



Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

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

1 message

Angelique Johnson-Dingle <Angelique.Johnson-Dingle@nysed.gov>
To: "billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com" <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Cc: Chris Halpin <Chris.Halpin@nysed.gov>, Frances Wills <Regent.Wills@nysed.gov>

Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 1:25 PM

Dear Mr. Santiago:

Thank you for bringing your concerns regarding KIPP Beyond Charter School to our attention. We take your complaint seriously and want to ensure that it is addressed appropriately. Below is the formal complaint process that you should follow. Additionally, we will inform the school's authorizer, SUNY Charter Schools Institute, of your concerns. We recommend that you proceed with filing a complaint using the process outlined below.

Information on how to file a charter school complaint (under Education Law §2855) is set forth below. Under Section 2855, charter school complaints must first go to the school's board of trustees. If you are not satisfied with the board's decision regarding the complaint, you may appeal to the school's authorizer (SUNY). If you are not satisfied with SUNY's decision you may appeal to the Regents/NYSED (our office). Please let me know if you have any questions:

Section 2855 (4) of the [NYS Charter Schools Act](#) provides a formal complaint process for use by individuals (including parents) or groups who believe that a charter school has violated a term of its charter, a provision of the NYS Charter Schools Act, or any other provision of law relating to the management or operation of the charter school. **That process requires that the complaint be brought first to the School's board of trustees**(or its designee as described in the School's complaint/grievance policy). The charter school is required to provide you with a copy of its complaint/grievance policy upon request.

If, after making your complaint to the School's board of trustees, you believe that the board of trustees has not adequately addressed your complaint, or if, after a reasonable period of time, the board of trustees or its designee does not respond to your complaint in writing - or does not respond within the time that the School provides in its formal complaint/grievance policy - you then have the right to bring your complaint to the entity that authorized the charter school (the "Charter Entity" or "Authorizer"), which in this case is the **SUNY Charter Schools Institute – Call (518) 445-4250 or see <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/contact/>**.

If, after first following the complaint process with the School and the School's Charter Entity/Authorizer, you believe that the Charter Entity/Authorizer has not adequately addressed your complaint, you may then bring your complaint to the NYS Board of Regents following the process described below. **Please note that, in the case of schools that are not authorized by the NYS Board of Regents, the law requires that you bring your complaint to the School's board of trustees and then to the Charter Entity/Authorizer before bringing it to the Board of Regents.**

Bringing a Complaint to the Board of Regents

The Board of Regents has delegated the authority to the Commissioner of Education to handle complaints brought to the Regents concerning charter schools. All complaints brought to the Board of Regents/Commissioner concerning charter

schools **must be submitted in writing** to the State Education Department's Charter School Office, either via mail at: Charter School Office, NYS Education Department, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234, or via email to: charterschools@nysed.gov The subject line of the email should read: Complaint: [Name of School].

The contents of the letter/email should include:

- A detailed statement of the complaint including the provision of the School's charter or law that you allege has been violated.
- What, if any, response you received from the School's board of trustees (and the School's Charter Entity in the case of schools not authorized by the Board of Regents).
- Copies of all relevant correspondence between you and the School and you and the Charter Entity if applicable. (You should maintain copies of all correspondence and materials for your own files.)
- **What specific action or relief you are seeking.**
- Contact information for you – name, address, email address, telephone number.

Investigation of a Complaint brought to the Board of Regents

The Charter School Office, on behalf of the Commissioner and the Board of Regents, will conduct any investigation that it determines necessary and appropriate regarding complaints that have been appropriately filed concerning charter schools. This investigation may include contacting the School and the relevant Charter Entity concerning the complaint, providing a copy of the complaint to the School and the Charter Entity, and requesting additional information or materials from you and/or the School. Upon completion of the investigation of a complaint brought to the Board of Regents, a decision will be issued by the Commissioner, which may include a remedial order as appropriate. A copy of the Commissioner's decision will be provided to you, the School and the Charter Entity as applicable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at: 518-474-1762.

Thank you.

Charter School Office

New York State Education Department

89 Washington Avenue, Room 5N Mezzanine

Albany, New York 12234

Telephone No.: (518) 474-1762



Angelique Johnson-Dingle

Deputy Commissioner

P-12 Instructional Support

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[55 Hanson Place](#)
[Suite 400](#)
[Brooklyn NY, 11217](#)

www.nysed.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>
Date: March 26, 2024 at 6:15:53 PM EDT
To: Frances Wills <Regent.Wills@nysed.gov>
Subject: **Help. Harlem Middle School assigning inappropriate sexually explicit erotica to my 12-year-old daughter in English Class**

March 27, 2024

Board of Regents

New York State Education Department

[89 Washington Avenue](#) Board of Regents, Room 110 EB

Albany, New York 12234.

Phone: 518-474-5889.

William Santiago

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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 Board of Regents,

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<<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/education/article/KIPP-co-founder-Mike-Feinberg-fired-following-3-12647658.php>>

Hearing airs sexual abuse claims against KIPP charter school co-founder | The Texas Tribune<<https://www.texastribune.org/2020/02/13/kipp-co-founder-ousted-sexual-abuse-allegations-gets-his-day-administr/>>

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<<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-bronx-public-charter-school-teacher-charged-connection-his-sexual-exploitation>>

KIPP Orchestra Leader Arrested For Sexual Abuse Charges From His Years at KIPP | Gary Rubinstein's Blog<<https://garyrubinstein.wordpress.com/2021/08/09/kipp-orchestra-leader-arrested-for-sexual-abuse-charges-from-his-years-at-kipp/>>

<2) 10-5-23 - Second Letter to Principal Mr. Negrón regarding Inappropriate Sexual Content 7th Grade - Gmail - ELA.pdf>

<3) 3-4-24 0 - Third letter to Principal Mr. Negrón - Poet X Follow U 3-4-24p.pdf>

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



<COMPLAINT LETTER TO KIPS REGIONAL OFFICE - 10-6-2023Gmail - KIPP Beyond Charter School.pdf>



<E - EXCERPTS - Poet X - excerpts .pdf>

<Public Comments on sexually explicit books being provided by schools to underaged children 3-18-24.pdf>

<KIPP co-founder Mike Feinberg fired following allegations of sexual misconduct.pdf>



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