Unit were circled along with others. He shared his belief that talking about race is not age appropriate for 2nd grade and leads to divisiveness. I have reached out to Mr. Cash to hear more about his experience with child development and education curriculum along with his definition of age appropriateness. I hope that I can have a conversation with him soon to discuss.

The views along with Mr. Cash's remarks shared at this meeting further support that there is much work to be done in our community around diversity and inclusion. I applaud the actions that have been taken by the district to get feedback from the community and assessing where the district is on this work. I am happy my students are reading these texts which have led to many wonderful conversations in my home. Both my children struggle with reading and I was so excited to have them share with me without prompting the stories in the Wit and Wisdom curriculum. On Friday, my son came home talking about the characters from Walk Two Moons and was excited to hear I had already read the book.

Please know that there are many of us in the district that are supporting this DEI work. I know that these conversations can be difficult but are essential if we are to fully educate our children. Stories from multiple perspectives, cultures, races, etc. are of utmost importance as our students learn to become critical thinkers and active citizens. I want to encourage you to keep the conversations going around DEI and hope to see more DEI training for teachers, staff, administration, **and** school board members.

Along with the handout given at Mr. Cash's meeting (please excuse my notes in pencil), I have also attached a research article published in The Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, a peer-reviewed academic journal from the American Psychological Association. I hope you will take the time to read it as it is looking at the reasons adults believe younger students cannot discuss race. It concludes that adults are hesitant to talk about race as they assume students are not ready despite scientific research demonstrating that children can and should have these discussions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dr. Stephanie Zeiger