

CISD Board Agenda Item Synopsis

CISD Board Mission: Celina ISD will educate students at the highest levels, empower them to succeed, develop their leadership potential, instill faith-based traditional values, and prepare them to become contributing members of society.

Subject: Library Materials Challenge- *Water for Elephants*

Meeting Date: March 30, 2026

Submitted by: Kyla Prusak, PhD , Chief Academic Officer

Goals	
<p>Core Principles Community · Excellence · Innovation Leadership · Stewardship</p> <p>The Learner Experience Love the learner, drive the rigor Responsible for one’s own learning Interdependent self-managers</p>	✓ - 1. We will provide and support a safe, civil and collaborative culture.
	✓ - 2. We will continuously provide and support effective teaching in every classroom.
	✓ - 3. We will provide and support a guaranteed and viable curriculum.
	✓ - 4. We will continue to foster a love of reading and commit to continual growth in childhood literacy.
	- 5. We will foster strong numeracy skills and commit to continual growth in math success.
	✓ - 6. We will provide targeted strategies and practices to prepare students for post-secondary education, career readiness, and military participation.
	- 7. We will attract, recruit, develop, and retain high-quality professional staff.

Background Information: In accordance with Texas Education Code 33.027 and Board Policy EFB (LOCAL), the Board is being asked to take action regarding a written challenge to the library material *Water for Elephants* by Sarah Gruen, which has been submitted to the district and reviewed through the district’s established challenge process. Pursuant to Education Code 33.027(h), the Board is required to take action on a written challenge at the first open meeting held after the 90th day following the district’s receipt of the written challenge or, if applicable, following the recommendation of the district’s School Library Advisory Council (SLAC). In accordance with district procedures and applicable law, the SLAC has completed its review of *Water for Elephants* and submitted its recommendation for Board consideration, and the Board must now take formal action on the recommendation brought forth by the SLAC.

In taking action on the written challenge and the SLAC recommendation, the Board shall consider the advice of the local SLAC and determine whether the challenged library material is suitable for the subject area and grade level for which it is intended. This determination includes consideration of whether the material aligns with the library standards approved under Education Code 33.021, as well as any relevant reviews conducted by academic experts specializing in the subject matter or the education of students at the applicable grade level.

Should the Board, with the recommendation of the SLAC, determine that *Water for Elephants* should be removed from the school library catalog, state law further requires that the district notify each teacher assigned to the applicable grade level and direct the removal of any copies of the material from classroom libraries.

Policy: EFB(LEGAL), EFB(LOCAL)

Budgetary Impact: NA

Recommendation: The District recommendation is for the Members of the Board to take action on the challenged library material, *Water for Elephants* by Sarah Gruen, in accordance with the recommendation submitted by the School Library Advisory Council (SLAC) and in compliance with Texas Education Code 33.027 and Board Policy EFB (LOCAL).