

Fonseca Issues Statement on Threat Letters

Written by Steve Frank

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As the issue of a controversial book in the sophomore honors English class at Watauga High turned into a criminal matter late last week with threatening letters set to several Watauga High teachers, Dr. David Fonseca, superintendent of Watauga Schools, issued his own statement on the matter yesterday, saying, "It is one thing to disagree with a policy or a procedure or a book used in the schools. It is a completely different and unacceptable thing to threaten someone because they hold a different opinion. This threat is a despicable attempt to intimidate a very professional and accomplished group of educators who deserve our respect. It is also a criminal act, and we are cooperating fully with local law enforcement in their efforts to find out who is responsible for the letters. We will support the prosecution of that person or persons to the fullest extent of the law." The use of *The House of the Spirits* has been challenged by the parents of a student at the high school. That challenge is being addressed through the Board of Education policy "Selection and Use of Educational Media," and Boone Police are asking for tips through Crimestoppers. We urge anyone who may have any knowledge about the source of these threats to contact Crime Stoppers at 828-268-6959/828-737-0125 or the Boone Police Department at 828-268-6900." The Board of Education is set to vote on the challenge in a meeting Thursday evening.