

**From:** Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 5/28/2021 2:49:04 PM  
**To:** Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Request to Participate in Wit & Wisdom Eval

---

Nancy & Jason,

As you're aware, many of Ms. Steenman's demands conflict with the Board's established policies. Acquiescing to these would not only violate our policy but would be giving Steenman preferential treatment over every other parent and organization, including our school PTO's and booster groups. This is unacceptable.

I would like to give her and her confederates the benefit of the doubt that she's unaware, and respectfully request that she be provided this information. It may also be beneficial to make the others copied on her emails aware as well. I've pulled a few of our policies below that are relative to the conversation which include the direction that

- Our meetings with the public are established by the district and not set, hosted, or the agenda established by third parties. Furthermore, we make efforts to invite a cross-section of the community
- There is an established process for bringing concerns to the full Board and the Board has expressed that it believes concerns should be addressed at the lowest appropriate level
- Parents already play a leading role in the selection of curriculum and texts.
- Every parent has the right to censor material they feel inappropriate for their child. No parent or group has the right to censor material for other children.
- There is an established process for reconsideration of materials

In addition, I would also suggest making Ms. Steenman aware of the opportunities that have already been provided to her and others to review materials in advance as well as give feedback. That she has failed to take advantage of these numerous opportunities does not now grant her the right to special treatment.

- Eric

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Policy Title</b>
<a href="#">1.000</a>	<a href="#">School District Educational Philosophy</a>
<a href="#">1.101</a>	<a href="#">Role of the Board of Education</a>
<a href="#">1.400</a>	<a href="#">School Board Meetings and Work Sessions</a>
<a href="#">1.404</a>	<a href="#">Appeals to the Board</a>
<a href="#">1.500</a>	<a href="#">Board-Community Relations</a>
<a href="#">4.100</a>	<a href="#">Instructional Goals</a>
<a href="#">4.200</a>	<a href="#">Curriculum Development</a>
<a href="#">4.200</a>	<a href="#">Curriculum Design</a>



Respectfully,  
Robin Steenman

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

----- Original Message -----

On Friday, May 28, 2021 7:59 AM, Jason Golden <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Ms. Steenman,

Thanks for following up. I have Ms. Blount scheduled to meet with me June 15 at 10 am, and it's my understanding that you and a couple more folks might be with her, along the line of your earlier meeting with Dr. Allen. It's not the summer forum that you are asking me to schedule just for your group that I answered below, but I look forward to continuing the conversation with you in a couple of weeks.

Jason Golden  
Superintendent  
Williamson County Schools  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** MFL-Willco <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 12:09 AM

**To:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** DeeDee Hoover <[REDACTED]>; Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash

<[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Jennifer Aprea  
<[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Candace  
Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh  
<[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; David Allen <[REDACTED]>;

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];

**Subject:** Re: Request to Participate in Wit & Wisdom Eval

**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.**

Dear Mr. Golden,

I understand that quarterly "Let's Talk Schools" forums were routinely held in the past. If you have objections to our proposed format, then suggest a format that you find favor with. I submit that "Let's Talk Schools" would be a great place to start.

With one caveat: that we have a chance to be heard. I find no fault with allowing the opposition to speak, as well. That's the essence of a forum. But WCS is pressing with a review of Wit and Wisdom, under the guise of soliciting feedback from parents, teachers, and even other counties, but no such feedback has been requested from us. When Mr. Allen delivers his report on 17 June, our collective voices will be absent. How is that right?

Yes, constituents of the various districts have been meeting with their respective school board members (the 10 that have agreed to meet with their constituents, anyway). Yes, this is an excellent way to have meaningful discussion. But repeating that discussion 12+1+24 times is bit much for anyone. A forum setting is best suited to the situation, especially with the compressed time window before 17 June.

I believe 10 of the 12 board members who met with us can attest that we are a well mannered, well behaved, civil and respectful group. We just want to be heard. We, the parents, grandparents, citizens, and constituents of Williamson County, have a right to be heard. We want to exercise that right, especially on a matter of such vital importance as the curriculum that is taught to our children. Especially when some of our children have been traumatized by said curriculum.

So, why not hear us out, Mr. Golden?

Respectfully,  
Robin Steenman  
Moms for Liberty Williamson County  
[REDACTED]

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

----- Original Message -----

On Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:51 AM, Jason Golden <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks for your email on behalf of Moms for Liberty. We have received the same email content from different people on behalf of that group, so I wanted to make sure I responded to each of you and re-share a few items that we've discussed at our Board meetings the past few weeks.

Wit and Wisdom is our adopted English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for grades K-5 through the State's required curriculum adoption process. For grades K-2, we included a Foundational Literacy (phonics) program in addition to Wit and Wisdom. This curriculum was reviewed and selected by teachers and a stakeholder review committee then adopted by the School Board following the review process that is in Tennessee State law and established in School Board policy. Board policies and the law that guide this process are TCA 49-6-2207 and Board Policy 4.401, [Textbook Selection Adoption](#) and 4.402, [Selection of Instructional Materials](#). WCS will continue to make decisions based on what's best for our students locally, not based on a national agenda. We have heard concerns that some of our families have experienced critical race theory promoted in other parts of the country. We do not have in our instructional plans promotion of critical race theory. We also know that the Tennessee Legislature recently passed HB580/SB623 addressing many concepts that public schools should not promote, and we are committed to honoring all Tennessee laws that our elected officials enact. The detail of that particular bill can be found at <https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/112/Amend/HA0441.pdf>.

During this first year of implementation of the new ELA adoption, the district's curriculum specialists have been making modifications to the content and material based on our experience and input from students, parents, teachers, and staff. The district's Teaching, Learning, and Assessment team will present additional information regarding Wit and Wisdom and instructional adjustments being made during the Board's work session on June 17. This is not a voting meeting, just an update on our experience with Wit and Wisdom during this first year of implementation. That work session will be broadcast live via the internet with a link posted on our website.

We understand and respect that you as a group have expressed concern about Wit and Wisdom for elementary school ELA, and some of you have given examples of content that has concerned you. Our staff has met with some of your representatives, and we have at least one more meeting scheduled next month. If any of you as individual parents have any additional information about your child's experience that you believe might not have been shared, please reach out to your Principal.

Our experience has been that meeting with smaller groups of parents is more productive because we can speak specifically about their children, their experiences, their successes, their concerns. A community forum in the summer is not the optimum way for staff to research and reply. Of course, in addition to small group meetings, we receive emails and calls



In this capacity, we request your presence, and the presence of all WCS board members (cc'd) and Williamson County commissioners (cc'd), at a forum hosted by Moms for Liberty - Williamson County Chapter on 14 June 2021, 5:30 pm, or 15 June 2021, 10:00 am, at the WCS Central Office, 1320 West Main Street, or suggested venue capable of accommodating such a meeting.

In the interest of time, I request you review in advance a WCS parent testimony at the Moms for Liberty CRT101 Event (Attachment 2), minute 39:30.

This matter is central and absolutely critical to our children's education, and we insist our voices be heard outside of a one-minute time limit within a 30-minute window. We vow to be respectful of your time, as well. Please RSVP directly to me and/or [REDACTED].

Respectfully,

D.M. Hoover

24 May 2021

Williamson County parent, registered voter, and active community member for 21 years

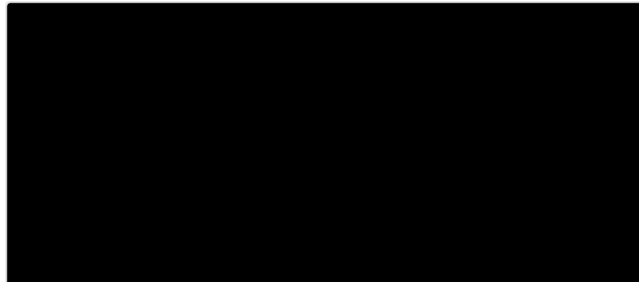
Attachments:

1. WCS Work Session Live Stream, 13 May 2021

[https://livestream.com/accounts/5076979/events/9664074/videos/\[REDACTED\]](https://livestream.com/accounts/5076979/events/9664074/videos/[REDACTED])

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

[CRT101 Live Stream, 19 May 21](#)



**CRT101 Live Stream, 19 May 21**

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

**From:** Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 5/28/2021 2:50:06 PM  
**To:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fw: Wit & Wisdom, SB-623, LGBT Displays

Jason,

I can't see any conflict between the curriculum examples provided and the legislation Ms. Hill mentions. I don't see anything inappropriate either. The reference to a LGBT History Month display in an elementary school does strike me as a valid concern about age appropriateness. Did this actually occur or is it yet another unfounded rumor?

- Eric

**Eric Welch**  
**Williamson County Schools**  
**Board of Education - District 10**

*Please note that this is a public email account. Communications sent to/from this address are subject to potential review by third parties under the Tennessee Open Records Act.*

**From:** Shannon Hill <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 2:15 PM  
**To:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; CO Schoolboard Group <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Wit & Wisdom, SB-623, LGBT Displays

**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.**

Dear Mr. Golden,

I am one of the many parents who have become aware of the Wit & Wisdom curriculum and, along with the Moms for Liberty, is requesting a forum on 14 June 2021, 5:30pm or 15 June 2021, 10:00am, at the WCS Central Office.

I have also read over Bill SB-623, which was signed into law this week by Governor Lee, which bans teaching CRT in our schools. I know you adamantly deny that CRT is being taught within our schools. However, after reading through what the bill specifically prohibits, I'm confused as to why you deny the existence of CRT in our schools when the concepts within Wit & Wisdom mirror the now prohibited CRT language. Let me give you some examples from the books that are included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Wit & Wisdom modules.

Each of the bolded subheadings are the exact language contained in SB-623, outlining the teaching concepts that are now prohibited. I believe the excerpts from the following books in the Wit & Wisdom 2<sup>nd</sup> grade modules are in direct violation to the language within the bill.

**One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;**

- *Separate is Never Equal*, page 2: She was looking for her locker when a young white boy pointed at her and yelled, "Go back to the Mexican school! You don't belong here!"
- *Separate is Never Equal*, page 27: "Do you believe that white students are superior to Mexicans in the respects that you have mentioned?"  
"Yes."  
"And is that one of the reasons they are being segregated?"  
"Yes."

**An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment because of the individual's race or sex;**

- *Separate is Never Equal*, page 27: "Do you believe that white students are superior to Mexicans in the respects that you have mentioned?"

“Yes.”

“And is that one of the reasons they are being segregated?”

“Yes.”

- *Separate is Never Equal*, page 10: Sylvia looked at her cousins. They had light skin and long auburn hair, and their last name was Vidaurri-their father was Mexican, but of French descent. Then she looked at her brothers, and at her own hands and bare arms. She wondered, Is it because we have brown skin and thick black hair and our last name is Mendez?

**An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;**

- *Ruby Bridges Goes to School*, page 1: A long time ago, some people thought that black people and white people should not be friends.

In some places, black people were not allowed to live in the same neighborhoods as white people.

- *Ruby Bridges Goes to School*, page 2: (Photograph of white boy with a sign that reads, “We won’t go to school with Negroes)

**An individual's moral character is determined by the individual's race or sex;**

- *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, page 19: The crowd seemed ready to kill her. (The page includes an illustrated picture of angry mob of white people with fists in the air, yelling at Ruby)

**An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or another form of psychological distress solely because of the individual's race or sex;**

- *Journey of a Pioneer*, page 23: Indians aren’t as scary as I thought they would be.

These are just a few examples. It’s not only the fact that these concepts are being taught to 7 and 8 year olds, it’s that they will be subject to this content for weeks on end. How do you think black and Latino students would feel when reading a book about how they are not welcomed in school based on the color of their skin and hair? How do you feel white students will feel after reading these books about how people of their race treated others so poorly? I imagine, not a single child wouldn’t feel good about any of it and may start to resent themselves and others all based on how they look and the way people acted in the past. And the setting of these books, school, is so very convenient. For most of our children, school is their one and only place of social interaction with their peers. Why would we want to possibly destroy their one safe and fun place? A place where they will go every day for the next 10 years of their lives. I don’t deny this history needs to be taught, but how and at what age it is appropriate is the question. Also, should they be subject to this content in consecutive weeks? *Ruby Bridges Goes to School*, *The story of Ruby Bridges* and *Separate is Never Equal* are all taught in consecutive weeks. I feel as though this strategy is being used to indoctrinate our children with these repetitive themes. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level, I believe our children should be taught to treat everyone equally. We shouldn’t be focusing on everyone’s differences; this only helps to divide us and put everyone into their own little box. Don’t our kids want to feel included and accepted for who they are as people, not what they look like? I know my 7 year old daughter feels this way and she’s not atypical from other 7 year olds.

History needs to be taught, but at a level that is appropriate by age. Our children are so impressionable, we must be delicate with what and how we are teaching. When they are more mature with better reasoning, more self-understanding, awareness and critical thinking skills, these topics can be discussed. Our children’s moral upbringing should not be bestowed by our schools, that is the job of parents.

I also recently became aware of the LGBT History Month display that was in Mill Creek Elementary/Middle Schools. In this display, LGBT “icons” were shown, including Lil Nas X, whose song Montero, is about drugs and sex and glorifies Satan. Felicia Elizondo, who is a trans activist. Go to Google and read a little about her life; is this something Elementary and Middle school children should be reading? Lori Lightfoot, the Mayor of Chicago, who just announced she will no longer grant interviews to white reporters. I’m dumbfounded this was allowed in our schools. Shame on you and the principals; they will be receiving a similar letter from me. I demand parents are welcomed back into our schools for the upcoming year. I highly doubt this would have been displayed if it weren’t for the circumstances of the previous year and if parents were in school on a daily basis. I’m disgusted. DE&I education like this is not wanted in our schools. Again, this is the responsibility of parents. I do not co-parent with WCS.

I am very concerned about my daughter [REDACTED] at Mill Creek Elementary. Should I quit my job so I can homeschool to protect her innocence and morality? I’m so disappointed I have to write a letter like this. I never in a million years thought that I’d have to battle with the school system to ensure appropriate, grade level curriculum and values were being taught. I implore you to schedule a forum with Moms for Liberty to discuss Wit & Wisdom and I implore you to keep DE&I out of our schools.

Thank you,

Shannon Hill  
Mill Creek Elementary Mom