It turned out to be a winning strategy.

“So when my son showed me his reading assignment, my heart sunk. It was some of the most explicit material you can imagine.”

A campaign ad from Virginia’s newly elected Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin. The governor-elect made education a pillar of his campaign. Now, some school board members in his state not only want to ban books, they say they want to burn them too.

“I think those books I don’t want to even see them, like I think they should be thrown in a fire.”

Spotsylvania county is about halfway between Richmond and Washington DC. This week, its school board voted unanimously to remove sexually explicit books from their libraries. One book on their list, \textit{33 Snowfish} by Adam Rapp. The gritty novel follows a group of kids fleeing broken homes and sexual abuse.

“I guess we live in a world now that our public schools would rather have kids read about gay pornography than Christ.”

The main characters of \textit{33 Snowfish} include a 10 year-old boy who is sexually abused by a man who exploits him. This novel made the \textit{American Library Association}’s list of best books for young adults back in 2004.

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1 To sink, sank, sunk : couler
2 Gritty : brut, cru
3 To flee : fuir
Meanwhile, a suburb of Wichita, Kansas, is removing 29 books from circulation. That list from the Goddard school district includes Margaret Atwood’s classic *The Handmaid’s Tale; They called Themselves the KKK, a History of the Hate Group* by Susan Sampbell Bartoletti; and *Fences* by August Wilson, part of his series of 10 plays about being black in America. On Tuesday, the list went out to librarians and principals along with a note that reads in part (quote) “at this time, the district is not in a position to know if the books contained on this list meet our educational goals or not” (unquote). The district says it is not technically *banning* the books, just taking them out of circulation pending a review.

And this week, Texas Governor *Greg Abbott* called for a statewide standard to remove books with pornographic and obscene content. This builds on an investigation started last month by state representative *Matt Krause* of Fortworth. Krause is running for *Attorney General* next year. His targets include books that (quote) “convey that a student, by virtue of their race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously” (unquote).

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4 Suburb : banlieue
5 Pending : en attendant
7 A target : une cible