

Glocester School Department

Office of Superintendent

1145 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI 02814

Dr. Renee Palazzo
Superintendent
(401) 710-7500 ext. 7568

Ms. Pat Dubois
Asst. Superintendent
(401) 568-6206 ext. 238

Ms. Elizabeth Beltram
Finance Director
(401) 568-6206 ext. 219

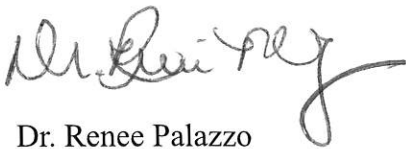
February 4, 2025

Dear Mr. Brown,

Thank you for your letter dated February 3, 2025. I understand from your letter that representatives from the Glocester Teacher Association contacted you to express concerns about an email I sent to the elementary school librarians. The reason for my email(s) sent to the librarians was a follow up to a meeting discussing a concern about a book given to a 2nd grade student in October. The purpose of that meeting and subsequent email capturing a summary of it, was with collaborative intentions focused on working towards practices to ensure our younger readers are choosing books that are of interest and also age appropriate.

The book in question is called *Rebound* by Kwame Alexander, which dealt with topics such as repeatedly skipping school, stealing from a neighbor, underage drinking, running from the police, and a scene where the narrator is involved in a fight and near shooting, an arrest for marijuana possession and prison time. After several meetings and conversations with school librarians, union representatives, district attorney, building and district administrators it was suggested by the librarians and agreed upon that books would be identified by age/grade level using Follett. There was also discussion around a permission slip going home if a young reader chooses a book containing more mature content. This practice appears to align with your suggestion at the end of your letter stating that students should take out books that professional librarians have deemed suitable and offered a footnote. The purpose of these suggested practices is to discuss/decide suitability. If you have additional questions or would like to speak by phone, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Dr. Renee Palazzo

Fogarty Memorial School
736 Snake Hill Road
North Scituate, RI 02857
Tammy Strik, Principal
(401) 568-6211

West Glocester Elementary
111 Reynolds Road
Chepachet, RI 02814
Nancy Zambarano, Principal
(401) 567-0350