



Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

ELA

6 messages

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: Joe Negron <jnegron@kipnyc.org>
Bcc: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 4:18 AM

Mr Negron, with regards to your text this morning, your assumptions are wrong across the board here.

I no longer trust that you or the school understands my wishes or rights as a parent or will honor them.

I do not want my child in that ELA class today or tomorrow.

Moreover, the meeting without the teachers present is pointless. I make no distinction between the content and the manner in which it is being taught. Nor do I appreciate the continuous semantic run around to minimize the problem here.

I already spoke with Ms. Axelrod, and while I appreciate her call, the conversation was completely unsatisfactory.

I am incensed and angered that any of this should have happened in the first place, and at the school's doubling down on its position that there is nothing wrong here with the content, and forcing the parents to defend why they are in opposition to subject matter so clearly inappropriate for a 7th grader. So far, there has been no acknowledgement at all by the school that it has done anything wrong. The overwhelming impression of the response from the school so far is that it's the parents who need to get with the program - this is what 7th grade in 2023 is all about.

Mr. G pulled Cielo out of class yesterday and asked her if she felt uncomfortable with material in "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe."

First of all, yes she does.

Second, the greater and overriding issue is that in my judgment as a parent of a minor, of a 12-year-old 7th-grade girl, I have already vociferously expressed my objection to the content. Her mother is also angry about it, and you will be hearing from her as well.

It is not the place of the teacher to then pull my child aside and put her on the spot to pressure Cielo into answering that question in a way so as not to disappoint a trusted mentor.

This is just another example of my voice as a parent being sidelined.

Mr G has told Cielo that he has taught the book countless times, so as to imply that she and her parents should accept this as normal and appropriate for her. She also told me that her teacher told the class he wanted to take the class to see a movie version of the book.

Are you kidding me?

I am far from the only parent up in arms and frankly astounded by the realization of what the school is trying to get away with here.

The teachers need to hear from parents directly, moreover they should want to.

In my conversation with Ms. Axelrod, she said she did not understand how this book was any different than the content in "To Kill a Mocking Bird," or "Romeo and Juliet," as both those examples included sexual subject matter. There is no comparison between the works, and to suggest as much is deliberately disingenuous. In neither of those examples is there any explicit sexual depiction.

Further Ms. Axelrod wanted to assure me that the last exceedingly inappropriate and sexually-charged page of the book isn't actually assigned to the class. She underscored that the page wasn't actually

a part of the story, just a page that happens to appear in every copy presented to the students. As if that should have been some sort of consolation.

Excuse me, how is that supposed to allay my objections? What, the children aren't going to read the last page of the book? Please. That only underscores the willful denial of the reality here by all the educators involved.

Cielo has already taken a screenshot of that last page and sent it to her cousins and friend Tegra in Spain to show them what she was assigned to read in class.

And there are plenty of other objectionable elements to the book, besides such depictions.

At this point what is needed, and what I and other parents demand, is a meeting to be called for all 7th-grade parents on the matter immediately, where you and the teachers and other school administrators are present and can hear our positions in person, clearly and collectively.

And the exact nature of the issue needs to be stated clearly in the invitation. No sugar-coating to keep parents in the dark.

Ms. Axelrod said that pains were taken to inform the parents that mature content was in store for their children in 7th grade. If that's true, obviously such communication was wholly ineffective. Otherwise, why would so many parents only now (that it's too late) be finding out and be totally surprised and caught off guard by the extremely inappropriate content in question?

Moreover, Ms. Axelrod stated that the decision for the reading list is made at the Kipps regional level. Very well, then parents need to be heard by the administrators at the regional level as well. Please let me know to whom at the regional level I and other parents should address these most urgent concerns.

The New York State and New York City Department of Education should also hear what parents have to say about all this.

Frankly, I am more disgusted by the behavior of the school in this matter than the content itself. I am of the mind to just remove Cielo from the school immediately. But first, parents want a meeting where our voices and values are heard and understood immediately.

I will take Cielo to school today only after ELA class concludes.

Thank you,
William Santiago

I am including our texts from earlier below for reference:

Hi Mr. Santiago - we can accommodate her being elsewhere. The first thirty minutes of ELA involves choice reading her independent reading book in her ELA class. My assumption is that this is okay (though we should also talk about choice reading when we meet on Friday as well). In addition, Mr. G. and Ms. Peterson will not be joining when we meet on Friday. While they are Cielo's teachers, your email is about the content of the book itself and the manner in which this information was shared, which are conversations that rest with Ms. Axelrod (their direct manager) and me, as principal of the school. If it is about their teaching of said content, and not the content itself, please let me know but I'd prefer to at least start with it being a conversation between us (and Ms. Corral if she is joining).

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Hi mr Negron. Bill Santiago here. I do not want ✨ 💎 Cielo 💎 ✨ in ELA class tomorrow or Friday because of my objection to the material being taught those days as per my email to you. I can bring her in after the class concludes at 11:15. Or if you can assure me that she can be excused from the class and spend that time elsewhere in the school with proper supervision until the class concludes, I can bring her in at the start of the school day. Thank you.

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

Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 4:25 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

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

Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 6:39 AM

I hope he respects the requirements est. he'll be hearing from me this morning. Axelrod hasn't reached out.

On Oct 5, 2023, at 4:25 AM, Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: Jamie Axelrod <JAxelrod@kippnyc.org>, SGilmartin@kippnyc.org

Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 8:03 AM

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bill Santiago** <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 4:18 AM
Subject: ELA
To: Joe Negron <jnegron@kippnyc.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
To: Maria <mariadlacorral@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 10:01 AM

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bill Santiago** <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 4:18 AM
Subject: ELA
To: Joe Negron <jnegron@kippnyc.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Draft To: Jamie Axelrod <JAxelrod@kippnyc.org>

Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 10:36 AM

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bill Santiago** <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 4:18 AM
Subject: ELA
To: Joe Negron <jnegron@kippnyc.org>

[Quoted text hidden]