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Subject: RE: [FWD: Ninteen weeks]
From: "Kent Hemingway" <khemingway@sau73.org>
Date: Fri, May 09, 2014 2:28 pm
To: <rich@girardatlarge.com>
Attach: image001.gif
image002.gif
2007 Ninteen minutes letter.pdf
picoult letter may 2.pdf
2014 Ninteen Minutes parent letter.pdf

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?>

questions. I will answer them as fully as I can but understand the sensitivity of this issue. We have received other right to know requests that involve a substantial volume of material.

Your request can be filled quickly, and I will not require that you complete the district form. Please though, use it should there be any additional requests. I have attached the notice shared with parents in 2007, as well as the notice from 2014 and the informational statement (Picoult letter May 2) from the district that was stapled and distributed with the teacher notice. The book was not distributed in class any years between 2008-2012. It was used in 2013, our investigation found that a notice did not go home that year, but following discussions with parents a small number (less than 5) families opted out in 2013.

This issue did come at us from out of the blue. You may have read that in 2007, the book was initially part of a major presentation by the author, at the school, covered in the press, with students and parents

the book at that time.

Mr. Baer was addressed repeatedly by the Board Chair to respect other speakers. I can't comment any further as this is part of an ongoing investigation.

Regarding your 5/3/14 1:30pm email

There were 2 teachers, and 4 sections (approx. 115 students) assigned the book. Neither teacher is new to the district. All district employees are required to follow approved district policies. Notification of individual books is currently a "procedure" not included in board policy. The School Board directed us to examine these policies and make appropriate changes. Official statements from the district and or policies can be found at _____.

The Board has directed us to review these policies and that effort is under way. We are consulting with other NH districts that have addressed this issue in recent years. My colleagues in other SAU's and the NH

materials under policy JEC and RSA 186-11 have agreed to the plan proposed by the school.

this situation. We have taken many recent actions to improve transparency and communication in this district. It is one of my major goals.



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Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 10:14 AM
To: khemingway@sau73.org
Subject: [FWD: Ninteen weeks]

One more thing, Mr. Superintendent.

Per RSA 91-A, I request you forward any and all parental notices and or consent forms the district claims to have sent home to parents regarding this book in past years. As I expect

Thank you.

Rich Girard
Humble Host
[Girard at Large in the Morning](#)
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Subject: [FWD: Ninteen weeks]
From: <rich@girardatlarge.com>
Date: Fri, May 09, 2014 7:40 am
To: _____

Superintendent Hemingway.

I'm awaiting answers to these questions. Also interested to know whether or not the direction of the school board, its chair, the administration or other school official.

Rich Girard
Humble Host

[Girard at Large in the Morning](#)

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

Subject: Nineteen weeks
From: <rich@girardatlarge.com>
Date: Sat, May 03, 2014 1:30 pm
To: _____

Superintendent Hemingway.

I am in receipt of the letter explaining district policies were violated regarding students being required to read the book Nineteen Minutes. Pursuant to that letter, I have several questions.

Is the teacher who violated the policy new to the district? If not, has she violated the policy in the past by requiring the reading of this book or similar books without parental consent?

notification/consent and related policies?

there a review of the curriculum by administrators at any level prior to being used in the classroom? Do teachers provide a syllabus to students and parents which includes proposed reading materials?

What steps has the district taken to ensure another such policy violation doesn't happen in the future?

While I appreciate the district's admission of error, it does beg these questions. I look forward to your response.

Rich Girard
Humble Host
[Girard at Large in the Morning](#)



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