



V. Jeff Taylor School Board Member District 7

21 hrs · 🌐



The power of a word is a power, that when used, cannot be taken back. It can lift, or destroy. It can unite, or divide. Thursday morning the world woke up to a word that has caused a storm that will last for some time. The local "Frontiersman News" tweeted a very irresponsible tweet that stated "The Mat-Su Borough School District School Board voted 5-2 to ban 5 books from the MSBSD schools.". This was shocking to everyone who read it, myself included.

"Ban" means to "officially or legally prohibit".

I want to say this very loudly. THESE BOOKS ARE NOT BANNED! They are on bookshelves, they are in teachers' libraries, they are available and could be recognized and recommended as great literary works. They could be discussed and written about. They are not banned.

During the last school board meeting, curriculum for the 20-21 school year was presented. As requested in a prior board meeting, books listed in the curriculum, that were labeled by the administration, as "controversial", were listed, and the reasons for the controversial listing was shared. These books and the reasons given for being controversial are:

"I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings": Sexually explicit material, such as the sexual abuse the author suffered as a child, and its "antiwhite" messaging. Angelou's book, which is part autobiography, part literary fiction, details many real-life events the author experienced from her early life through adulthood. Many of these recollections have led to the book being challenged or banned.

"The Great Gatsby": Language and sexual references

"Catch-22": There are a handful of racial slurs, the characters speak with typical "military men" misogyny and racist attitudes of the time. There are scenes of violence both hand to hand and with guns, and violence against women

"The Invisible Man": Language, rape and incest.

"The Things They Carried": Profanity and sexual references