



Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>

KIPP NYC Follow Up

1 message

Natalie Webb <NWebb@kipnyc.org>

Fri, Apr 19, 2024 at 3:48 PM

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

Dear Mr. Santiago,

The New York City Department of Education forwarded your attached email dated March 27, 2024 to us regarding your concerns about two of the books included in the KIPP Beyond Middle School's ELA curriculum. Thank you for outlining your concerns.

As described in during Family Orientation back in August 2023, and during several meetings in which you participated on October 3, 2023, October 6, 2023, October 10, 2023, and October 20, 2023, KIPP NYC follows a thoughtful text selection framework to choose texts that we believe represents and responds to the needs, interests, and backgrounds of the school community and are appropriate to each grade level in terms of content and complexity. As outlined in the Literacy Bill of Rights that was presented to families on Literacy Night during Family Orientation, one of the core values of our ELA curriculum is to "[r]ead texts by authors and about characters/people whose identities, backgrounds, and experiences both mirror their worlds and can serve as a window onto the world beyond." KIPP NYC believes that both "Aristotle and Dante Discover the World" by Benjamin Alire Saenz and "The Poet X" by Elizabeth Acevedo uphold this core value, and are developmentally appropriate at both a reading level and a socioemotional level to be taught in the seventh grade.-

The ELA curriculum is continually evaluated and updated in order to respond to the needs and interests of the students, partly with constructive input from families. For example, Beyond Middle School will not be teaching "Aristotle and Dante Discover the World" next school year. This school year, the ELA team has decided to expand a writing unit and as a result, the unit containing "The Poet X" will not be taught. Although the ELA unit containing "The Poet X" will not be taught this school year, it may be taught next school year.

KIPP NYC understands that children mature at different rates and that a parent/guardian may question whether a particular topic or subject is appropriate. If you have reservations about our school's text selection, we welcome a discussion with you. Per our curriculum policy following that discussion, the school's Managing Director and you may decide that a different textbook or course of study may be appropriate.

We thank you for your feedback. We also thank you for your participation in the Beyond Middle School book committee during this school year, and welcome your continued participation in the book committee.

Natalie Webb

Chief Schools Officer

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