

**HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Freshman Campus Media Center
3370 Allen Street
May 15, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Bolhuis, Chanski, Davis, DeWitt, Hall, Hooper, Sneden

Administrators Present: Beel, Bernard, Briggs, Fast, Szymanski, Taylor, Thomas, VanderJagt, VerWys

President Hooper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bolhuis, supported by Hall 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:

Steve Kenyon
Rachel Vrugink
Gwen Snoeyink
Carl Wiersum
Genna Brong
Jaime Fleming
Norma Hockett
Mike Anderson

Book Appeal

Lisa Bosch made an appeal to the Board of Education regarding the outcome of the book committees' decision on reconsideration of the book *Jarhead: A Marine's Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles* by Anthony Swofford.

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 media center.

Mrs. Bosch 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

Motion by Hall, supported by Sneden that the board agrees with the book committee's recommendation to leave the book *Jarhead: A Marine's Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles* by Anthony Swofford in its current location in the media center. Bolhuis-Nay, Chanski-Nay, Davis-Nay, DeWitt-Aye, Hall-Aye, Hooper-Nay, Sneden-Aye
Motion Disapproved

Adjournment

Motion by Davis, supported by Bolhuis to adjourn 8:04 p.m. Ayes: All
Motion Carried

Robin VandenBerg, Recording Secretary for the Board of Education