

I cannot think of one educator who likes taking books off of shelves. While I can tell you that there is certainly a lot of frustration amongst our members about this recent trend and parts of the process that have led to it, the bigger concern is where this may go in the future. No one knows where this will end and what our libraries will look like when we get there. I think we are fooling ourselves if we think that the forces that have put our district in the place of purging our shelves will be satisfied with these efforts.

Being the largest district in the state, we cater to an enormous diversity of students with wildly different backgrounds, interests, and experiences. Libraries truly are the heart of our schools and our staff has worked hard to make them places that welcome everyone and provide age-appropriate resources to help our students grow, learn, and thrive as they prepare for their adult lives. For better or for worse, schools seem to be the frontline of the national culture war being fought, and currently, libraries are in the crosshairs. Anyone who wants to see important and challenging books like these stay in our schools had better be making some noise this legislative cycle, as they and the facilities that house them are not guaranteed. We can't protect them without the community's support.