

The School District of Hernando County, Florida

Office of the Superintendent

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Learn it. Love it. Live it.

TO: Ms. Thomas

FROM: Mr. John Stratton, Superintendent

DATE: November 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Media Challenges 036-23 SHS and 038-23 HHS

This response is in reference to your challenges for the book, *“Speak: The Graphic Novel”* at Springstead and Hernando High School. This book went to a committee at Springstead High School and the results of that committee also determine the challenge for HHS. The review committee at Springstead High School has evaluated the book, based on the criteria from Hernando County School Board Policy 2522. The committee, in evaluating the questioned material, was 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.

The committee's recommendation is for the book to remain available to students in Hernando County Schools. The Board will review the case, including all evidence proffered, during a publicly noticed Board meeting on January 23, 2023. The Board will announce during the meeting whether the challenged material meets the requirements of Policy 2522. You may submit any additional evidence for the Board's consideration no later than fourteen (14) days before January 23, 2023.