

Ann Zielke notes from June 13 Educational Services Committee meeting, provided in an email to Bill Lueders sent 6-17-22:

Here is the breakdown of the **6/13 educational services committee** meeting:

- The committee members changed without explanation. The committee is now made up of Terri Boyer, Tracy Blair, and Laurie Kontney.
- The AP Human Geography book was moved on to the board without comment.
- When the Emperor Was Divine was moved back to the CPC committee without explanation.
- They were asked outright why they wouldn't approve the book and if they read the book. Tracy said she didn't like it. She didn't like that the characters didn't have names and that she googled it and it didn't have great reviews.
- I told her, all due respect, but this isn't a book club. I don't care if she liked the book or not, it is about its value for the curriculum.
- They were asked repeatedly why the book wasn't approved outright.
- Terri said it needed to be sent back "without restriction." We asked what the restriction was. She said "she heard" that administration put restrictions on the book selection.
- I asked her if she had proof of that. She said it was what she "had heard."
- Again, they were asked what the restriction was.
- Laurie Kontney jumped in and said it was chosen because it was a "diverse" book. I asked why that would be an issue. She said it can't be chosen on that basis and I asked again if she had proof of that. Which they don't. She said it can't be all about "oppression."
- I asked Kelly if she had proof of this. She refused to confirm or deny.
- ██████ pointed out that in not approving this book they were ok with students not being adequately prepared for higher-level English class. Because at the last MTG we heard directly from staff that the whole reason for making this change was because they had realized that students had not been prepared for higher-level English classes - that in accel english 10 they were not learning enough through taming of the shrew to prepare them for AP Lang. Board members denied that that was discussed at the last MTG.
- ██████ spoke and asked for transparency in the process. If you have criteria that this book does not meet, please explain that criteria. They could not. Lawrence also explained why the taming of the shrew was insufficient.
- The meeting was called to a close at 5:15 but we continued to ask questions.
- ██████ spoke about the lack of transparency and that this was his first time hearing about something like this happening in Muskego, having been a resident for 30 years.
- ██████ mentioned the petition and Terri said something about how it was full of unsubstantiated reasons why the book wasn't moving on for approval. I asked her to refute the claims in the petition and she refused. Tracy jumped in at this point to say she hadn't heard anyone say the book was "too sad." But did not refute any other claims in the petition.

- Someone had their hand raised and was adding comment about the lack of transparency in the committee's process and Laurie Kontney laughed.
- Chris Buckmaster called the meeting over at 5:30.