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Ten board members unanimously agreed in favor of removing the novel from the eighth-grade curriculum, citing its use of the phrase “God Damn” and drawings of “naked pictures” of women, according to [minutes](#) taken from a board of education meeting earlier this month.

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📷 The front cover of Maus A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman is seen after it was first published in 1980.
Photograph: sjbooks/Alamy

“There is some rough, objectionable language in this book,” director of school, Lee Parkison, is recorded as saying in the session’s opening remarks.

Parkison continued to say he had “consulted with our attorney” and as a result “we decided the best way to fix or handle the language in this book was to redact it ... to get rid of the eight curse words and the picture of the woman that was objected to.”

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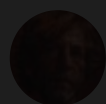
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“We don’t need this stuff to teach kids history. We can teach them history and we can teach them graphic history. We can tell them exactly what happened, but we don’t need all the nakedness and all the other stuff.”

Cochran proposed revisiting the entire curriculum over concerns it was developed to “normalize sexuality, normalize nudity and normalize vulgar language”.

“If I was trying to indoctrinate somebody’s kids, this is how I would do it,” he added. “You put this stuff just enough on the edges, so the parents don’t catch it but the kids, they soak it in. I think we need to relook at the entire curriculum.”



Neil Gaiman 
@neilhimsself



There's only one kind of people who would vote to ban Maus, whatever they are calling themselves these days.



Judd Legum  @JuddLegum

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10:57 PM · Jan 26, 2022



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The decision comes as conservative groups across the country are [stepping up campaigns](#) to ban books from school libraries, often focused on works that address race, LGBTQ issues or marginalized communities.

The board did have some supporters with Julie Goodin, an instructional supervisor and former history teacher, and Melasawn Knight, the federal programs supervisor, backing the novel's inclusion in the curriculum.

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In a **statement on Thursday**, after the ban drew wider backlash, the McMinn county board of education defended its decision, saying the novel was removed from the curriculum because “of its unnecessary use of profanity and nudity and its depiction of violence and suicide” and that the book was “too adult-oriented” for use in its schools.

The board called the Holocaust “shameful beyond description” and said that the move did “not diminish the value of *Maus* as a meaningful and impactful work of literature” and that it was seeking “other works that accomplish the same educational goals in a more age-appropriate fashion”.

Maanvi Singh contributed reporting.

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