

From: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:28 PM

To: Chancellor David C. Banks <NYCChancellor@schools.nyc.gov>

Subject: Help. Harlem Middle School assigning inappropriate sexually explicit erotica to my 12-year-old daughter in English Class

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March 27, 2024

Chancellor David C. Banks

nycchancellor@schools.nyc.gov

William Santiago

196 Bradhurst Ave - Apt. 40

NY NY 10039

(415) - 748-8997

billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com

RE: Harlem Charter School assigning inappropriate sexually explicit erotica to my 12-year-old daughter in Middle School English Class. This is criminal.- PLEASE HELP

Dear Chancellor Banks,,

William Santiago here. I am writing to you as an extremely angry father.

I am desperately seeking help from you because my underaged child, Cielo Santiago, a 12-year-old girl in 7th grade at Kipps Beyond Middle School, a charter school in Harlem, NYC, is being **assigned** egregiously **explicit, highly-sexualized books** to read in **English class**, as part of the ELA curriculum.

This is going on against parents wishes, and after 6th months of demanding that the school stop exposing children to this content over parental objections.

I am **attaching excerpts** so that you can see for yourself that the books in question are presenting my 7th grader and her classmates with nothing less than explicit erotica - against parental wishes.

I am also attaching multiple letters to the principal Mr. Negron, and Kipps Schools regional office, starting in October 2023.

The school's insistence on exposing underaged children to this content borders on the criminal, as it clearly constitutes a form of outright sexual abuse, defended by the school under the pretext of educational diversity.

Parents, including myself, are outraged.

But our urgent and unambiguous objections are being met by the school with utter disregard if not contempt for our values, discretion and authority over our children's welfare as their parents.

After six months of countless emails, texts and meetings, with the principal, teachers, the regional office, the school is now insisting on going forward with assigning another inappropriate, sexually-explicit book to our child and her classmates.

“Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe,” is the first book my 12-year-old child was assigned to read in 7th grade. The book includes **explicit depictions of masturbation** between two underaged boys and the final **highly sexualized last page where one of the characters trembles with ardent desire while fantasizing of the other boy.**

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.

“Poet X” is the next book my daughter and her 7th-grade classmates are being assigned. This book includes **multiple sexually explicit encounters of a teenage girl.**

(EXCERPTS FOR BOTH BOOKS ATTACHED)

Again these books are being **assigned in class.** They are not merely available at the school, which would be bad enough.

Why is the school so hell-bent on accelerating the sexual maturation of my daughter before she has naturally awakened sexually on her own?! It IS NOT the school's place to make that decision over my clear and repeated objections as Cielo's parent, over my values and judgment as her father.

PLEASE HELP

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.

Cielo's mother and I are frantically exploring other school options for our daughter, as the controversy erupts even further. But finding another appropriate school for Cielo that will accept a middle school transfer in the middle of the year, or even just for 8th grade, is proving complicated and challenging.

I am astonished that this is going on.

I am nauseated that the Kipps Beyond Middle School flagrantly defies parental wishes about assigning these books to underaged children when there are so many other options that would better serve the students' education without sexually harassing them.

This has to stop. Kipps Beyond Middle School and their entire charter system cannot continue to get away with the harm they are doing to children. **Many parents have no idea this is going on.** I didn't until we found out by accident, when Cielo and her friends blurted out comments about what they were reading. Parents were shocked. But many assume there's nothing they can do about it, that this is the new normal.

I won't stand for it. This is wrong. Obviously I want to protect my child. But all children should be protected from this betrayal of trust parents put in their schools.

Please help. As the father of two sweet, smart, beautiful daughters that I dedicate myself to protecting every day, I beg you, please help.

Sincerely,

William Santiago

PS - Past History of Sexual Abuse - FYI - I am just discovering the Kipps Schools appear to have a history of sexual abuse. Here are some links:

[KIPP co-founder Mike Feinberg fired following allegations of sexual misconduct \[chron.com\]](#)

[Hearing airs sexual abuse claims against KIPP charter school co-founder | The Texas Tribune \[texastribune.org\]](#)

[Southern District of New York | Former Bronx Public Charter School Teacher Charged In Connection With His Sexual Exploitation Of Former Students | United States Department of Justice \[justice.gov\]](#)

[KIPP Orchestra Leader Arrested For Sexual Abuse Charges From His Years at KIPP | Gary Rubinstein's Blog \[garyrubinstein.wordpress.com\]](#)

