

November 1, 2023

April P. Cromer
SC House of Representatives
P.O. Box 1535
Anderson, SC 29621

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Cromer:

I am in receipt of your letter to the District dated October 18, 2023, in which you requested information pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). Specifically, you requested the following:

...Anderson School District 1 shared information regarding Moms for Liberty in Anderson County from December 1st, 2022 – October 17, 2023. Specifically...

- All records from ASD1 School Board Members, Superintendent, Members of the District Material Review Committee, Members of the School Material Review Committee, Members of the School Level Material Review Committees, Principal/Vice principal of Wren High School & Powdersville High School, Wren High School Media Specialist/Librarian Tamara Cox, Powdersville High School Media Specialist/Librarian Jen Chesney. Please include any records that include any of the following keywords in the subject line or body of the text of the email: Moms for Liberty, M4L, Katie Leventis, or Carly Carter.
- List of full-time employees, part-time employees, and volunteers who work or volunteer in the Wren High School Library, or the Powdersville High School Library and include salary received for each person.

RESPONSE:

The District will make public records responsive to this request available to you within the time requirements provided for in FOIA, S.C. Code §30-4-30, subject to the exemption and redaction of records that are exempt from disclosure pursuant to the FOIA, including §§ 30-4-40(a) (2), (4), (6), and (7). The District is also unable to produce confidential student educational records, as they are protected from disclosure under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

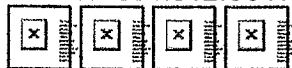
Chris Ferguson, Ed. D.
Director of Secondary Education
Anderson One

Davidson, Garrett - TSS

From: Jennifer Chesney <chesneyj@apps.anderson1.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 12:20 PM
To: Michele
Subject: Re: Book search...

It's worth asking! We had to remove our card catalogs from online, so parents can't scour it for critical race theory books (sigh), so just email Amanda Squires, the PVMS librarian, and ask. :-)

Jen Chesney
Powdersville High School Librarian
PVHS Social Media
Academic Team Coach
Prom Co-Sponsor
Phone: 864.312.5641



On Wed, Mar 2, 2022 at 11:56 AM Michele Kesler <keslerm@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:

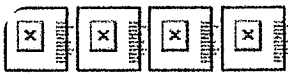
Do you think they'd have one at the middle school I could borrow?

Michele Kesler
Science Teacher
Teacher Cadet Instructor

Powdersville High School
145 Hood Road
Greenville, SC 29611
(864) 312-5641
Fax: (864) 312-5640

On Wed, Mar 2, 2022 at 11:53 AM Jennifer Chesney <chesneyj@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:
We have some middle grade books, but not that one - sorry!

Jen Chesney
Powdersville High School Librarian
PVHS Social Media
Academic Team Coach
Prom Co-Sponsor
Phone: 864.312.5641



On Wed, Mar 2, 2022 at 11:50 AM Michele Kesler <keslerm@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:

Do we have any copies of The Acorn People? by Ron Jones

Michele Kesler
Science Teacher
Teacher Cadet Instructor

Powdersville High School
145 Hood Road
Greenville, SC 29611
(864) 312-5641
Fax: (864) 312-5640

NOTICE: Employees are reminded of Board Policy IJNDB-R, which governs e-mail and Internet usage, and are advised to act accordingly. Recipients of e-mail sent through Anderson One's system should understand that it may contain confidential, proprietary, or privileged material. If you have received the above e-mail or any attachments in error, this does not constitute permission to examine, copy, or distribute the information. Prompt notification to the sender of the error would be appreciated.

NOTICE: Employees are reminded of Board Policy IJNDB-R, which governs e-mail and Internet usage, and are advised to act accordingly. Recipients of e-mail sent through Anderson One's system should understand that it may contain confidential, proprietary, or privileged material. If you have received the above e-mail or any attachments in error, this does not constitute permission to examine, copy, or distribute the information. Prompt notification to the sender of the error would be appreciated.

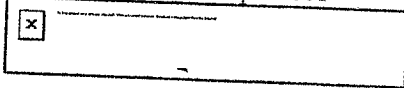
NOTICE: Employees are reminded of Board Policy IJNDB-R, which governs e-mail and Internet usage, and are advised to act accordingly. Recipients of e-mail sent through Anderson One's system should understand that it may contain confidential, proprietary, or privileged material. If you have received the above e-mail or any attachments in error, this does not constitute permission to examine, copy, or distribute the information. Prompt notification to the sender of the error would be appreciated.

Davidson, Garrett - TSS

From: Watkins, Joanna - PALMETTO HIGH S Teacher <watkinsj@apps.anderson1.org>
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Tamara
Cc: Jennifer
Subject: Re: book list from Pickens area

I think mine goes straight to the log in page as well (if I did it right!).

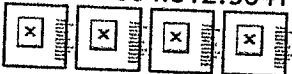
Joanna Watkins
Palmetto High School
Teacher Librarian
Student Council Sponsor



On Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 2:13 PM Tamara Cox <coxt@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:
Mine goes straight to a log in page for guests so you have to be logged in to search, but destiny is linked under students on the district page so anyone can get to our catalogs unless you have the guest patron type unchecked for all activities.

On Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 2:07 PM Jennifer Chesney <chesneyj@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:
I still don't have my catalog visible to the public - we removed those links, right?

Jen Chesney
Powdersville High School Librarian
PVHS Social Media
Academic Team Coach
Prom Co-Sponsor
Phone: 864.312.5641



On Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 2:02 PM Tamara Cox <coxt@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:
I'll look at it. You may want to remove it from catalog in case they're searching there. I'm working on weeding fiction so some of my hopkins books (and a few others on this list) will be gone because of no recent check outs. I'm only on the Ds

On Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 1:40 PM Jennifer Chesney <chesneyj@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:
This is definitely one of those, "You people need to find some other hobbies outside of clutching your pearls over books." 🤔🤔🤔🤔

Davidson, Garrett - TSS

From: Erin Parker <eparker@lexrich5.org>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Tamara
Subject: Re: Selection policies

That's what I did lol--- I ordered some of the ones I didn't have. It was actually a great resource. Thanks Matt!

On Fri, Nov 12, 2021 at 11:54 AM Tamara Cox <coxt@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:

I've checked 2 of the 16 pages and I have 25 of them. So far nothing concerns me, but it has helped me add a few to my LGBTQ resource list and I added one to my next order, Blood Countess LOL

On Fri, Nov 12, 2021 at 9:02 AM Erin Parker <eparker@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Hey Tamara--- Do you have a specific list of books that have come up in SC, or are you using ones that have come up across the nation?

I'm tempted to highlight which ones from that Texas list I have (and have ordered) and just share that with admin

Erin

On Fri, Nov 12, 2021 at 6:27 AM Tamara Cox <coxt@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:

I'm using this ALA site as a reference for school selection policies:

<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/criteria>

Our district policy has been in place for a long time, but is decent.

I also changed my catalog search to require a login. Under Admin I took all permissions off for guests for now. Our students and staff can access as normal.

A few weeks ago I copied our selection and challenge policies from the district manual and sent to my principal just in case he had to answer any questions. And made sure our school committee for reviews was updated.

As I've heard of specific books that are being targeted I've let admin know if we have them.

--

--

NOTICE: Employees are reminded of Board Policy IJNDB-R, which governs e-mail and Internet usage, and are advised to act accordingly.

Recipients

of e-mail sent through Anderson One's system should understand that it may

contain confidential, proprietary, or privileged material. If you have received the above e-mail or any attachments in error, this does not

Re: Need book recommendations

Jennifer Chesney <chesneyj@apps.anderson1.org>

Mon 7/10/2023 12:15 PM

To: Leslie <Martin>

Current Events is a fun class, and you're a fun teacher, so this should be something you and the students will really enjoy!

We are in a really weird climate right now with books in ASD1. The Moms of Liberty are coming hard at us with book challenges (mind you, the leader of the group doesn't even have a child in our district - *grrrr*), so we're going to need to tread lightly with our topical choices. They have their censoring guns loaded. So....

Rather than read one or more *whole* books aloud over the course of the semester - and be possibly met with cries of "indoctrination!" - I'd like to suggest that we do something similar to how I do First Chapter Friday reads with the Law Ed classes. Instead, let's maybe introduce a book that touches on a current something in the zeitgeist, and then have a nuanced discussion with the class about that book's particular issue. I'm envisioning I come introduce the book, read the passage, and then I can stay and discuss the issue with you all, or I can leave, if you'd rather, and you lead the discussion part. It doesn't have to be on Fridays either - it can be whatever day you choose and take up as much of class time as you choose.

I've compiled a book list in Docs that I'm going to share with you - it includes the titles and the "issue" in the book. I think by doing it this way, we can easily argue that we're exposing students to a wide array of current issues - real life vs online life, immigration, girls who code, BLM, juvenile justice, gay hate crimes, the impact of influencers, etc. Parents or community members who are easily offended will want to jump on the BLM or LGBTQ+ content, but we'll be able to point out that was a brief discussion alongside alllllllll these other current hot topics (with only a snippet of a book read). I've never gotten any push-back on my true crime novels, but then people don't get upset about violence the way they do race and sexual orientation. *sigh*

Mull this over and let me know what you think. I really do think students will respond to this format too.

Jen Chesney


Powdersville High School Librarian

PVHS Social Media

Academic Team Coach

Prom Co-Sponsor

Phone: 864.312.5641

 <https://andersononesc.sites.thrillshare.com/o/ph>

On Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 11:15 AM Leslie Martin <martinl2@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:

Hey Ladies,

I'm teaching current events in the fall and I wanted to incorporate some contemporary YA fiction by reading aloud from a novel during the last ten to fifteen minutes of every class. So I need a few books as candidates for each class to pick from. However, I know the current political climate is what it is, so I am wary of just picking some from an online list of recommendations. Plus, I don't want to pick anything students may have read in English class before.

All of that to say this, could you give me some recommendations to check out? I'm open to any genre as long as it somehow ties into events or issues that are current.

Thanks!

Davidson, Garrett - TSS

From: HEATHER LOY <hloy@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2022 9:05 PM
To: Tamara
Subject: Re: Response?

Huh. No, hadn't seen that. Interesting. And scary.

H

Heather Loy, School Librarian
SCASL Past President
Wagener-Salley High School
(803) 564-1100
hloy22@gmail.com

On Feb 21, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Tamara Cox <coxt@apps.anderson1.org> wrote:

Agreed. Did you see the latest superintendent candidate? Cindy Coats. Her motto is Put Parents First. I find that so strange. Shouldn't it always be students first?

On Sun, Feb 20, 2022 at 10:04 AM HEATHER LOY <hloy@mac.com> wrote:
Or should only be allowed to make suggestions.

Heather Loy, School Librarian
SCASL Past President
Wagener-Salley High School
(803) 564-1100
hloy22@gmail.com

On Feb 20, 2022, at 10:03 AM, HEATHER LOY <hloy@mac.com> wrote:

At the least an acknowledgement to say we applaud the following of school district policies.

If we go further, I am disappointed in the statement that she says we shouldn't simply follow reviews. We don't. We purchase what fits our communities. As much as they don't want to here it, parents should only be allowed to have a say in THEIR children's access not what is provided to all students access. Parents should not be included in collection development.

Heather Loy, School Librarian
SCASL Past President
Wagener-Salley High School
(803) 564-1100