

Recently, a staff member posted a message on Twitter that did not exemplify the ideals of the Washington Township School District. This message was a reply to an earlier tweet by Dr. Paul Gorski, a consultant who has done some work in our district. The reply message read: “This week, dumpsters were filled with books that should have left decades ago @TWPSchools and replaced with engaging, relevant, culturally diverse literature.” The message also included a photograph of the books being discarded. This post was a serious mischaracterization of the true events.

The reality is that these books were water damaged, discolored, missing pages, and/or deemed unfit to be placed in the hands of our students or circulated for donation. None of the selections were intentionally discarded because of their title or content. They were disposed of due to their condition. There were multiple staff members involved in the process of reorganizing a book storage room that was long overdue for a clean out. Please be assured that many of these books have been replaced with newer versions of the same title and/or available in our schools’ libraries.

The district does not condone or appreciate how this message portrayed the work that was completed by our staff. The district does not condone the disposal of usable books of any kind. When books are in appropriate condition, we often have donated books to our staff for use in their classroom libraries, or to other schools and/or libraries.

We are extraordinarily proud of the dedicated members of our English Language Arts teaching staff – past and present – and deeply regret any misinterpretation of the importance of their efforts that this ill-advised tweet may have caused. We apologize to any student, parent or community member who found this post to be troublesome or offensive. The district also has severed its relationship with Dr. Paul Gorski.

The Washington Township Public Schools are committed to providing all of our students with a strong education and access to a wide and diverse collection of literature. We do not condone nor support organizations of any kind that promote censorship and/or the indoctrination of any one specific belief, political view, or mindset. Our mission is to provide a broad-based education and help prepare our students to be successful in the world beyond our school system.