

**HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Freshman Campus Auditorium
3370 Allen Street
September 19, 2022
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Davis, Hall, Hooper, Kapenga, Sneden, Tuttle

Administrators Present: Beel, Briggs, Bush, Crete, Geerling, Heagle, Levandoski, McClure, Stefanich, Szymanski, Ross, Taylor, Thomas, VanderJagt, Waldie

President Hall called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Hooper, supported by Davis to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: All
Motion Carried

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of People Present

President Hall opened the floor to the audience. The following addressed the board:

Keith Leyendecker
Denise Lemmen
Jeff Doll
Jenni Gamby
Matt Nederveld
Greg Chanski
Jonathan Scoville
Lisa Bosch
Leigh DeHuff
Jennifer Dougherty
Kendra Wenzel
Rebecca Schipper
Virginia Greenlee
Mike Anderson

Book Appeal

Gretchen Vrugink made an appeal to the Board of Education regarding the outcome of the book committees' decision on reconsideration of the book "Half of a Yellow Sun."

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Ami Taylor and three members of the committee provided an overview of the timeline and process that the committee used to come to a decision. The committee vote was 7-0 in favor of keeping the text in the classroom.

Mrs. Vrugink read excerpts from the book and shared that this book is not appropriate for high school students stating that the sexual content outweighs any literary merit argument.

Board of Education Decision

After hearing both sides, President Hall said it was the board's responsibility to decide one of three options; (1) accept the outcome of the committee, (2) accept the outcome with certain modifications, (3) reconvene the committee.

Motion by Kapenga, supported by Davis to remove the book from the high school.

Motion by Hooper to amend the motion and move the books from the classroom library to the media center requiring parent consent to check the book out. There was no second to this motion.

The board cast votes on the original motion to remove the book from the high school. Davis-Aye, Hall-No, Hooper-Aye, Kapenga-Aye, Sneden-No, Tuttle-No
Motion Dead

Motion by Sneden to accept the committees' outcome as it is. There was no second to this motion.

Motion by Hooper to remove the book from the classroom libraries and make it available in the media center available for check out with parental consent. Hall seconded this motion.

Motion by Hall to amend this motion and the books should stay in the classroom library and if a student requests to read it the teacher would reach out to the parent for consent. Sneden seconded this motion.

Motion by Hall to amend the previous motion and affirm the decision of the Book Review Committee regarding the book "Half of a Yellow Sun", which is to retain the book in classroom and/or Media Center (building) libraries. The board requests that all copies of "Half of a Yellow Sun" be located in the High School Media Center. The board requests that a technical solution be implemented that allows parents access to building library catalogs to learn what titles are available to their students. This technical solution will include the opportunity for parents to indicate specific titles they do not want their child(ren) to have permission to check out from the library. This will allow any parent who does not want their child(ren) to read "Half of a Yellow Sun" a process by which to make this request. The solution is expected to be implemented by Oct. 1. Hooper seconded this motion.

Davis-No, Hall-Aye, Hooper-Aye, Kapenga-No, Sneden-Aye, Tuttle-Aye
Motion Carried

Adjournment

Motion by Kapenga, supported by Tuttle to adjourn 8:28 p.m. Ayes: All
Motion Carried

Robin VandenBerg, Recording Secretary for the Board of Education