

Michelle Baumstark

From: Tony Gagnani
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Chuck Basye
Cc: Dylan Robinson
Subject: RE: [External] Complaint from Hickman Parents

Representative Basye,

Thank you for your patience. I have investigated your concern and have confirmed the video was made available to students during their junior level AP U.S. Studies class.

The video was part of a larger lesson connected to the following learning standards:

English Language Arts Speaking & Listening Priority Standard 11-12.SL.1.C

Viewpoints of Others-Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives including those presented in diverse media; synthesize claims made on all sides of an issue, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented

Social Studies Priority Standard 9-12.AH.1.PC.B

People, Groups and Cultures- Using a United States' historical lens, describe how peoples' perspectives shaped the sources/artifacts they created.

The lesson asked students to pick from one of four artifacts from history and analyze the author's perspective. One artifact was the Grammy Award winning video directed by Hiro Murai titled "This is America", the others were; "I Hear America Singing" by Walt Whitman, "Let America Be America Again" by Langston Hughes, and "This Land is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie. Students were not forced to watch or read any particular text and were encouraged to think critically of their selected piece. This was not taken for a grade and was used for the purpose of discussion.

The teacher did have a warning by the linked video indicating the video did contain violence. While this is consistent with similar messages we have used for other material containing gun violence (i.e. written text like "The Things They Carried" and "The Crucible"), I did inform the teacher a more descriptive warning is needed. Again, this is consistent with regard to any material we use containing gun violence. In addition, no student is ever forced to watch material they find troubling or disturbing. Again, this procedure was followed by the teacher.

I want to again state I appreciate you bringing this to my attention. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Tony Gagnani
Principal
Hickman High School

From: Chuck Basye <Chuck.Basye@house.mo.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:15 PM
To: Tony Gragnani <TGragnani@cpsk12.org>
Cc: Dylan Robinson <Dylan.Robinson@house.mo.gov>
Subject: [External] Complaint from Hickman Parents

Good Afternoon Sir,

I'm sure you are aware of many upset parents across the Columbia Public Schools district that are concerned about radical content in curriculum.

This YouTube video was allegedly shown in a U. S. Studies AP class yesterday at Hickman High School.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VYOjWnS4cMY>

I am concerned as a grandparent of CPS students, a taxpayer and a state legislator that this is considered appropriate. Especially the graphic content highlighting murder, inappropriate use of firearms and gun violence!

Depending on your answer, I am considering contacting media outlets, legislative colleagues, the Missouri Governor's office and the Missouri Attorney General's office.

I am disgusted that my tax dollars are paying for this despicable "instruction"!

Chuck Basye
State Representative, District 47

Sent from my iPhone

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