



Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

KIPP Beyond Charter School

14 messages

Bruno, Kishena <Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu>

Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 11:24 AM

To: "billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com" <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

Cc: "pulse-5284095190@suny-charter-schools.us.monday.com" <pulse-5284095190@suny-charter-schools.us.monday.com>

Good Morning,

The SUNY Charter Schools Institute is in receipt of your phone call regarding concerns at KIPP Beyond Charter School. **Please let me know what type of material was shown to the students.**

Please be advised that the child's Charter School should initially handle complaints. Please review the protocols outlined in the school's Student Family Handbook. You can find a copy of the handbook either on the school's website or request a copy from the school office.

There are 2 types of complaint levels, informal and formal complaints.

Informal Complaints do not involve violations of law or the charter; rather, they are informal complaints. For Example:

- suspensions
- classroom changes
- bullying
- grade retentions

These complaints should be communicated verbally or in writing to the school leadership contact listed below.

- Joe Negron-Principal- jnegron@kippnyc.org
- Brandi Womack-Director of Operations- bwomack@kippnyc.org

Formal Complaints involves allegations of violation of the law and/or charter. For example:

- Improper discipline of a special education student
- Allegation of child abuse in an educational setting
- Billing the wrong district for a student

Please review and follow the school's Complaint Policy which will instruct you how to file a written complaint directly to the charter school education corporation board or a person or entity the education corporation board has designated to handle complaints.

You can send your written Formal complaint to:

KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools

Kange Kaneene-Board Chair

1501 Broadway
10th Floor, Suite 1000

New York, NY 10036

If the school board of trustees does not satisfactorily address the issue, you may appeal the decision with SUNY Institute.

Appeal to SUNY-Please review and complete the <https://suny-charters-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/13112449/Grievance-Form-3.pdf>. You must send a copy of the school board's decision along with your complaint. The form will provide instructions on submitting an appeal to the Institute.

If the Institute as the school authorizer does not satisfactorily resolve a formal complaint, you can appeal the Institute's written determination to the New York State Board of Regents.

Appeal to Board of Regents through the New York State Education Department. Please submit written appeals by mail to the address listed below.

New York State Education Department

Charter Schools Office
Mezzanine
[89 Washington Avenue](#)
Albany, NY 12234

Sincerely,



Kishena Bruno

Paralegal

SUNY Charter Schools Institute

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building

353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Contact: 518-445-4250

Email: Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu

Hold fast to dreams, For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird, That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams, For when dreams go

Life is a barren field, Frozen with snow.

Langston Hughes

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: tarzlync@gmail.com

Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 11:49 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: "Bruno, Kishena" <Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu>
Bcc: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 3:11 PM

Kishena Bruno

Paralegal

SUNY Charter Schools Institute

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building

353 Broadway

Albany, NY 12246

Contact: 518-445-4250

Email: Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu

To the Attention of: Mr. Kishena Bruno and the SUNY Charter School Institute.

My name is William Santiago.

I am writing to file an official complaint that my underage child, Cielo Santiago, a 12-year-old girl in 7th grade at Kipps Beyond Middle School, in Harlem, NYC, has been presented with and exposed to and forced to engage in class discussion about egregiously explicit, highly-sexualized content since the start of the school year until now, as part of the ELA curriculum.

This rises well above mere impropriety and constitutes clear abuse of my child.

Parents were given no warning as to the actual explicit nature of the content on the reading list for this year - despite the school's false claim that parents were properly advised. Most parents had no idea and are only finding out now, to their astonishment and with great outrage.

We are furious. We are livid. We feel our trust has been betrayed, our parental rights violated and our children harmed by the school.

Examples of the content are attached below, along with two letters I have already written to the principal of the school, Mr. Negrón, the ELA director Jamie Axelrod, and ELA teacher Mr. Gilmartin.

"Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe," is the first book my child was assigned to read in 7th grade. The book includes explicit depictions of masturbation between two under age boys and the final highly sexualized last page where one of the characters trembles with ardent desire while fantasizing of the other boy after his shower.

Moreover, those scenes are just two of the most obviously objectionable highlights woven into a book that should never have been assigned to my child..

My little girl just turned 12. She has not only had to read the book, but to study for and take regular tests and quizzes on the subject matter and engage in class discussion of the same, to prove that she has read and understood it properly.

In any other context, be it at any job, corporate setting, sports league, church, etc., any discussion of such a nature would constitute sexual harassment, result in immediate firings and lawsuits against the organization. But somehow Kipps Beyond Middle School thinks it is proper to impose its will over parental judgment, values and objections to sexually harass my little girl with that same indefensible content.

Why shouldn't legal action be warranted here?

Myself and many other parents have suddenly found out about the extent of this and are up in arms about it. Despite pushback from the school, we have finally secured a preliminary meeting with Mr. Negron today.

But the damage has been done. The study unit on this book ends today.

ELA department director Jamie Axelrod called me to discuss, but her response was unsatisfactory and only more infuriating.

While I received patronizing assurances that the school understood my frustration, she did not understand what exactly I found so objectionable, and insisted that in her view there was no difference in the content of this book and that of works like, "To Kill A Mocking Bird," or "Romeo and Juliet."

There is no comparison. It is deliberately disingenuous to suggest so.

For starters, there are absolutely no explicit sexual depictions whatsoever in the books she cited. Not to mention the vast gulf in literary merit between the works she cited and the book my child was presented to read.

I was told that while there may be a chance to accommodate my child with an independent study option for alternate works in the future, she would still be in a class where the students will discuss this explicitly graphic, highly sexualized book and others of similar nature.

That feeble solution is unacceptable and another clear indication that the school is committed to presenting children with explicit sexualized content more than inappropriate for their age. If I had known this I would have never enrolled her at this school, which I held in high esteem until now.

Parents were told that their children's ELA curriculum in 7th grade would emphasize diversity.

None of the parents, myself included, understood that to mean virtual pornography.

Some parents may want their child to read such material. I am not one of them.

It is each parent's prerogative to decide. However, most parents of the 7th-grade students at Kipps Beyond Middle School are still not aware of the explicit nature of what their children are reading in class and many who have just found out demand an immediate response from the Kipps and the SUNY Charter School Institute to address this crisis.

There has been a continuous and undeniable pattern by the school to ignore parental implorations to cease and desist on forcing our children engage in this content.

Yesterday, I kept my daughter Cielo at home for the first part of the day so that she would miss ELA and not be asked to engage in yet more class discussion and take a test on the book in question.

I emailed Mr Negrón, Mr Gilmartin and Ms. Axlerod that I was keeping Cielo out of the class for the day and that in no way did I want her to participate in ELA yesterday.

Yet her ELA teacher, Mr. Gilmartin, after finding Cielo in the school library, gave her a test on the book anyway – over my express and clear parental objections as an outraged father of a 12-year-old daughter.

My wishes were flagrantly ignored once again.

This needs to stop. Parents need to know what is going on, the school needs to acknowledge the wrongs it is committing here and the curriculum needs to be changed.

Yes, I am strongly inclined to remove my daughter to another school immediately. I am on the verge of doing so.

But first we are finally meeting with the principal today to have our voices, and our anger heard.

And I am writing to you seeking sufficient and swift action.

Thank you for your time,

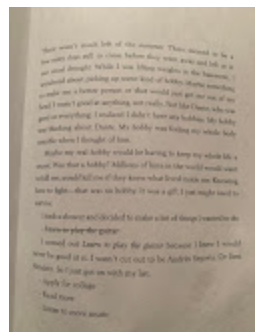
William Santiago
(outraged father of a 12-year-old, 7th-grade Kipps Beyond Middle School student)

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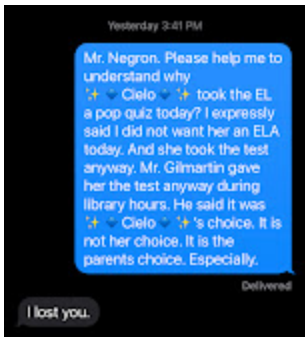
7 attachments



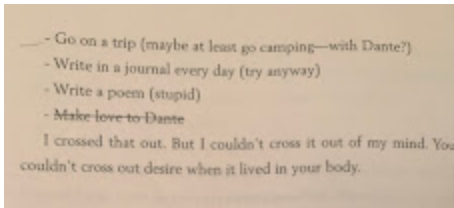
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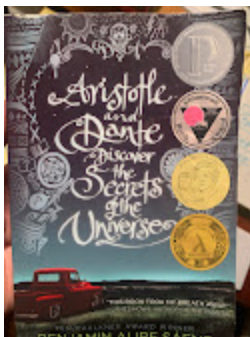
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TEXT - TO MR. NEGRON REGARDING VIOLATION OF TEACHER OVER MY EXPRESS WISHES FOR MY CHILKD NOT TO PARTICIPIATE THAT DAY IN ELA 10-5-23 IMG-2775.jpg
467K



C - EXCERPT - -2748.jpg
483K



D - BOOK COVER - IMG-2750.JPG
3303K

2) 10-5-23 - Second Letter to Mr. Negrón regarding Inapprorpaite Sexual Content 7th Grade - Gmail - ELA.pdf
170K

1) 10-3-23 First Letter to Mr. Negrón regarding - inappropriate content - "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe." - Parental Rights -.pdf
800K

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: tarzlync@gmail.com

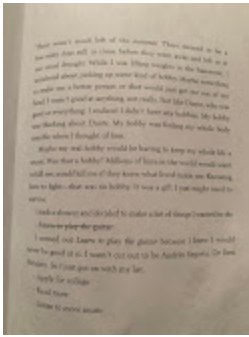
Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 3:22 PM

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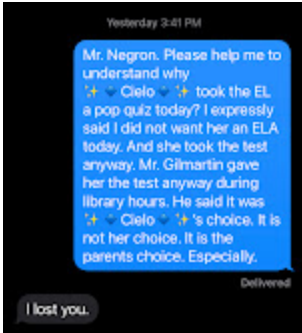
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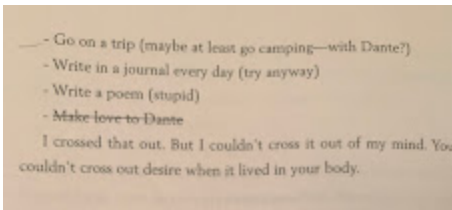
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Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: J S <judysv@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 7:37 PM

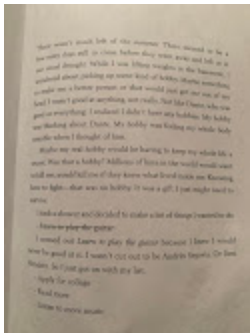
----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bill Santiago** <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 3:11 PM
Subject: Re: KIPP Beyond Charter School
To: Bruno, Kishena <Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu>

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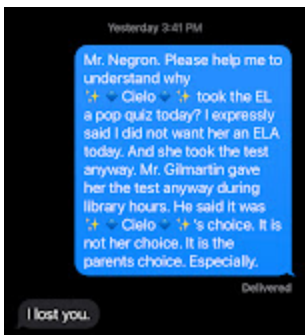
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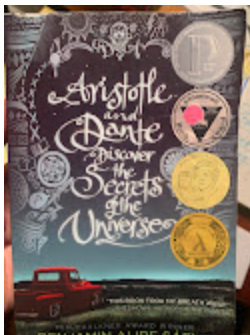


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Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: iperezmx@gmail.com

Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 7:50 PM

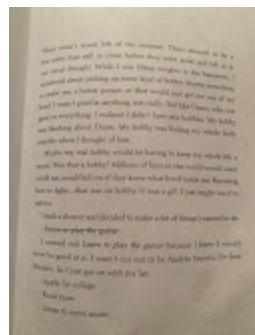
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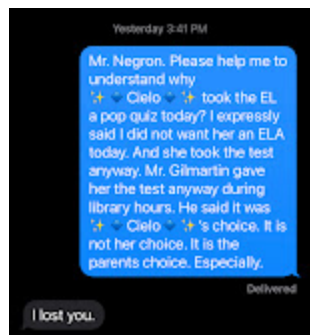
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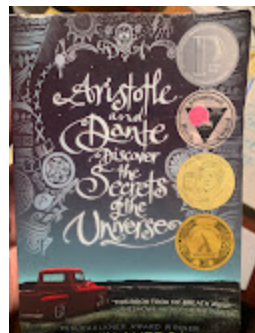


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800K

Irma Perez <iperezmx@gmail.com>
To: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 7, 2023 at 2:22 PM

Hi Bill

This is shocking and inappropriate! I know kids hormones set of in middle school. However this is crossing the line!!!!

I don't know much about Kipp schools, but they probably can teach how they want to.

I don't see how it fits into their label of diversity. I will look up the definition....,

They are addressing male homosexuality and I would be outraged too! Just because most literature is heterosexual, it doesn't mean using this inappropriate material is going to teach diversity. I'm not a middle school teacher so this is out of my realm.

I'm sorry that Cielo had to endure this horrific experience in a classroom!!! This is totally unacceptable!!!

I'll get back in touch soon!!

Take good care and I appreciate that you shared this with me.

I'd pull her out of that school, who knows what other shit they put under the umbrella of diversity!!

Best wishes,

Irma

[Quoted text hidden]

Irma Perez <iperezmx@gmail.com>
To: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 7, 2023 at 2:30 PM

PG-13 — Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May Be Inappropriate For Children Under 13. A PG-13 rating is a sterner warning by the Rating Board to parents to determine whether their children under age 13 should view the motion picture, as some material might not be suited for them. A PG-13 motion picture may go beyond the PG rating in theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, adult activities or other elements, but does not reach the restricted R category. The theme of the motion picture by itself will not result in a rating greater than PG-13, although depictions of activities related to a mature theme may result in a restricted rating for the motion picture. Any drug use will initially require at least a PG-13 rating. More than brief nudity will require at least a PG-13 rating, but such nudity in a PG-13 rated motion picture generally will not be sexually oriented. There may be depictions of violence in a PG-13 movie, but generally not both realistic and extreme or persistent violence. A motion picture's single use of one of the harsher sexually-derived words, though only as an expletive, initially requires at least a PG-13 rating. More than one such expletive requires an R rating, as must even one of those words used in a sexual context. The Rating Board nevertheless may rate such a motion picture PG-13 if, based on a special vote by a two-thirds majority, the Raters feel that most American parents would believe that a PG-13 rating is appropriate because of the context or manner in which the words are used or because the use of those words in the motion picture is inconspicuous.

[Quoted text hidden]

Irma Perez <iperezmx@gmail.com>
To: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 7, 2023 at 2:46 PM

‘Aristotle and Dante’ Review: Texas Hold Him

The film “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe,” a gay teen romance set in 1980s Texas and adapted from Benjamin

Alire Sáenz's novel, is tenderhearted but meandering.
It seems more appropriate for teenagers, I wouldn't include 12 year olds !!!
[Quoted text hidden]

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Draft To: Irma Perez <iperezmx@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 8, 2023 at 5:33 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: qdimagbaez@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 12:21 PM

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bill Santiago** <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 3:11 PM
Subject: Re: KIPP Beyond Charter School
To: Bruno, Kishena <Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu>

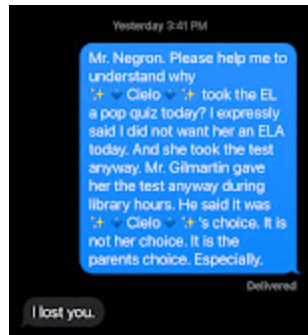
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7 attachments



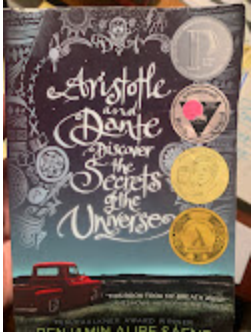
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467K

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3303K

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170K

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800K

Bruno, Kishena <Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu>
To: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 4:01 PM

Good Afternoon,

Please be advised that per New York State Education Department (NYSED) Commissioner's Regulations §135.3(c) – Health Education, (1) The secondary school curriculum shall include health education as a constant for all pupils.

In this situation, the material was provided by the child's English (EL) teacher as part of a reading assignment. Although you disagree with the reading provided by the teacher, this is a required class, and your child would have to continue with the reading assignment or discuss an alternative reading to pass the class with the teacher. Conversations regarding condoms and any other birth control methods would need consent from the parent.

I provided the complaint process (10/6/2023), you can file a formal complaint with the school board if you disagree with the book that is being read in your child's class. Please review the complaint process and follow the steps that were provided.

Thank You



Kishena Bruno
Paralegal

SUNY Charter Schools Institute

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building

353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Contact: 518-445-4250

Email: Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu

*Hold fast to dreams, For if dreams die
 Life is a broken-winged bird, That cannot fly.
 Hold fast to dreams, For when dreams go
 Life is a barren field, Frozen with snow.*

Langston Hughes

From: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 3:12 PM
To: Bruno, Kishena <Kishena.Bruno@suny.edu>
Subject: Re: KIPP Beyond Charter School

Kishena Bruno

Paralegal

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[Quoted text hidden]

Kishena Bruno
 Paralegal

[Quoted text hidden]

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
 To: Tonisupreme@yahoo.com

Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 1:27 PM

Toni here you go. Letters to principal and excerpt pics attached. Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

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Date: Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 3:11 PM
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7 attachments



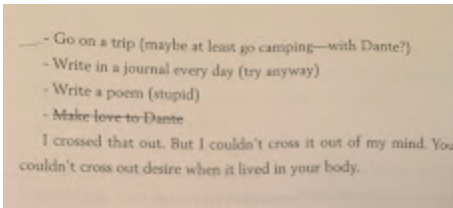
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Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: sotterman@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 24, 2023 at 1:39 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

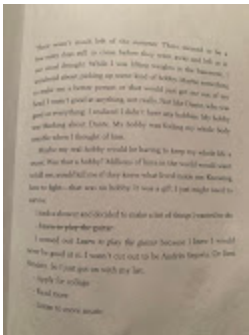
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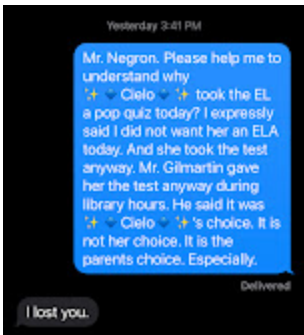
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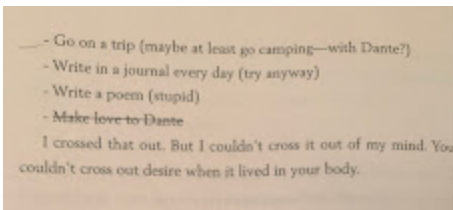
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