

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Special Meeting - Library Materials Committee: Board Appeal Review and Determination - 5:30 PM
February 9, 2022
Online/Virtual Zoom Meeting

IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE: After consulting with local health officials, due to the heightened rate of COVID-19 transmission currently in the region, the School Board has instructed staff to hold this meeting virtually. Members of the public are invited to attend by utilizing the following methods:

- Watch Live: <https://wwps-org.zoom.us/j/92423524824>
- Listen: Dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter the Webinar ID: 924 2352 4824

Spanish Agenda / Agenda Español: <https://www.wwps.org/district/information/school-board/board-meeting-schedule>

Pursuant to Procedure 2021, the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors will meet in public session to review an appeal request related to the Library Materials Review Committee's findings related to four novels. As outlined in procedure, "The purpose of the Board of Director's review will be to determine whether the committee applied the appropriate criteria and followed the proper process. If the correct criteria and process were followed by the committee, the decision of the committee stands. If it is determined they were not followed, the Board of Directors will determine the outcome of the challenge" (Procedure 2021).

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** (5:30 p.m.) *Mrs. Ladderud*

II. **ROLL CALL:**

Mrs. Ruth Ladderud, President Mr. Eric Rindal
Mrs. Terri Trick, Vice President Mr. Derek Sarley
Ms. Kathy Mulkerin

III. **STUDY ITEMS:** *Mrs. Ladderud*

1. Board Appeal Review: *Mrs. Ladderud*

IV. **ACTION:** *Mrs. Ladderud*

1. Board Appeal Review Determination

V. **ADJOURNMENT:** (6:00 p.m.) *Mrs. Ladderud*

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Request for Appeal

Sarah Herrera <salyjo@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 12:30 PM

To: Wade Smith <wsmith@wwps.org>, "kmulkerin@wwps.org" <kmulkerin@wwps.org>, "ttrick@wwps.org" <ttrick@wwps.org>, "rladderud@wwps.org" <rladderud@wwps.org>, "erindal@wwps.org" <erindal@wwps.org>, "dsarley@wwps.org" <dsarley@wwps.org>

January 17, 2022

To: Superintendent Wade Smith and Board Members,

I would like to request an official Appeal to you regarding the following books:

Gender Queer – This book is not only pornographic but has no educational purpose in schools. I should not have to say more on the topic.

The Hate You Give – This book has over 90 F words in it as well as many other inappropriate words! We want our students to be respectful and to respect authority, but this book sends an extremely mixed signal. This is an anti-police book at its core. I am not saying there is no validity to police brutality or racism, but I do not feel this book is a fair representation on the issue.

All Boys Aren't Blue – this book should be characterized as erotica, which really means it is pornography in word form. Again, this does not have a place in our educational system.

The Bluest Eye – I will just mention the most appalling things I find in this book because honestly, I could go on for a long time. The inner thought of a pedophile is so inappropriate, it is like you want children to be groomed to be abused. In his thoughts his abuse is portrayed as loving. How is that appropriate to education???

As far as the "new add on to the procedure," that states that a parent can call and let the librarian know which books we would like our child to not be able to check out, I do not think this was extremely well thought out. For one, there is no list of all the books available to my child. Secondly, do you really think parents have time to peruse the website for the 25 to 100 books we feel are inappropriate for our families? This is ridiculous! We need to get back to the basics of education and that does not involve pornography, insane amounts of cursing, erotica literature, or pedophilia.

I do not think the current procedure for the library review committee is fair or an accurate portrayal of what needs to happen with these reviews. There is absolutely NO Parent Representation in this group that directly affects our children. There are, however, minors involved in this process. Do they have parent permission to be involved? Are the people on the committee hand-picked? How does this work?

Sincerely,

Sarah L Herrera

509 520-5185



January 31, 2022

Board of Directors:

As you respond to the appeals to the four novels the Library Materials Review Committee reviewed, I would like to provide you summary timeline of the novels requested for removal and novel requested for circulation consideration. The timeline of committee meetings and follow up is also summarized below.

Summary Timeline for Novels Requested for Removal

November 19: Form 2021 received from community member for review of The Bluest Eye.

November 22: Form 2021 received from community member for review of The Hate U Give.

November 30: Form 2021 received from community member for the review of All Boys Aren't Blue.

Summary Timeline for Novel Requested for Circulation Consideration

October 31: District received an email from a stakeholder requesting the book Gender Queer be removed from our libraries.

November 1: WaHi librarian researched Gender Queer and found the book was not physically in circulation as it was still packed from the remodel.

November 3: Librarian unpacked book, reviewed and recommended not to put in circulation on the shelf at this time.

November 3-4: Gender Queer was also reviewed by the superintendent and executive director of teaching and learning. Both agreed with librarian not to put in circulation at this time.

December 14: Significant public comment at board meeting received requesting Gender Queer be considered for circulation.

December 15: Superintendent Smith advanced the book to the Library Materials Review Committee per Procedure 2021 to determine if the book met the selection criteria to be included in the high school catalog.

January 13: Gender Queer reviewed by library materials committee and determined that it would be included in circulation per Procedure 2021.

Summary Timeline of Communication and Committee Meetings for Library Materials Review

November 30: First email to committee to establish purpose of the committee and set dates for convening.

December 15: Per Procedure 2021, the committee convened to review The Hate U Give and All Boys Aren't Blue.

December 15: Per Procedure 2021, the community member receives email from executive director of teaching and learning stating The Hate U Give and All Boys Aren't Blue did not meet the criteria for de-selection.

January 13: Per Procedure 2021, the committee convened to review The Bluest Eye and Gender Queer.

January 13: Per Procedure 2021, the community member receives email from the executive director of teaching and learning stating The Bluest Eye did not meet the criteria for de-selection.

January 31, 2022

Board of Directors:

As you respond to the appeals to the four novels the Library Materials Committee reviewed, I would like to provide you with a summary of the meeting process we followed to support the steps outlined in Procedure 2021.

Summary of Meeting Process

At the end of November I reached out to the committee letting them know that we had three books requested for review and removal from our school libraries. The three books were: *The Hate U Give*, *All Boys are Not Blue*, and *The Bluest Eye*. The committee was given two weeks prior to our meeting to read/review the books, read reviews, and consider the reasons they were being asked to remove the books. I provided copies of the books to those who needed one, provided several websites they could use to read reviews, and copies of the exact wording we received from the community member. This initial email I sent to the committee also included Administrative Procedures 2021 so each committee member had the opportunity to become familiar with the components of the process and criteria for de-selection of library materials.

During the first meeting on December 15 the committee reviewed a one page overview I developed about the process. As an introduction to each of the texts I shared when it was purchased, why it was purchased, how many copies are in circulation, location in the library, and how often it was checked out. Each member of the committee had the opportunity to discuss each book in its entirety, and to specifically address the reasons cited in the request to remove the book. The committee acknowledged and reviewed the seven steps of the de-selection process as outlined in Procedure 2021.

Once each member had the opportunity to share their thoughts with the other committee members a proposal was put forward for the committee to react to. The committee had the opportunity to indicate if they fully agreed with the proposal, agreed with reservations, or needed the committee to continue the discussion.

At the first meeting the committee was able to thoroughly discuss, *The Hate U Give* and *All Boys Aren't Blue*. At the end of the first meeting the committee agreed that meeting again after winter break was needed so that they had enough time to discuss the third book and the additional request to formally review *Gender Queer* for circulation consideration. Again, those who needed a copy of the books to read/review were provided them.

The committee met on January 13 to review *The Bluest Eye* and *Gender Queer*.

Community Request for
Review Committee

Book Review, form attached

1 message

Sarah Herrera <salyjo@hotmail.com>

Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 11:36 AM

To: Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>, Wade Smith <wsmith@wwps.org>

All Boys Aren't Blue
By George M. Johnson
Publisher Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, April 28, 2020
Memoir, Biography
Total pages: 320

Review of the book All Boys Aren't Blue:

This book seems to be getting a lot of press recently so I decided to check it out. I am quite appalled by its content. We are pushing sexual experiences and perversion on our children and introducing them to things that hopefully they will never encounter. In high school the focus should be on academics and preparing them to be successful adults. We are to encourage, support and bring stability and positivity to the students. In this book it continually talks about how white people and white historical figures have down played the oppression of black people. This does not send the message that we all belong here. This book was written by an activist with a very clear agenda. Schools in 7 different states have already removed this book from their school library. I will quote a few reviews that I think explain why this book has been removed and should be removed from the WaHi Library.

Direct from Amazon:

“He didn't know I was a virgin, and I did my best to act dominant like my favorite porn star,” the book continued.

“For the first few minutes, we dry humped and grinded,” another passage read. “I was behind him with my stomach on his back as we kissed ... he pulled out some condom and some lube ... I had never done it before ... I had one point of reference, though, and that was seven-plus years of watching pornography. Although the porn was heterosexual, it was enough of a reference point to get the job done.”

This book is porn. It is being out in high schools and it is completely inappropriate for young readers. Graphic anal sex is described. This needs to be banned from schools. - Amazon Review

This is NOT young adult fiction. It is PORN written in the “familiar” tone of YA. I find the descriptions in this book absolutely filthy, especially given the proposed audience for this text and the fact that it has been made available in elementary, middle school, and high school ⁶ libraries across the country. What in the world is going on? If an adult chooses to read this text,

that is an informed choice. However, to market this kind of pornography to unsuspecting, impressionable, not-yet-fully-developed CHILDREN is unconscionable. What have we become as a society if we allow this constant grooming and sexualization of our children to occur? Anyone who thinks this is book is sound reading for a child needs their head examined. A 100% thumbs down for this one! – Amazon Review

The Trigger warnings surrounding this book should be enough to warrant a review:

- Blood
- Cancer
- Death (in family)
- Homophobia
- Incest, child molestation, sexual assault
- Physical assault
- Racism
- Rape
- Sexual content
- Sexual abuse
- Slurs
- Violence
- Pedophilia and Grooming
- PTSD and Trauma

Please remove this book from the WaHi library as it is pornographic, and you are supplying pornography to minors.

Sarah Herrera
509 520-5185

 allboysaren'tblue.pdf
61K

Walla Walla Public Schools

FORM - REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Form: 2021
Page 1 of 1

MEDIUM (Book, video, etc.): Book
TITLE: All Boys Aren't Blue
AUTHOR: George M. Johnson
Publisher: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux
Copyright Date: 2020 Call Number: _____ Hardcover: _____ Paperback: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL BUILDING WITH THE TITLE IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA COLLECTION:

Wahi

REVIEW REQUEST INITIATED BY:

Name (print): Sarah L Herrera Signature: Sarah Herrera
Address: 1950 Whitman St.
City: Walla Walla State: WA Zip: 99362
Home Phone: 509 520-5185 Business Phone: _____ Ext: _____

COMPLAINANT REPRESENTS

Himself/Herself: Yes No _____ Other individual or group: Yes _____ No _____

If representing others, give name of person(s), address(es) and phone number(s):

EVALUATION

1. I have read or viewed the entire book, video, etc: Yes No _____
2. Summary of the book and what is your objection?

Fwd: The Hate You Give Book Review

1 message

Sarah Herrera <salyjo@hotmail.com>
To: Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>

Mon, Nov 22, 2021 at 2:04 PM

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get Outlook for Android

From: Sarah Herrera
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 1:59:12 PM
To: Wade Smith <wsmith@wwps.org>
Subject: The Hate You Give Book Review

Another book review.

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

This book's focus seems to have very little positive elements. It is inspired by the BLM movement. An unarmed teen boy shot and killed and we see him die. It is very descriptive. Reports of shootings and deaths as a result. A boy and woman are badly beaten. An older gentleman is attacked by a group of young men. All of this very graphic about injuries. A young girl dies in a drive-by shooting and her blood is described as mingling with the fire hydrant water. Sexual situations include teens engaging in heavy petting, talk about having sex and condoms. Teens drink alcohol and smoking marijuana at a party. Adults are described as being addicted to drugs, addiction to crack cocaine is discussed, and both teens and adults are described as selling drugs. These are the main ideas of the book.

Some examples of the explicit language.

The language is excessive. You can not go one page without horrible, disrespectful language. There are 90 F words in this book. 200 shit words. 16 Bitch and 10 N-words and only 350 pages. Lots of F*** the Police chants near the end and motherF***'s.

If translated directly to a movie it would be R rated. In order to make this into PG 13 movie they were required to have a maximum of 2 F-words and they removed the mature content.

We are de-sensitizing kids to this vulgar language and making it seem appropriate.

Examples of explicit sexual references.

Grinding, condoms, birth control, and there's discussion of teen pregnancy. A woman is revealed to be a sex worker. Drugs and sex seem to go together in this book.

Parents are often portrayed as dumb, lazy or outdated.

Many have described it as another anti police/police brutality book spreading the narrative that all shootings of black people happen because of racism.

Character follows the Panther's 10 point program (Marxism) and talks throughout the book about the Panthers/Marxism. Famous Marxist leaders are highlighted Malcom X, black Panthers, and Huey Newton.

Spread the theory that the entire system is against black people: government is targeting their community to sell drugs to keep the black man down, corporate America doesn't hire black people, criminal justice system is to keep black people locked in jail. Propogates the idea that all white people are prejudiced against all races.

It may feed racial polarization and continue the stereotypes into the next generation instead of creating new representations. This is not a good way to keep teenagers engaged.

For me as a parent this would not be an acceptable book. It is very one sided and jaded in its approach to solving real world problems. I respectfully ask that due to the nature of the topic, due to graphic language that this book be removed from the library.

Walla Walla Public Schools

FORM - REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Form: 2021
Page 1 of 1

MEDIUM (Book, video, etc.): Book
TITLE: The Hate You Give
AUTHOR: Angie Thomas
Publisher: Balzer + Bray
Copyright Date: 2017 Call Number: _____ Hardcover: ___ Paperback: ___

NAME OF SCHOOL BUILDING WITH THE TITLE IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA COLLECTION: Wa-Hi

REVIEW REQUEST INITIATED BY:

Name (print): Sarah L Herrera Signature: Sarah L Herrera
Address: 1950 Whitman St.
City: Walla Walla State: WA Zip: 99362
Home Phone: 509-520-5185 Business Phone: _____ Ext: _____

COMPLAINANT REPRESENTS

Himself/Herself: Yes No _____ Other individual or group: Yes _____ No _____
If representing others, give name of person(s), address(es) and phone number(s): _____

EVALUATION

1. I have read or viewed the entire book, video, etc: Yes No _____
2. Summary of the book and what is your objection? _____

Fwd: Book Review. Please Read, also attached is proper form

1 message

Wade Smith <wsmith@wwps.org>
To: Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>
Cc: Sarah Herrera <salyjo@hotmail.com>

Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 3:59 PM

Christy,
See below and attached.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Herrera** <salyjo@hotmail.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 1:51 PM
Subject: Book Review. Please Read, also attached is proper form
To: Wade Smith <wsmith@wwps.org>

Hello Again, here is another library book review.

I will be reviewing *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. This book is set to be added to the 10th grade recommended reading list.

This was an eye opening review of what our kids are facing in the current cultural climate at school.

This book contains a rape of an 11-year-old girl. Thoughts of a child molester, who sees the act as loving. Physical child abuse and animal torture and abuse and last but, not least, prostitution. The main character is an angry child who thinks others consider white or mixed-race kids prettier or better than black kids. She has feelings of violent anger toward light-skinned people.

There is a lot of profane, rude, and cruel language, to be honest, it is pornographic.

One parent review describes this book as hardcore child porn with incest, rape, and pedophilia.

Here are a few examples:

Pages 162-163: "A bolt of desire ran down his genitals...and softening the lips of his anus. . . . He wanted to f*** her—tenderly. But the tenderness would not hold. The tightness of her vagina was more than he could bear. His soul seemed to slip down his guts and fly out into her, and the gigantic thrust he made into her then provoked the only sound she made. Removing himself from her was so painful to him he cut it short and snatched his genitals out of the dry harbor of her vagina. She appeared to have fainted."

Page 181: "The little girls are the only things I'll miss. Do you know that when I touched their sturdy little t*** and bit them—just a little—I felt I was being friendly?—If I'd been hurting them, would they have come back? . . . they'd eat ice cream with their legs open while I played with them. It was like a party."

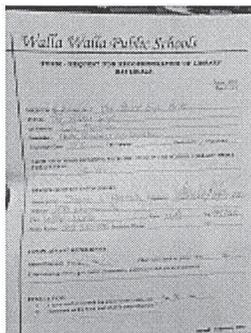
Another parent review says all of the following topics are described in detail: orgasms, prostitution, incest, rape, nudity, pornography, molestation, pedophilia, masturbation, sexual dreams, homosexuality, bestiality and sodomy. There is nothing good about this book!

Why would any educator think that this is appropriate or educational? Why would anyone subject their child to these situations, even if they are fictional? What we allow or choose to fill our children's heads with: things they see, read, or listen to affect them in a huge way.

Please remove this book from the library and also from any recommended reading lists.

Sarah Herrera
509 520-5185

Wade Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Walla Walla Public Schools



the bluest eye.jpg
2250K

Walla Walla Public Schools

FORM - REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Form: 2021
Page 1 of 1

MEDIUM (Book video, etc.): The Bluest Eye Book
TITLE: The Bluest Eye
AUTHOR: Toni Morrison
Publisher: Holt, Rinehart and Winston
Copyright Date: 1970 Call Number: _____ Hardcover: _____ Paperback: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL BUILDING WITH THE TITLE IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA COLLECTION: Wa-Hi

REVIEW REQUEST INITIATED BY:

Name (print): Sarah L Herrera Signature: Sarah Herrera
Address: 1950 Whitman St.
City: Walla Walla State: WA Zip: 99362
Home Phone: 509 520-5185 Business Phone: _____ Ext: _____

COMPLAINANT REPRESENTS

Himself/Herself: Yes No _____ Other individual or group: Yes _____ No _____

If representing others, give name of person(s), address(es) and phone number(s):

EVALUATION

1. I have read or viewed the entire book, video, etc: Yes No _____
2. Summary of the book and what is your objection?

Introductory Email to Committee

Library Materials Review Committee

1 message

Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>

Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 2:20 PM

To: [REDACTED], Casey Monahan <cmonahan@wwps.org>, Julie Perron <jperron@wwps.org>, Ron Higgins <rhiggins@wwps.org>, Kimberly Cassetto <kcassetto@wwps.org>, Kim Doepker <kdoepker@wwps.org>, Jami Eggart <jjeggart@wwps.org>, Sara Strickland <sstrickland@wwps.org>, Kristina Duncan <kduncan@wwps.org>
Bcc: Wade Smith <wsmith@wwps.org>, Keith Ross <kross@wwps.org>, Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>

Hello,

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in being part of the Library Materials Review Committee, or you are someone who is needed for the committee based on the school library in which a book we have been asked to review resides.

Per the Procedures for Policy 2021, attached, your input is needed to review the specific aspects of materials which have been requested for reconsideration. As a committee we will come together to discuss the specific concerns raised, and then come to consensus on a final recommendation. The final recommendation will be whether the materials will remain in our libraries, or we remove the materials because they do not meet the criteria outlined in Procedure 2021.

When we gather we will specifically go through the steps of our time together. In the meantime, I want to share a few details so you know what to expect. First, you do not need to read the book(s) requested for review in their entirety. If you would like to, and need a copy, we'll get you one as quickly as possible. Second, I will provide you with the specific areas of concern for each book identified in a follow up email.

At this time we have three books that have been requested for review; *The Hate u Give*, *All Boys Aren't Blue*, and *The Blues Eyes*.

A Doodle Poll for the week before winter break will follow this email. This will give those of you who want to read the books in their entirety the time to do so. Again, there is no obligation to read the entire book.

Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to this committee. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

Christy Krutulis
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning
Walla Walla Public Schools
(509) 526-6733
"Developing Washington's most sought-after graduates"

 Procedure_No._2021_Revised_11.2021.pdf
147K

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

No. P-2021

Page 1 of 4

LIBRARY INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

A. Library Collection Development

This procedure guides Teacher-Librarians and informs the community about the process for selecting, acquiring, evaluating and maintaining library information and technology program materials. The objective of each program is to implement, support and enrich the educational program of the district.

To best meet the unique needs of each school, the district will strive to create a library collection based upon an assessment of student and staff needs. This will be accomplished by:

1. Providing resource materials, both curricular and personal for students and faculty;
2. Providing materials that meet the interest, vocabulary, maturity and ability levels of all students;
3. Fostering reading as a lifelong activity through pleasurable exposure to printed and digital materials; and
4. Including materials in the collection because of their academic, literary and/or artistic value and merit.

B. Library Materials and Electronic Resources

Library materials or digital services are those items accessible through the library information and technology program that provide support for an area of the curriculum, information for independent study, or resources for enrichment and recreational interest. Electronic resources include access to electronic documents, databases and websites.

C. Suggestions for Acquisition:

Suggestions for acquisition or electronic resources may originate from students, parents, community members and teachers. Library information and technology staff will weigh requests, evaluate materials and select those which fulfill the needs of the instructional program. Teacher-Librarians in each school determine final selections.

D. Selection

1. Sources for the selection of materials and current review journals include but are not limited to: School Library Journal, GoodReads, Follett, and Kirkus Reviews.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

No. P-2021

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2. All items selected for placement in the school library will:
 - a. Support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the State of Washington and Walla Walla School District and the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses;
 - b. Support and be consistent with school library media and information literacy standards established by the American Association of School Librarians as well as content area standards established by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Washington;
 - c. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation from a variety of sources;
 - d. Contain appropriate subject matter for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social development of the students for whom they are selected;
 - e. Serve the intended purpose, in both physical format and appearance for library materials;
 - f. Motivate students and staff to examine their own duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges as participating citizens in our society, and to make informed judgments in their daily lives.

E. Gifts/Donations

Materials donated to the school library will be accepted or declined in accordance with the criteria applied to the purchase of materials.

F. Collection Assessment

De-selection (weeding) of outdated and damaged materials is a natural part of the library's life cycle and maintenance of the quality and integrity of the collection. The Teacher-Librarian will evaluate the library collection on a continuing basis in order to assure that the collection meets the mission statement and goals of the Walla Walla School District.

G. Considerations for De-selection

1. Currency – The subject matter is out of date or no longer relevant to the instructional program;
2. Physical Condition – Item is worn, soiled, missing pages, antiquated in appearance or unattractive;
3. Not circulating for a reasonable amount of time;

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

No. P-2021

Page 3 of 4

4. Superseded by newer editions;
5. Perpetuates cultural, ethnic, or sexual stereotypes;
6. Inappropriate reading level; or
7. Unneeded duplication of materials.

H. Library Materials Review Committee

The Library Materials Review Committee is formed to respond to requests when reconsideration of library media materials is proposed. The committee will consist of at least one school librarian, at least one building principal, at least one member of the Teaching and Learning department, at least one member of the Equity and Dual programs department, and at least one student from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council.

I. Request for Reconsideration of Library Media Materials

When a concern is expressed about library resources, the Teacher-Librarian will consider both the citizen's right to express an opinion and the principles of intellectual freedom.

1. Informal Reconsideration

Persons wishing to make a complaint regarding library resources will be asked to direct their complaint to the Teacher-Librarian. The Teacher-Librarian will attempt to resolve the issue informally by:

- a. Discussing the request with the complainant and listening carefully to the concerns expressed;
- b. Explaining why the material was selected, and how its inclusion in the collection was guided by the district collection development policy/procedure; and
- c. Share review sources for the item in question;
- d. If the informal process does not resolve the matter, the complainant may submit a formal request for reconsideration of library resources. Library materials in question will remain in the collection until the process is completed and a final decision is made.

2. Formal Reconsideration

The Library Materials Review Committee will be consulted when a completed Request for Reconsideration of Library/Media Materials form is received.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

No. P-2021

Page 4 of 4

When reviewing a challenge to library materials the Library Materials Review Committee will:

- a. Examine the Request for Reconsideration form;
- b. Evaluate the book/material in question;
- c. Study available reviews and check for general acceptance by consulting standard evaluation aids and holdings in other schools;
- d. Evaluate the book/material in the context of the educational program and the audience for which it was selected;
- e. Consider the entire work, rather than extracting passages or parts; weighing the values and faults against each other and weighing the conflicting opinions based on the materials as a whole; and
- f. Base the final decision upon the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.

The Library Materials Review Committee will share their finding/response with the requestor. The Committee's decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors, by submitting a written request to the office of the superintendent. The purpose of the Board of Director's review will be to determine whether the committee applied the appropriate criteria and followed the proper process.

The superintendent or designee will notify the concerned parties of the findings of the board's review.

If the correct criteria and process were followed by the Committee, the decision of the committee stands. If it is determined they were not followed, the Board of Directors will determine the outcome of the challenge.

The decision regarding challenged materials will not be subject to reconsideration for a minimum of three years, unless there is a substantive change of circumstances as determined by the superintendent.

Forms:

1. Request for Reconsideration of Library/Media Materials form.

Review Requests and Information Shared With Committee

Information for Book Reviews

1 message

Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>

Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 10:02 AM

To: [REDACTED], Amy Kasenga <akasenga@wwps.org>, Casey Monahan <cmonahan@wwps.org>, Kim Doepker <kdoepker@wwps.org>, Kimberly Cassetto <kcassetto@wwps.org>, Ron Higgins <rhiggins@wwps.org>, Sara Strickland <sstrickland@wwps.org>, Jami Eggart <jjeggart@wwps.org>, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Kristina Duncan <kduncan@wwps.org>

Hello All,

Happy Friday! The purpose of this email is to share with you the review request we received for each book. Attached is a Word doc for each of the requests. I have copied and pasted the content of the request and then added some review information. There are many reviews for the books so I would encourage you to use the resources linked below to look into them further.

Parent and student reviews can be found on: Common Sense Media, <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/> and goodreads, <https://www.goodreads.com>

Kirkus is also a place to get more review information: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>

Additionally, we are going to be able to meet in person at WaHi. I will update the calendar invite to reflect we will be in room SP7.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information ahead of our time together.

Have a great weekend!

Christy Krutulis
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning
Walla Walla Public Schools
(509) 526-6733
"Developing Washington's most sought-after graduates"

3 attachments

-  **The Bluest Eye_December2021.docx**
15K
-  **All Boys Aren't Blue_December 2021.docx**
17K
-  **The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas_December2021.docx**
16K

The Bluest Eye

Community Member Request

I will be reviewing *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. This book is set to be added to the 10th grade recommended reading list.

This was an eye opening review of what our kids are facing in the current cultural climate at school.

This book contains a rape of an 11-year-old girl. Thoughts of a child molester, who sees the act as loving. Physical child abuse and animal torture and abuse and last but, not least, prostitution. The main character is an angry child who thinks others consider white or mixed-race kids prettier or better than black kids. She has feelings of violent anger toward light-skinned people.

There is a lot of profane, rude, and cruel language, to be honest, it is pornographic.

One parent review describes this book as hardcore child porn with incest, rape, and pedophilia.

Here are a few examples:

Pages 162-163: “A bolt of desire ran down his genitals...and softening the lips of his anus. . . . He wanted to f*** her—tenderly. But the tenderness would not hold. The tightness of her vagina was more than he could bear. His soul seemed to slip down his guts and fly out into her, and the gigantic thrust he made into her then provoked the only sound she made. Removing himself from her was so painful to him he cut it short and snatched his genitals out of the dry harbor of her vagina. She appeared to have fainted.”

Page 181: “The little girls are the only things I’ll miss. Do you know that when I touched their sturdy little t*** and bit them—just a little—I felt I was being friendly?—If I’d been hurting them, would they have come back? . . . they’d eat ice cream with their legs open while I played with them. It was like a party.”

Another parent review says all of the following topics are described in detail: orgasms, prostitution, incest, rape, nudity, pornography, molestation, pedophilia, masturbation, sexual dreams, homosexuality, bestiality and sodomy. There is nothing good about this book!

Why would any educator think that this is appropriate or educational? Why would anyone subject their child to these situations, even if they are fictional? What we allow or choose to fill our children’s heads with: things they see, read, or listen to affect them in a huge way.

Please remove this book from the library and also from any recommended reading lists.

External Reviews

Common Sense Media: 15+ 5/5 stars

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Parents need to know that *The Bluest Eye* is the first novel by the late Nobel-prize winning author Toni Morrison, originally published in 1970. Set in 1941 Ohio, the book is a complex investigation of ideas of physical beauty among blacks and whites, and the ways racial attitudes, and other life experiences, damage the lives of these characters. Pecola Breedlove's self-hatred, and her wish for blue eyes, is an outgrowth of the way she's treated by her family and the world in which she lives. Sexual behavior is also very complicated in this novel. Sex acts and feelings between adults are described, and more than one grown man behaves inappropriately with young girls. There is also incest and domestic violence, including the rape of an 11-year-old girl. Teen readers may need some adult guidance to understand the world of the novel, in which many characters seem driven by emotional and sexual feelings they can't control. Because of the book's edgy content, there have been efforts to ban it from schools and libraries.

Kirkus:

This soil," concludes the young narrator of this quiet chronicle of garrotted innocence, "is bad for all kinds of flowers. Certain seeds it will not nurture, certain fruit it will not bear." And among the exclusions of white rural Ohio, echoed by black respectability, is ugly, black, loveless, twelve-year-old Pecola. But in a world where blue-eyed gifts are clucked over and admired, and the Pecolas are simply not seen, there is always the possibility of the dream and wish—for blue eyes. Born of a mother who adjusted her life to the clarity and serenity of white households and "acquired virtues that were easy to maintain" and a father, Cholly, stunted by early rejections and humiliations, Pecola just might have been loved—for in raping his daughter Cholly did at least touch her. But "Love is never better than the lover," and with the death of her baby, the child herself, accepting absolutely the gift of blue eyes from a faith healer (whose perverse interest in little girls does not preclude understanding), inches over into madness. A skillful understated tribute to the fall of a sparrow for whose small tragedy there was no watching eye.

All Boys Aren't Blue

Community Member Request

This book seems to be getting a lot of press recently so I decided to check it out. I am quite appalled by its content. We are pushing sexual experiences and perversion on our children and introducing them to things that hopefully they will never encounter. In high school the focus should be on academics and preparing them to be successful adults. We are to encourage, support and bring stability and positivity to the students. In this book it continually talks about how white people and white historical figures have down played the oppression of black people. This does not send the message that we all belong here. This book was written by an activist with a very clear agenda. Schools in 7 different states have already removed this book from their school library. I will quote a few reviews that I think explain why this book has been removed and should be removed from the WaHi Library.

Direct from Amazon:

“He didn’t know I was a virgin, and I did my best to act dominant like my favorite porn star,” the book continued.

“For the first few minutes, we dry humped and grinded,” another passage read. “I was behind him with my stomach on his back as we kissed ... he pulled out some condom and some lube ... I had never done it before ... I had one point of reference, though, and that was seven-plus years of watching pornography. Although the porn was heterosexual, it was enough of a reference point to get the job done.”

This book is porn. It is being out in high schools and it is completely inappropriate for young readers. Graphic anal sex is described. This needs to be banned from schools. - Amazon Review

This is NOT young adult fiction. It is PORN written in the “familiar” tone of YA. I find the descriptions in this book absolutely filthy, especially given the proposed audience for this text and the fact that it has been made available in elementary, middle school, and high school libraries across the country. What in the world is going on? If an adult chooses to read this text, that is an informed choice. However, to market this kind of pornography to unsuspecting, impressionable, not-yet-fully-developed CHILDREN is unconscionable. What have we become as a society if we allow this constant grooming and sexualization of our children to occur? Anyone who thinks this is book is sound reading for a child needs their head examined. A 100% thumbs down for this one! – Amazon Review

The Trigger warnings surrounding this book should be enough to warrant a review:

- Blood
- Cancer
- Death (in family)
- Homophobia

- Incest, child molestation, sexual assault
- Physical assault
- Racism
- Rape
- Sexual content
- Sexual abuse
- Slurs
- Violence
- Pedophilia and Grooming
- PTSD and Trauma

Please remove this book from the WaHi library as it is pornographic, and you are supplying pornography to minors.

External Reviews

Goodreads 4.28/5 (16,461 reviews)

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/44280883-all-boys-aren-t-blue>

Kirkus: 14+

Centers the experiences, desires, and agency of a queer Black boy navigating his evolving selfhood and the challenges of society's conditional love for his truthful existence.

Queer Black existence has been here forever, and yet rarely has that experience been spotlighted within literature aimed at Black boyhood. This is the context in which this “memoir-manifesto” begins, as Johnson, a still relatively young 33-year-old journalist and activist, debuts his unfolding life story within a vacuum of representation. These stories wrestle with “joy and pain...triumph and tragedy” across many heavy topics—gender policing, sexual abuse, institutional violence—but with a view to freedom on the horizon. Through the witnessing of Johnson’s intimate accounts, beginning with his middle-class New Jersey childhood and continuing through his attendance at a historically Black university in Virginia, readers are invited on their own paths to healing, self-care, and living one’s truth. Those who see themselves outside the standpoint of being Black and queer are called in toward accountability, clarifying an understanding of the history, language, and actions needed to transform the world—not in pity for the oppressed but in the liberation of themselves. This title opens new doors, as the author insists that we don’t have to anchor stories such as his to tragic ends: “Many of us are still here. Still living and waiting for our stories to be told—to tell them ourselves.”

A critical, captivating, merciful mirror for growing up Black and queer today. (*Memoir. 14-adult*)

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Community Member Request:

This book's focus seems to have very little positive elements. It is inspired by the BLM movement. An unarmed teen boy shot and killed and we see him die, it is very descriptive. Reports of shootings and deaths as a result. A boy and woman are badly beaten. An older gentleman is attacked by a group of young men. All of this very graphic about injuries. A young girl dies in a drive-by shooting and her blood is described as mingling with the fire hydrant water. Sexual situations include teens engaging in heavy petting, talk about having sex and condoms. Teens drink alcohol and smoking marijuana at a party. Adults are described as being addicted to drugs, addiction to crack cocaine is discussed, and both teens and adults are described as selling drugs. These are the main ideas of the book.

Some examples of the explicit language.

The language is excessive. You can not go one page without horrible, disrespectful language.

There are 90 F words in this book, 200 shit words, 16 Bitch and 10 N-words and only 350 pages. Lots of F*** the Police chants near the end and motherF***'s.

If translated directly to a movie it would be R rated. In order to make this into PG 13 movie they were required to have a maximum of 2 F-words and they removed the mature content. We are de-sensitizing kids to this vulgar language and making it seem appropriate.

Examples of explicit sexual references.

Grinding, condoms, birth control, and there's discussion of teen pregnancy. A woman is revealed to be a sex worker. Drugs and sex seem to go together in this book.

Parents are often portrayed as dumb, lazy or outdated.

Many have described it as another anti police/police brutality book spreading the narrative that all shootings of black people happen because of racism.

Character follows the Panther's 10 point program (Marxism) and talks throughout the book about the Panthers/Marxism. Famous Marxist leaders are highlighted Malcom X, black Panthers, and Huey Newton.

Spread the theory that the entire system is against black people: government is targeting their community to sell drugs to keep the black man down, corporate America doesn't hire black people, criminal justice system is to keep black people locked in jail. Propogates the idea that all white people are prejudiced against all races.

It may feed racial polarization and continue the stereotypes into the next generation instead of creating new representations. This is not a good way to keep teenagers engaged.

For me as a parent this would not be an acceptable book. It is very one sided and jaded in its approach to solving real world problems. I respectfully ask that due to the nature of the topic, due to graphic language that this book be removed from the library.

External Reviews

Common Sense Media: Age 13+ 4/5 Stars

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW: Parents need to know that *The Hate U Give* is based on Angie Thomas' award-winning book about Starr Carter (Amandla Stenberg), a black teen who witnesses the fatal police shooting of a close friend. Like the acclaimed novel, the movie deals frankly and powerfully with race and racism. It also addresses the tension between the police and the communities they're supposed to serve and protect and the differences between teens growing up in predominantly African American neighborhoods and those from affluent white neighborhoods. Moments of violence are realistic and often upsetting: A cop shoots an unarmed teen (some blood is shown), gunshots break out at a party, characters brandish and fire guns and get into a tense confrontation with the police, tear gas is deployed during a peaceful protest, two classmates push each other, a stepfather beats his stepson, a store is set on fire with people inside, and more. Language isn't constant but includes one "f--k," a few uses of "s--t," etc. Teens talk about sex, but no more than kissing is shown; there's also a little bit of drinking by both teens and adults, smoking by minor characters, and discussion of drug dealing. Families who watch will have plenty of big issues to discuss afterward; hopefully teens will also appreciate the movie's messages about standing up for what you believe in, being proud of who you are, and communicating honestly with your parents and friends.

Kirkus: Age 14+

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter is a black girl and an expert at navigating the two worlds she exists in: one at Garden Heights, her black neighborhood, and the other at Williamson Prep, her suburban, mostly white high school.

Walking the line between the two becomes immensely harder when Starr is present at the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil, by a white police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Khalil's death becomes national news, where he's called a thug and possible drug dealer and gangbanger. His death becomes justified in the eyes of many, including one of Starr's best friends at school. The police's lackadaisical attitude sparks anger and then protests in the community, turning it into a war zone. Questions remain about what happened in the moments leading to Khalil's death, and the only witness is Starr, who must now decide what to say or do, if anything. Thomas cuts to the heart of the matter for Starr and for so many like her, laying bare the systemic racism that undergirds her world, and she does so honestly and inescapably, balancing heartbreak and humor. With smooth but powerful prose delivered in Starr's natural, emphatic voice, finely nuanced characters, and intricate and realistic relationship dynamics, this novel will have readers rooting for Starr and opening their hearts to her friends and family.

This story is necessary. This story is important. (*Fiction. 14-adult*)

Fwd: Information for Book Reviews

1 message

Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>

Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 2:03 PM

To: [REDACTED], Sara Strickland <sstrickland@wwps.org>, Amy Kasenga <akasenga@wwps.org>, Jami Eggart <jjeggart@wwps.org>, Kimberly Cassetto <kcassetto@wwps.org>, Casey Monahan <cmonahan@wwps.org>, Kim Doepker <kdoepker@wwps.org>, Ron Higgins <rhiggins@wwps.org>, [REDACTED], Kristina Duncan <kduncan@wwps.org>

Hi All,

Please see below. I erroneously included the movie review instead of the book review.

Thanks,

Christy Krutulis
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning
Walla Walla Public Schools
(509) 526-6733
"Developing Washington's most sought-after graduates"

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sara Strickland <sstrickland@wwps.org>
Date: Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 1:59 PM
Subject: Re: Information for Book Reviews
To: Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>

Hi Christy,

The Common Sense Media Review listed on The Hate You Give document is the review of the movie, not the book. Below is the review of the book.

Common Sense Media's Book (not movie) review

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW- Parents need to know that Angie Thomas' *New York Times* best-selling book *The Hate U Give* won a 2018 Coretta Scott King Author Honor, a Michael L. Printz Honor, and the Odyssey Award for best audiobook for kids and teens. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, it involves the police shooting of an unarmed black teen. The book covers topics of race, interracial dating, political activism, grief, friendship, wealth disparity, police brutality, addiction, and the media's depiction of African Americans. Parents should be prepared to discuss recent and past instances of police shootings, how they were covered in the media, dealing with grief, and possible reactions to the trauma revealed in the book. There is some conversational swearing by both adults and teens throughout the novel, including "s--t," "f--k," "ass," "bitch," "damn" (and variants), and "nigga." Violence includes an unarmed teen boy shot and killed -- we see the blood and see him die. There are other reports of shootings and deaths as a result. A boy is badly beaten. A woman is described as being beaten. An older gentleman is attacked by a group of young men; we don't see the attack but we see the injuries. A young girl dies in a drive-by shooting and her blood is described as mingling with the fire hydrant water. There are school fights between girls and

boys. Buildings are set on fire during riots. Sexual situations include teens engaging in heavy petting, talk about having sex and condoms. There's discussion of teen pregnancy and the assumption that a married couple is having sex when they go to their bedroom and turn the television up loud. A woman is revealed to be a sex worker. Teens drink alcohol and smoke marijuana at a party. Two adult characters are alcoholics. Adults are described as being addicted to drugs, addiction to crack cocaine is discussed, and both teens and adults are described as selling drugs. Age 13+ 5/5 stars

Thanks!

Sara Strickland

(she/her)

Staff Tech Request

Find me on GoodReads: [goodreads.com/sarajunglelynn](https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/sarajunglelynn)

(Check out the library's project page: [DonorsChoose](#))



Library Media Specialist

Library Technician

Building Technology Coordinator

Building Assessment Coordinator

Pioneer Middle School

509-527-3050

Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his needs, is good for him. —Maya Angelou

On Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 10:03 AM Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org> wrote:

Hello All,

Happy Friday! The purpose of this email is to share with you the review request we received for each book. Attached is a Word doc for each of the requests. I have copied and pasted the content of the request and then added some review information. There are many reviews for the books so I would encourage you to use the resources linked below to look into them further.

Parent and student reviews can be found on: Common Sense Media, <https://www.common Sense Media.org/> and goodreads, <https://www.goodreads.com>

Kirkus is also a place to get more review information: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>

Additionally, we are going to be able to meet in person at WaHi. I will update the calendar invite to reflect we will be in room SP7.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information ahead of our time together.

Have a great weekend!

Christy Krutulis

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

Walla Walla Public Schools

(509) 526-6733

"Developing Washington's most sought-after graduates"

Meeting Agenda

Library Materials Review Committee
December 15, 2021

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Norms
- Overview of process to meet the purpose of the review committee
- Discuss each book individually
 - The Hate U Give
 - All Boys Aren't Blue
 - The Bluest Eye

Overview of Process:

Using the criteria outlined in the Procedures for 2021, the committee will review the specific aspects of each request against the aspects of Procedure 2021 outlined below.

Each committee member will have the opportunity to respond to the concerns raised about the materials. Once each member has had the opportunity to share, a discussion will follow. A final decision on the appropriateness of the material will be reached through consensus.

Procedure 2021 guidance for committee:

When reviewing a challenge to library materials the Library Materials Review Committee will:

- a. Examine the Request for Reconsideration form;
- b. Evaluate the book/material in question;
- c. Study available reviews and check for general acceptance by consulting standard evaluation aids and holdings in other schools;
- d. Evaluate the book/material in the context of the educational program and the audience for which it was selected;
- e. Consider the entire work, rather than extracting passages or parts; weighing the values and faults against each other and weighing the conflicting opinions based on the materials as a whole; and
- f. Base the final decision upon the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.

Consideration for de-selection:

1. Currency – The subject matter is out of date or no longer relevant to the instructional program;
2. Physical Condition – Item is worn, soiled, missing pages, antiquated in appearance or unattractive;
3. Not circulating for a reasonable amount of time;
4. Superseded by newer editions;
5. Perpetuates cultural, ethnic, or sexual stereotypes;
6. Inappropriate reading level; or
7. Unneeded duplication of materials.

All items selected for placement in the school library will:

- a. Support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the State of Washington and Walla Walla School District and the aims and objectives of individual schools and specific courses;
- b. Support and be consistent with school library media and information literacy standards established by the American Association of School Librarians as well as content area standards established by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Washington;
- c. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation from a variety of sources;
- d. Contain appropriate subject matter for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social development of the students for whom they are selected;
- e. Serve the intended purpose, in both physical format and appearance for library materials;
- f. Motivate students and staff to examine their own duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges as participating citizens in our society, and to make informed judgments in their daily lives.

2nd Meeting

Library Materials Review Committee

1 message

Christy Krutulis <ckrutulis@wwps.org>

Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 9:43 AM

To: [REDACTED], Amy Kasenga <akasenga@wwps.org>, Casey Monahan <cmonahan@wwps.org>, Jami Eggart <jjeggart@wwps.org>, Kim Doepker <kdoepker@wwps.org>, Kimberly Cassetto <kcassetto@wwps.org>, Kristina Duncan <kduncan@wwps.org>, Ron Higgins <rhiggins@wwps.org>, Sara Strickland <sstrickland@wwps.org>, [REDACTED]

Hello Review Committee,

First, thank you for your time and engagement this morning. I appreciate your honest comments. At the end of the week I'll share our recommendations with the community member and notify the board. For those of you who asked for a copy of, *Gender Queer*, the books have been ordered and I'll email you as soon as I have them. As we plan ahead to review this book and, *The Bluest Eyes*, I have created a Doodle Poll. Below is the link. If you could respond by this Friday before the end of the day, that would be great. I'll follow up with a calendar invite to hold a day and time.

https://doodle.com/poll/3nm9twtu4b72d2w9?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

Please let me know if you have any questions, or other feedback for how to improve our process. I'm open to suggestions. Have a wonderful week Winter Break and I'll check back when we return.

Thank you,

Christy Krutulis
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning
Walla Walla Public Schools
(509) 526-6733
"Developing Washington's most sought-after graduates"

Information Shared With Committee

I'm writing you to express my concerns about the book **Gender Queer** by Maia Kobabe. In my opinion it should not be permitted in WWPS school libraries. For reference, please see the attached page from the book. Please view it when children are not within eye-shot as it is quite graphic. My apologies for having to attach this picture but I believe it is necessary for the purpose of what I'm about to say.

One could argue the images are but mere cartoons, but I think they have the same effect as viewing photographic pornography. The unfortunate difference is this book features young people in sexual acts. My gravest concern is the images can plant seeds of curiosity in kids which may lead to explorative sexual behavior before they are developmentally prepared. If available in a school library, this book will command a perceived legitimacy that I don't believe is in the best interest of our children.

My research of the RCW has additionally led me to believe this book could come under legal scrutiny if challenged. Highlights are my own.

RCW 9.68.050.

For the purposes of RCW [9.68.050](#) through [9.68.120](#):

(1) "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen years;

(2) "Erotic material" means printed material, photographs, pictures, motion pictures, sound recordings, and other material the dominant theme of which taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest of minors in sex; which is patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sexual matters or sado-masochistic abuse; and is utterly without redeeming social value;

(3) "Person" means any individual, corporation, or other organization;

(4) "Dealers", "distributors", and "exhibitors" mean persons engaged in the distribution, sale, or exhibition of printed material, photographs, pictures, motion pictures, or sound recordings.

I can't think of even the most progressive parent who would approve of their children being exposed to this book, especially within the confines of their taxpayer supported public school system. This is neither Sex-Ed nor Anatomy. These images are not clinical nor descriptive for the purpose of teaching. They are graphic and lewd and do not belong in our school library system.

The disgust in reading the description from the subject of the book, depicting in detail her masturbating while pretending to be male and the imagery she uses in pretending to have a penis and describing receiving oral sex. Even worse are the pictures of two naked males, describing the "Hip Thrust" in having sex and on and on. Later the subject is asked if she has ever tasted her "own vaginal fluid" and if not WHY????

Review Committee Recommendation - Gender Queer: A Memoir

The committee identified reasons for retaining access to the book in libraries serving high school students

Subject: Review Committee Recommendation, *Gender Queer: A Memoir*

Per Regulation 3009 [ⓧ <http://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/board.nsf/goto?open&id=867sl22a8f3b>](http://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/board.nsf/goto?open&id=867sl22a8f3b), a committee made up of a high school administrator, two high school librarians, two parents of high school students, two high school students, and a specialist from the Office of Equity and Family Engagement met on October 26, 2021 to review the request for reconsideration of the book *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe and its inclusion in FCPS libraries.

Each member read the book in its entirety and reviewed the submitted reconsideration forms and packet of information provided. After deliberate and lengthy discussions on the potential merits and concerns of the book as a literary work and the potential merits and concerns associated with retaining or removing access to the book from students using school libraries, the committee unanimously recommends that *Gender Queer: A Memoir* remain in FCPS libraries that serve high school students.

The committee reviewed and discussed the concerns in detail and determined that this book constitutes literary work and that access to the book in school libraries is appropriate.

The committee related the following merits of the book as a work of literature:

- The book is a well-written, scientifically based narrative of one person's journey with gender identity that contains information and perspective that is not widely represented. This depiction includes the difficulties nonbinary and asexual individuals may face. The book has literary value in its structure, voice, and themes and has won literary awards.
- Students with a related experience will feel affirmed and others can gain understanding and empathy.
- The resources referenced in the book provide access to additional, reliable information.
- The book neither depicts nor describes pedophilia.

In response to the complaint, the committee spent considerable time reviewing Code of Virginia §18.2-376. The committee also reviewed other statutes including, §18.2-372, "Obscene" defined; §18.2-391, Advertising, etc., obscene items, exhibitions or performances, and an excerpt from the *FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook* pertaining to possessing obscene visual imagery as defined in the Code of Virginia.

"The word 'obscene' where it appears in this article shall mean that which, considered as a whole, has as its dominant theme or purpose an appeal to the prurient interest in sex, that is, a shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, excretory functions or products thereof or sadomasochistic abuse, and which goes substantially beyond customary limits of candor in description or representation of such matters and which, taken as a whole, does not have serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value" (§18.2-372).

"'Harmful to juveniles' means that quality of any description or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse, when it (a) predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful or morbid interest of juveniles, (b) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for juveniles, and (c) is, when taken as a whole, lacking in serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for juveniles." (§18.2-390 (6)).

After deliberations regarding the Code of Virginia and its relationship to this book, the committee identified the following reasons for retaining access to the book in libraries serving high school students:

- The images contained within the book do not qualify as obscene per the definition in the Code of Virginia §18.2-372. The book is also not “harmful to juveniles” as defined in §18.2-390 (6).
- Code of Virginia § 18.2-376, advertising obscene items, exhibitions or performances is inapplicable. (It is important to note that according to the Code of Virginia §18.2-391.1, nothing contained in Article 6, Prohibited Sales and Loans to Juveniles, shall be construed to apply to “[t]he purchase, distribution, exhibition, or loan of any work of art, book, magazine, or other printed or manuscript material by any accredited museum, library, school, or institution of higher education.”)
- The book aligns with FCPS Regulation 2603 supporting members of the gender-expansive community and affirming individuals in their identity.
- The book was appropriately added to library collections in accordance with FCPS Regulation 3013, School Library Collection Development.
- The book aligns with FCPS School Library Regulation 3012 to curate collections that represent the diversity found in society and school communities. Additionally, Regulation 3012 outlines the operation of school libraries and access to library books based on student choice.

To comply with the Regulation 3009 [↗ <http://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/board.nsf/goto?open&id=867sl22a8f3b>](http://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/board.nsf/goto?open&id=867sl22a8f3b) timeline, a decision should be communicated to those who submitted reconsideration forms on or before December 3, 2021. Please let me know if you would like to discuss the committee recommendation or need additional information.

CANUTILLO, Texas -- Canutillo Independent School District will return an LGBTQ-themed book to its high school library following a formal review into a parent's complaint that the graphic novel was inappropriate because it contained sexually explicit content.

A nine-member committee of educators, librarians and parents voted 8-1 Tuesday for author Maia Kobabe's "Gender Queer: A Memoir" to remain on Canutillo High School library's shelves for students to check out, the district announced Wednesday.

"The committee carefully examined the content of the book based on a rubric to determine factors such as its artistic quality and/or literary style; age appropriateness of the subject area; ability for readers to gain an awareness of a pluralistic society and capacity to provide information to motivate students and staff to examine their own attitudes and behavior to make informed choices in their daily lives," the committee said in a statement.

"Gender Queer" is one of a handful of books parents and conservative state lawmakers across the country have attempted to ban from public schools. Most are written by LGBTQ authors and writers of color and explore gender, sexuality and systematic racism.

"Gender Queer" chronicles Kobabe's journey to identifying as nonbinary and asexual. Its publisher, Simon & Schuster, [describes it](#) as "a useful and touching guide on gender identity -- what it means and how to think about it -- for advocates, friends, and humans everywhere" and recommends it for readers in 10th grade and above.

Canutillo administrators temporarily pulled the district's sole copy from the high school library's shelves in late October after parent Breanne Barnes filed a formal objection, or challenge, seeking to remove it from the library's collection. The school principal appointed the 11 members of the reconsideration committee who read the book in its entirety.

Barnes [previously told El Paso Matters](#) her objection had "nothing to do with LGBTQ versus heterosexual content" but rather with the book's "pornographic" images and descriptions, which include depictions of oral sex and masturbation.

Barnes could not be immediately reached Wednesday for comment about the committee's decision. She previously indicated she would not be satisfied until the book is permanently removed from the library, and would possibly file a grievance with the school board.

At least one Texas district has pulled Kobabe's book from its library shelves without going through a formal book reconsideration process. The Keller

Independent School District, which is near Fort Worth, removed the book in late October after a parent's Twitter post that called the book "legitimate visual porn" gained traction.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott highlighted that decision in a Nov. 8 letter to state education officials urging them to develop "statewide standards to prevent the presence of pornography and other obscene content in Texas public schools, including in school libraries."

Texas Library Association's President-Elect Mary Woodward said pornography is not in school libraries.

The Katy Independent School District outside Houston and North East Independent School District in San Antonio have removed other books about LGBTQ relationships without going through the reconsideration process. The districts said the books contained "vulgar" content.

The National Coalition Against Censorship denounced actions those actions, which it said violate students' First Amendment rights

"The law clearly prohibits the kind of activities we are seeing today: censoring school libraries, removing books -- and entire reading lists -- based on disagreement with viewpoint and without any review of their educational or literary merit," the NCAC said in a Wednesday statement that more than 600 organizations, publishers, bookstores, librarians and authors signed onto, including Kobabe.

"Libraries offer students the opportunity to encounter books and other material that they might otherwise never see and the freedom to make their own choices about what to read," the statement continues. "Denying young people this freedom to explore -- often on the basis of a single controversial passage cited out of context -- will limit not only what they can learn but who they can become."