



BEAUFORT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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[BEAUFORT COUNTY DEMOCRATS URGE SCHOOL BOARD TO UPHOLD INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM]

BEAUFORT, SC, December 14, 2022 - At their December Executive Committee Meeting last night, the Beaufort County Democratic Party passed a unanimous resolution stating their support for freedom of expression under the First Amendment, and urged local School Board Representatives to take immediate action regarding a controversial library materials challenge within the Beaufort County School District.

The resolution states the following:

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The below resolution was adopted unanimously on the 13th day of December, 2022, by the Beaufort County Democratic Party Executive Committee.

WHEREAS, foundational to our Democracy is the freedom of expression, which includes the right to read, seek and receive ideas, and is protected speech under the First Amendment.

WHEREAS, The Beaufort County Democratic Party rejects attempts by public officials, entities, and any others to limit these freedoms by restricting access to books and information without appropriate public engagement and procedural safeguards to ensure that freedom of expression, including intellectual freedom, is not prohibited or restricted.

WHEREAS, The Beaufort County Democratic Party believes in the value of critical thinking and how that helps shape well-rounded members of our society, and that all people have a right to stories, ideas, and information that accurately reflect the diversity of our world.

WHEREAS, the Beaufort County Democratic Party calls on the elected members of the School Board of Trustees to act in their authority as representatives of the public interest and direct the leadership of the Beaufort County School District to follow established policies regarding the handling of library materials to prevent the infringement of First Amendment rights of students.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Beaufort County Democratic Party supports freedom of expression as guaranteed by the First Amendment to include the rights of all students to access a variety of books in schools, in libraries, and elsewhere and opposes attempts by public officials, entities and any others in our community working to limit access of students to a wide variety of literature and learning resources.

Chairwoman, Kathleen Hughes stated the following, “Beaufort County has a rich literary and cultural history, which is what makes this recent movement to censor books so shocking.” In response to the need for a resolution, Hughes said, “The majority of people here in Beaufort County, regardless of political affiliation, believe in public schools. That is why our members felt it important to make a statement urging support for intellectual freedom. This isn’t just a Democratic value, it’s an American value.”

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