Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

We write in our capacity as the parent(s) of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who is a student in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_grade at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In the exercise of our rights under the United States Constitution and Federal law, including the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as well as State constitutional, statutory and regulatory rights, please know that:

We hereby exercise our right to opt out the above-named child from use of the new LGBTQ+ books, specifically the texts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and any other supplemental texts, discussions and / or assignments that deal with or are related to LGBTQ+ topics.

In the MCPS guidelines for respecting Religious Diversity, it states: “When possible, schools should try to make reasonable and feasible adjustments to the instructional program to accommodate requests from students, or requests from parents/guardians on behalf of their students, to be excused from specific classroom discussions or activities that they believe would impose a substantial burden on their religious beliefs. Students, or their parents/guardians on behalf of their students, also have the right to ask to be excused from the classroom activity if the students, or their parents/guardians, believe the activity would invade student privacy by calling attention to the student’s religion. When a student is excused from the classroom activity, the student will be provided an alternative to the school activity or assignment. For example, it may be feasible to accommodate objections from students or their parents/guardians to a particular reading assignment on religious grounds by providing an alternative selection that meets the same lesson objectives.”

Our child is taught to love and respect all, and we certainly hope he / she is seen as a kind and empathetic member of the school community. He / she knows about these topics on a very basic level, but we are not comfortable with an MCPS staff person discussing any of these topics with our child. These books, along with the subsequent lessons and discussions surrounding them, will be introducing concepts, ideas, thoughts and questions that we would like to handle at home privately for religious and other reasons.

We are uncomfortable with MCPS presenting these topics and answering any questions that will undoubtedly arise, and we are confident that you will honor this MCPS policy to protect children of certain faiths and beliefs from being instructed in content that is contradictory to the core beliefs of their family.

Thank you so much for the transparency and willingness to discuss with and hear the parents of your community. Let me know if there’s anything else you might need from us. Thank you.

Parent(s) Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Written Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged by Admin (Signature/Date) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_