

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

TO: ESD Board of Education
FROM: Dan Snowberger, Superintendent
Kim Moore, Chief Academic Officer
DATE: August 6, 2024
BUSINESS DATE: August 12, 2024
SUBJECT: 9.9 Classroom Library Direction

RECOMMENDATION:

That the board direct that no classroom libraries of books are maintain within the Elizabeth School District and that students are encouraged to keep a book either from the school library or from home in their desk to utilize when necessary.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS

As we've discussed over the past year, some parents have expressed concern over their children's access to materials in school that may be contradictory to their personal family values. The curriculum review committee has spent time reviewing the Library protocol and how sensitive content will be managed allowing parents to "opt out" of student access to books identified with sensitive content. A number of possible strategies have been discussed to prevent students from having access to similar content from classroom libraries recognizing that teachers can't take on the added burden of being aware of each and every individual preference of their families. Instead of adding the burden to our teachers or principals, it is felt that the best way to manage this situation is to suggest that classroom libraries be removed and that children be encouraged to check out a library book or bring a book from home selected with their parent to use when free time exists. Books will not be shared between students.