

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Recommendation of School Advisory Committee for Reconsideration of
Media/Instructional Materials

Instructions: The Media/Instructional Committee is to complete this form within 15 working days.

School Pine Grove Elementary School Date 5-23-23

Materials for Reconsideration

Title Marvin Redpost is he a Girl?
Author Louis Sachar Publisher Random House

Committee's Response to Complainant's Request for Reconsideration

See attached sheet

Committee's Recommendation for Treatment of Challenged Material

See attached sheet

Signatures of School Media/Instructional Committee Members

Angie B. Walasek - community Partner Mr. Pulli - Media Specialist
Elia - grand parent Mr. KOF - Principal
Cynthia Mainini - Teacher Mr. Warrill - District Media
Kimberly Melsony - Parent

Resolution/Action

The recommendation is to support
the decision of the committee and
its findings.

Signature of Principal

Mr. KOF

Date

5-23-23

Pine Grove Elementary School

May 23, 2023 Final Meeting

Committee's Response to Complainant's Response to Reconsideration

The story shows the innocence that children have at that age. This is a fictional story originally written in 1993. The basis of the book is that the main character feels challenged to attempt to kiss his elbow.

Comments that were highlighted by the complainant were felt to be taken out of context and took away from the moral of the story which was to show empathy and understanding.

Some committee members were very disheartened that this book is even being considered for challenge.

One of the committee members read the book to their children after reading it herself— her children enjoyed the book immensely. Felt there was nothing wrong. The book encourages students to use their imagination and creativity when reading.

This story needs to be read in its entirety – Children should be encouraged to use their imagination and are eager to learn from each other and be able to empathize.

If any parent has an issue with this book or any book, they can make a request that their student not be allowed to check it out from their school's library as per existing media policy. (Parental rights)

Committee's Recommendation for Treatment of Challenged Material



Book should remain on the shelf with no restrictions. (7-0 unanimous decision)

In the new reprint of the book (2015) the pictures are more cartoon like and geared for children. We would encourage schools to purchase the reprint of the book vs keeping the 1993 edition. We also would encourage all School Board members to read the book in its entirety (Have included copies for all School Board members-please return all copies to Debbye Warrell).

From:  **Debbye Warrell**

Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:31:48 PM 

Subject: Reviews on book

To:  **Martha Zopf**  **Jeffrey Carson**

Attachments:  Marvin Redpost.docx / Microsoft Word Document (200K)

Debbye Warrell
Lead District Media Specialist
Hernando County School District
13400 Elgin Blvd.
Spring Hill, FL 34609

"She'd always been a little excitable, a little more passionate about books than your average person, but she was supposed to be -- she was a librarian, after all."

Sarah Beth Durst

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By Louis Sachar (author)

LoveReading4Kids Says

The third of 8 great adventures about an ordinary boy with a big heart and a strong desire to work things out even when they're complicated. When Casey tells Marvin that he'll turn into a girl if he kisses his elbow he doesn't really believe her. But, when he does kiss his elbow, he begins to worry! Could Marvin be turning into a girl and, if so, how can he stop it?

LoveReading4Kids

Find This Book In

Suitable For: • 5+ readers

Other Genres: • Funny

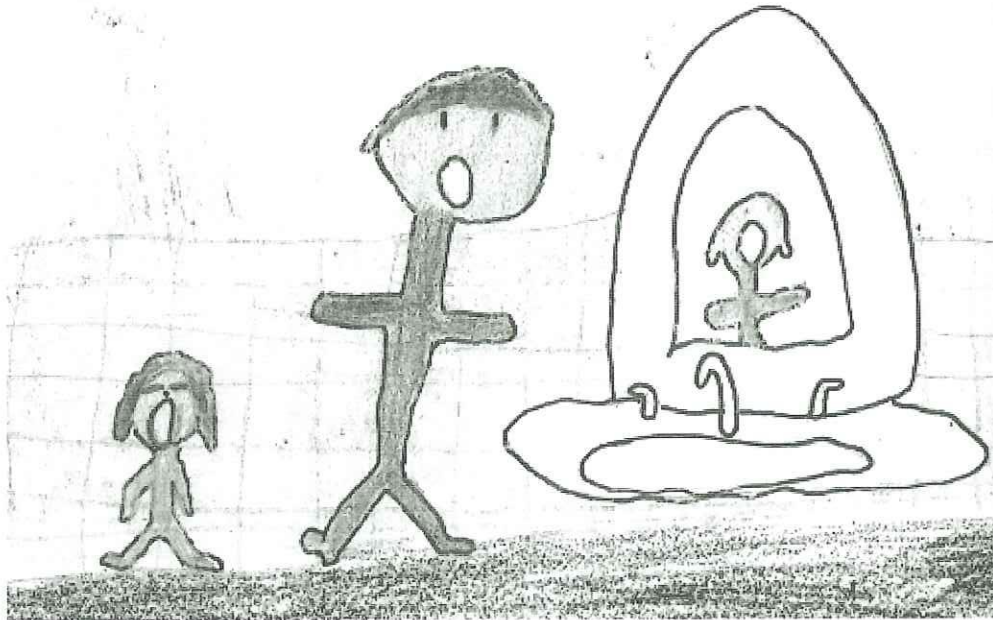
Recommendations: • Recommended Children's eBooks

MARVIN REDPOST, IS HE A GIRL?

Written by Louis Sachar

Illustrated by Barbara Sullivan

Reviewed by Marc R. (age 8)



Marvin Redpost is a book series. It is amazing! This book is called Marvin Redpost, Is He a Girl? Marvin is a kid who lives with his mom and dad. He thinks he is turning into a girl because his voice is changing and he likes pink. Marvin might be turning into a girl by . . . Wait, I can't tell you. You will have to read the book to find out.

My favorite part is when Marvin looks in the mirror and it was funny. It was funny because Lizzy was behind him and he didn't know it. When when he saw Lizzy, he thought he was seeing himself and that he was turning into a girl! I like the pictures in the book. They are black and white but I still like them. They are good drawings with lots of details that show emotions. This book is in the Marvin Redpost series. Each book is different because something different is always happening to Marvin. They are all similar because Marvin is the main character in all of the books.

I recommend this book for people 8 – 12 because if they are under 8, they might run into some difficult words. I think this book is for boys and girls but mostly for boys because the series is about a boy. I think this is a funny book. So if you like funny books, you will like this book.

Marc R.

is a student in

Ms. Quindazzi's 3rd Grade Class

Keaunna Magee's Reviews > Is He a Girl?



Want to Read

Rate this book

Is He a Girl? (Marvin Redpost, #3)

by

Louis Sachar (Goodreads Author),

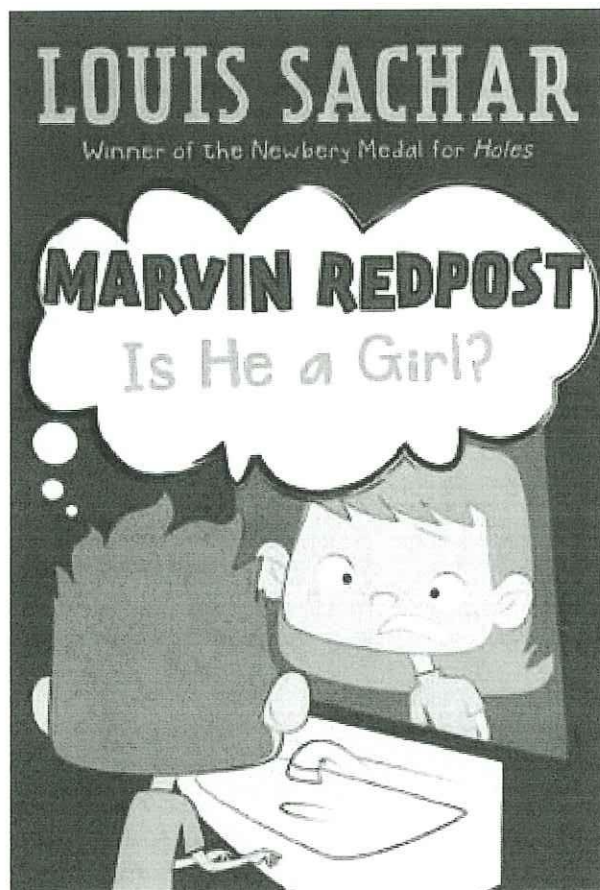
Adam Record (Illustrator)

Keaunna Magee's review

Apr 16, 201

This book is challenged because parents were becoming upset at the fact of the main character Marvin wanting to dress up like a girl. Parents felt the book was inappropriate because Marvin wanted to dress up like a girl and wanted to play "girl games" at recess instead of playing basket ball with his guy friends.

I personally think the book has a good message. I don't think the book should be used for younger children because they will end up getting confused and won't understand. However, homosexuality is a big topic in our world today and I don't think the topic is one to be over looked. I think if children want to read the book, they should be able to. Children learn a lot through reading others stories and if they feel different in their bodies they should not feel ashamed for feeling a certain way. I also think other students can learn more about how some people don't feel comfortable in their bodies so they won't be so hard to judge others



[Read a Preview](#)

Marvin Redpost

Is He A Girl?

By: [Louis Sachar](#)

About this Book

Edition Number: 1

Published: 24th August 1993

ISBN: 9780679819486

This chapter book in Newbery Honor-winning and bestselling author Louis Sachar's Marvin Redpost series offers a sidesplitting take on the differences between girls and boys!

When Casey Happleton tells Marvin that if you kiss your elbow you'll turn into a girl, Marvin doesn't believe it. Then Marvin kisses his elbow by accident and starts to feel very strange. He wants pigtails and starts dotting his i's with little hearts. Could Casey be right? Or is it all in Marvin's head? You decide!

Hilarious and relatable, Marvin Redpost is perfect for kids who love to bond with quirky characters like George Brown, Class Clown and Junie B. Jones.

Industry Reviews

"Kids will love the frankness about grade school gender wars and social taboos."--Booklist



Book	Policy Manual
Section	2000 Program
Title	CHALLENGES TO ADOPTION OR USE OF INSTRUCTIONAL, LIBRARY, OR READING LIST MATERIALS
Code	po2522
Status	Active
Adopted	October 25, 2022
Last Revised	April 25, 2023

2522 - CHALLENGES TO ADOPTION OR USE OF INSTRUCTIONAL, LIBRARY, OR READING LIST MATERIALS

The following individuals may contest the adoption of a specific instructional material, or object to the use of specific material used in a classroom, made available in a school library, or included on a reading list:

- A. parent of a student in the district; and
- B. resident of the county.

For purposes of this policy, "parent" means a parent of a student enrolled in the District's schools. "Resident" means a person residing in the county who has maintained their residence in Florida for the preceding year, has purchased a home that is occupied by them as their residence, or has established a domicile in Florida pursuant to F.S. 222.17.

Contest of School Board's Adoption

Filing a Petition

A parent or resident must file a petition with the Board within thirty (30) calendar days after the Board's adoption of specific instructional material, on a form provided by the Board. The petition form shall be publicly available by visiting any school in person or by accessing the link on the Board's website. The petition must be signed by the parent or resident, include the required contact information, and state the objection to the instructional material based on the criteria set forth in F.S. 1006.31(2) or 1006.40(3)(d).

Timeframe for Hearing

When the thirty (30) calendar day period following Board adoption of the instructional material in question has expired, the Board will conduct at least one (1) open public hearing before an unbiased and qualified hearing officer for all timely petitions received.

Hearing Officers

Hearing officers are not employees or agents of the District with the exception of any agreement entered into for purposes of conducting the hearings set forth herein. Hearing officers shall be selected annually by the Board from a list of candidates provided by the Superintendent.

Procedures for Hearings

Petitioners will have an adequate and fair opportunity to be heard and present evidence to the hearing officer. Hearings shall be conducted as follows:

- A. The petitioner may make an opening statement.
- B. The District's representative may make an opening statement.
- C. The petitioner may present evidence (including documents and testimony from witnesses) that instructional material does not meet the criteria of F.S. 1006.31(2) or 1006.40(3)(d) if it was selected for use in a course or otherwise made available to

students in the School District but was not subject to the public notice, review, comment, and hearing procedures under F.S. 1006.283(2)(b)8., 9., and 11.

D. The District representative may present evidence (including documents and testimony from witnesses) that the instructional material does meet the criteria of F.S. 1006.31(2) or 1006.40(3)(d) if it was selected for use in a course or otherwise made available to students in the School District but was not subject to the public notice, review, comment, and hearing procedures under F.S. 1006.283(2)(b)8., 9., and 11.

E. The petitioner may make a closing statement.

F. The District representative may make a closing statement.

Within fourteen (14) days of the date of the hearing, the hearing officer shall submit a recommended order to the Board. The Board shall consider the recommended order and enter a final order at a publicly noticed Board meeting. If the petitioner proves that the instructional material does not meet the criteria required under F.S. 1006.28, or contains prohibited material under that statute, the material shall be removed in accordance with Florida law. The Board's decision is final and not subject to further petition or review.

Hearings under this policy are not subject to the provisions of F.S. Chapter 120.

Objections to Material Used in Classrooms, Made Available in School Library, or Included On a Reading List

Parents and residents of the county may object to the use of a specific instructional material in the classroom, made available in a school library, or included on a reading list, based on the criteria set forth in F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2. or F.S. 1014.05(1)(c).

All challenges under this policy shall be addressed as follows:

A. The complaint is to be addressed to the School Principal, in writing, and shall include:

1. author;
2. title;
3. publisher;
4. the complainant's familiarity with the material challenged;
5. sections challenged, by page and item;
6. whether the challenged material contains content that is pornographic or prohibited under F.S. 847.012, is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented, or is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used.

B. Upon receipt of the information, the Principal may after advising the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning of the complaint, and upon the Assistant Superintendent's approval, appoint a review committee which will consist of one (1) or more instructional staff members including Media Specialist, District Official, Curriculum Member, Principal, Teacher; Community Member; a parent of a student enrolled in the school district; one (1) or more lay persons knowledgeable in the area.

C. The committee, in evaluating the questioned material, shall be guided by the following criteria: the appropriateness of the material for the age and maturity level of the students with whom it is being used, the accuracy of the material, the objectivity of the material, the use being made of the material.

D. The material in question may be withdrawn from use pending the committee's recommendation to the Superintendent.

E. The committee's recommendation shall be reported to the Superintendent in writing within fifteen (15) business days following the formation of the committee. The Superintendent will advise the complainant, in writing, of the committee's recommendation and advise the Board of the action taken or recommended.

F. The Board will review the case, including all evidence proffered by the complainant, during a publicly noticed Board meeting. The Board shall announce during the meeting whether the challenged material meets the requirements of this Policy. The complainant shall submit any additional evidence for the Board's consideration no later than fourteen (14) days before the meeting at which the Board will consider the challenge.

No challenged material may be removed from the curriculum or from a collection of resource materials except by action of the Board, and no challenged material may be removed solely because it presents ideas that may be unpopular or offensive to some. Any Board action to remove material will be accompanied by the Board's statement of its reasons for the removal.

The Board shall discontinue use of any material challenged under this policy if it contains content that is pornographic or prohibited under F.S. 847.012, is not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented, or is inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used.

The decision of the Board shall be final.

Revised 4/25/23

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Legal

F.S. 119.071

F.S. 212.183

F.S. 1001.215

F.S. 1002.22

F.S. 1003.485

F.S. 1006.28

F.S. 1006.28 through 1006.42

F.S. 1008.22

F.S. 1008.25(5)(a)

F.S. 1008.25 (5)(c)

F.S. 1014.05

F.A.C. 6A-6.03028

34 C.F.R. Part 300

Last Modified by Tamela Moody on April 26, 2023

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1557 Engrossed 1

2022 Legislature

Referenced in the paperwork
turned in on this challenge for "Is He a Girl?"

1 An act relating to parental rights in education;
2 amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; requiring district school
3 boards to adopt procedures that comport with certain
4 provisions of law for notifying a student's parent of
5 specified information; requiring such procedures to
6 reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make
7 decisions regarding the upbringing and control of
8 their children in a specified manner; prohibiting the
9 procedures from prohibiting a parent from accessing
10 certain records; providing construction; prohibiting a
11 school district from adopting procedures or student
12 support forms that prohibit school district personnel
13 from notifying a parent about specified information or
14 that encourage or have the effect of encouraging a
15 student to withhold from a parent such information;
16 prohibiting school district personnel from
17 discouraging or prohibiting parental notification and
18 involvement in critical decisions affecting a
19 student's mental, emotional, or physical well-being;
20 providing construction; prohibiting classroom
21 discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity
22 in certain grade levels or in a specified manner;
23 requiring certain training developed or provided by a
24 school district to adhere to standards established by
25

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 1557, Engrossed 1

2022 Legislature

relief, damages, and reasonable attorney fees and court costs to certain parents; requiring school district to adopt policies to notify parents of certain rights; providing construction; requiring the department to review and update, as necessary, specified materials by a certain date; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (8) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

(8) STUDENT WELFARE.—

(c)1. In accordance with the rights of parents enumerated in ss. 1002.20 and 1014.04, adopt procedures for notifying a student's parent if there is a change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student. The procedures must reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children by requiring school district personnel to

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CS/CS/HB 1557, Engrossed 1

2022 Legislature

101 accordance with state standards.

102 4. Student support services training developed or provided
103 by a school district to school district personnel must adhere to
104 student services guidelines, standards, and frameworks
105 established by the Department of Education.

106 5. At the beginning of the school year, each school
107 district shall notify parents of each healthcare service offered
108 at their student's school and the option to withhold consent or
109 decline any specific service. Parental consent to a health care
110 service does not waive the parent's right to access his or her
111 student's educational or health records or to be notified about
112 a change in his or her student's services or monitoring as
113 provided by this paragraph.

114 6. Before administering a student well-being questionnaire
115 or health screening form to a student in kindergarten through
116 grade 3, the school district must provide the questionnaire or
117 health screening form to the parent and obtain the permission of
118 the parent.

119 7. Each school district shall adopt procedures for a
120 parent to notify the principal, or his or her designee,
121 regarding concerns under this paragraph at his or her student's
122 school and the process for resolving those concerns within 7
123 calendar days after notification by the parent.

124 a. At a minimum, the procedures must require that within
125 30 days after notification by the parent that the concern

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CS/CS/HB 1557, Engrossed 1

2022 Legislature

151 injunctive relief.

152 c. Each school district shall adopt policies to notify
153 parents of the procedures required under this subparagraph.

154 d. Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall be
155 construed to abridge or alter rights of action or remedies in
156 equity already existing under the common law or general law.

157 Section 2. By June 30, 2023, the Department of Education
158 shall review and update, as necessary, school counseling
159 frameworks and standards; educator practices and professional
160 conduct principles; and any other student services personnel
161 guidelines, standards, or frameworks in accordance with the
162 requirements of this act.

163 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.