Parents have put several books in RSD school libraries under official review, claiming they contain pornography and references to violence and drugs.

Librarian Perspective

Brittany Shurts, librarian, said none of the book challenges have come from MHS parents. “I think parents are just looking at things and thinking about what their students will become high school age. How will they have access to,” she said. In the book challenge committee that reviews “Crack” by Ellen Hopkins and “Looking for Alaska” by John Green, Shurts said librarians need to speak up.

“Parents are concerned that there are books in the library that are inappropriate. They want the school to make sure that the books they are reading are appropriate for their students,” Shurts said.

Student Perspective

Ashley Sibbald, senior, talked about the issue of banning books from school during an AP Literature discussion for “ kostenbo” by Richard Wright.

“One of the best things about reading books that contain sensitive topics is we’re being exposed to problems that really do exist in real-world situations,” Sibbald said. “It’s better to receive a formal education like this, so we’re not just navigating through this in our house but with the help of teachers and other educational matters.

Sibbald said parents may be concerned that books with violence or sensitive topics such as sexual or drug use have a negative impact on their child.

“I think parents can obviously restrict what books their children can read, but they should not restrict them from everyone else,” Sibbald said.

Author Perspective

One of the 12 books being challenged in RSD is “Heroic” by Mindy McGinnis, McGinnis spoke to students at MHS earlier this year.

One reason parents in the district have requested this book to be removed from school libraries is that “the content of the book is inappropriate for children’s age through (seventeen) grade,” McGinnis, however, said that according to the CRC, libraries have deemed the content to be too complex for young adults. McGinnis, however, said that according to the CRC, libraries have deemed the content to be too complex for young adults. McGinnis, however, said that according to the CRC, libraries have deemed the content to be too complex for young adults. Moreover, McGinnis said, “Some students may be too young to understand the content, but we feel that they are capable of handling the material.”

Restriction Process

1. Parents must first speak with their student’s teacher or librarian.
2. The librarian then restricts the student’s access to the particular book.
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