



THE CONSISTENTLY INCONSISTENT FREDERICK HEID, AND IRRESPONSIBLE SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

Did Polk County School Superintendent Frederick Heid and the Polk School Board deceive the citizens and parents of Polk County? Read on, and you decide. CCDF is concerned about the ambiguous and misleading handling of the book situation by Mr. Heid. In December of 2021 CCDF reached out to the Superintendent about several school library books that members of the community felt violated [Florida Obscenity statutes](#). According to these statutes, providing this content to minors is a third-degree felony. The books' subject matters include graphic descriptions of incest, rape, pedophilia, bestiality, sexual battery, necrophilia, sexual assault, child molestation and other provocative sexual content, as well as racism, infanticide, and mental health/suicide. The books were in circulation in Polk County Middle and High Schools. When the issue was presented to the Superintendent, he was dismissive about the content. Because these are potential felony charges, local law enforcement was contacted in January of 2022, and they agreed with the parents and citizens of Polk County that these books violated the law. Eventually, Mr. Heid quarantined the books until a review process could take place.

On May 10th, the Superintendent [stated](#) that based on the direction from the board, the district would be developing an opt-in policy to run concurrently with an opt-out policy, and the books in question would be shelved and unavailable unless the parents provided explicit permission for their students to access them. He has also stated that this system would be available before the start of the new school year. This would protect the younger members of our community who have busy parents that are not aware of the content that is available in their child's school. This system does not ban books, but it does protect innocent children, and it preserves the rights of Polk County parents. This decision would normally be a function of the school board; however, Mr. Heid stated the school's legal counsel informed him the board did not need to take a vote on this matter. A Florida statute confirming this statement has never been provided.

The development of this software was completed, and this process was shown in great detail in a PowerPoint presentation for the July 26th School Board work session agenda and showed an implementation date of August 1, 2022.....Until it didn't. The PowerPoint was never presented and the process was not discussed by Mr. Heid at the meeting, but it is still available on the PCPS work session agenda.

On August 1st, parents informed us that the opt-in /opt-out portal was non-operational and showed that enrollment was closed. On August 3rd, the District's website replaced the advertised opt-in/opt-out process with an opt-out only process, which returned the harmful books to the library shelves, and now provides very little protection for innocent children. When we contacted Mr. Heid, he informed us that the "majority of the school board" opposed his recommendation. He repeatedly refused to provide the names of the opposing board members. He also stated that they made this opposition in a work session in May, and again stated legal counsel told him the board did not have to take a public vote.

Why would Mr. Heid spend time and District resources building a software option he had no intention of using? Why did the board members refuse to take a public vote as outlined by Florida Statues? Who were the board members Heid seems to be protecting? We were able to



learn the answer to the last question, thanks to the investigative reporting of “award-winning journalist” Kimberly Moore. In [this article](#) from LkldNow, she identified the majority as Sarah Beth Wyatt, Kay Fields, Lisa Miller, and Sarah Fortney. Three of these four members are currently up for re-election. To a discerning parent or citizen, it would appear the Superintendent is trying to protect school board members to shield them during an election year.

Who will protect or shield the innocent children of Polk County? How much taxpayer time and money did the consistently inconsistent Mr. Heid spend on developing a system that he now claims was shot down before he had even developed it? What will our local law enforcement do now that the books are back in circulation? Why is it important to school board members that children have access to library books that contain obscene and harmful content? Is this just politics in an election year? Have our children been politicized? This is not a political issue, this is simply an issue of good versus evil. Will no one stand up for good? Will no one protect our children?

If you are a concerned parent or citizen, and wish to express your concerns the School Board Members, contact info can be found [here](#).

Superintendent Heid’s contact info can be found [here](#).