



December 19, 2023

Michal Secker  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Michal Secker:

At your request, the Resource Review Committee met to reevaluate *The Legend of the Candy Cane: The Inspirational Story of Our Favorite Christmas Candy* by Lori Walburg, an approved title in elementary library media centers. The committee voted to remove this title from the county based on the request and selection criteria aligned to the type and use of the resource. The committee offered the following rationale for its recommendations:

"Unless all belief systems are equally represented in our libraries, none of these belong. In addition, the wording 'When we give our lives to Jesus, his blood washes away our sins, making us white and pure as snow' is exclusionary to any Christian who is not white. Finally, the graphic nature of 'Before he died on the cross, Jesus was whipped. He bled terribly' is unnecessarily graphic for an elementary reader."

"The review provided for this book is not positive and probably would not be deemed enough to purchase and shelve this title. Ultimately, I agree with the objection that this isn't a nuanced portrayal of religion."

"I found the concern about the book being disturbing at times true as I don't think impressionable elementary school children should be exposed to words talking about whipping and bleeding. Later on this same page, the message comes across that white is somehow the most "pure" and I worry for the impact this might have on a child's understanding of race."

Based on the committee's recommendation, I support the decision to remove this title from the current elementary media centers.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Hlavka, Coordinator, National Board Certification & Teacher Career Pathways and Resource Reevaluation Committee Chairperson.

Sincerely,

William Barnes

Chief Academic Officer

Cc: Ebony Langford-Brown, Executive Director Curriculum, Instruction  
and Assessment

Melissa Daggett, Coordinator, Library Media  
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