

St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
March 27, 2023
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.
Mandeville, LA 70471
6:30 P.M.

Public Comment: A three (3) minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the Agenda. **Note: In the case of a Statement of Concern decision, the person who filed the Statement of Concern is given 5 minutes to speak.**

AGENDA

Call to order by President and Roll Call by Director

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control that was held on February 28, 2023.
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
2. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Financial Reports – February 2023
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
 - B. Director’s Report
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - C. Resolution to extend time to allow for procedural due process of undecided statements of concern
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
 - D. Statement of Concern Decision – *I am Jazz*
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote

- E. Statement of Concern Decision – *Julian is a Mermaid*
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote

- F. Statement of Concern Decision – *My Rainbow*
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote

- G. Statement of Concern Decision – *When Aidan Became a Brother*
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote

- H. Statement of Concern Decision – *The Bluest Eye*
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote

- I. Resolution Regarding Surplus Property
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote

- J. Executive Session for the Annual Evaluation of the Director pursuant to La R.S. 42:17(1)
 - *2/3 majority vote of members present required to go into executive session
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote

3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Planning Committee Update
- B. Library Foundation Update
- C. Friends of the Library Updates

4. Public Comment

5. Adjournment

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
February 28, 2023
Madisonville Branch
1123 Main St.
Madisonville, LA 70447
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca (Becky) Taylor, President. Kelly LaRocca, Director, called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

Present: Jake Airey (arrived during section 2A), Carmen Butler, Mary Reneau, Ann Shaw, Becky Taylor

Absent: Dr. Argiro Morgan

B. Taylor announced that Jake Airey has replaced Bill Allin on the Library Board of Control. She explained that the purpose of the board meeting is to conduct the business of the Library Board of Control. She explained the rules for attendees and stated the procedure for public comment. A three-minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the Agenda.

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control that was held on January 24, 2023.

Discussion: There were no suggested corrections to the minutes.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: M. Reneau moved to approve the January 24, 2023 meeting minutes. It was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, and two were absent. Motion carried.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Reports – January 2023

Discussion: K. LaRocca reported that \$7,782,463.08 was received in Ad Valorem Revenue. The first of three equal payments of \$86,171.77 was received in State Revenue Sharing. The budget percentage for the end of January should be 8.33%. Revenues are at 8.40% and Expenditures are

at 9.76%. K. LaRocca explained that some expenditure lines are spent earlier or later in the year, depending on when the payments are due. The Workers' Compensation line is at 48.59% because a large portion of it is due at the beginning of the year. The Publication of Legal Notices line is at 36.67% due to the length of the meeting minutes that are published in the St. Tammany Farmer. The Grounds and Lawn Maintenance line is at 11.18% because of cleanup that is done at the beginning of the year.

The Polaris Maintenance and Web Design Consultants lines are expended at the beginning of the year. The Pest Control line is at 14.57% because a large portion is due at the beginning of the year. Most of the funds in the General Liability Insurance line are expended at the beginning of the year. The Office Supplies line is at 11.04% due to increasing supply costs and will be adjusted in the budget amendment. Some Programming lines are above budget due to purchasing the supplies needed for Spring programming. The PC Network line is at 64.32% due to purchasing computers that are due for replacement this year. The Lease/Purchase Books line is at 98.93% because we have paid for all leased book credits for the year.

A. Shaw asked about the Lease/Purchase line and whether or not there are still funds to purchase patron requests. K. LaRocca explained that the leased books program is a different process than purchasing items for the collection. The library pays for a certain number of lease credits for the year. As popular titles are released, the library leases a number of copies to keep the patron waiting list time shorter. The leased books are returned to the vendor when the titles are no longer popular. The credits are paid at the beginning of the year so that books can be rotated in and out through the year.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: C. Butler moved to approve the January 2023 Financial Reports. It was seconded by M. Reneau. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. (J. Airey arrived before the vote.) Motion carried.

B. 2023 Spring Budget Amendment

Discussion: K. LaRocca explained the differences in revenue and expenditure forecasts between the 2023 Original Budget and the 2023 Spring Amendment. State Revenue sharing has been adjusted upward to reflect the first payment of this year. The Fines and Fees line is adjusted upward due to increased circulation and printing. Interest Income is adjusted upward as the current economy has significantly affected interest rates. Most of the increases and decreases in expenditures are based on how the library ended 2022, increased supply costs, and the Annex building replacement. K. LaRocca reviewed adjustments to budget lines with explanations for each adjustment. The Board was provided with the budget amendment and savings spreadsheet

along with the explanations. The current Unassigned Savings is \$452,021, which puts the library in a good position to begin work on goals identified during the strategic planning process.

The Budget Analysis shows an overall increase in revenue of \$83,887 due to more Ad Valorem funds as part of normal growth and an increase in interest income. The amendment shows an increase in expenditures of \$86,803 to cover the increased costs of supplies, cybersecurity measures, new laptops for the Slidell Branch, and the Technical Services building move. The budget is balanced, leaving \$752 of revenue unbudgeted.

M. Reneau asked what happens to the old laptops. K. LaRocca explained that in the past they have been used by staff during the pandemic while they were working from home. They can be declared surplus with the option to discard if they are unusable or to pass them onto non-profits or schools who can use them.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

K. LaRocca read the resolution aloud.

Vote: M. Reneau moved to approve the 2023 Spring Budget Amendment. It was seconded by C. Butler. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

C. COVID Leave Policy and Procedure Renewal

Discussion: B. Geiger reviewed the COVID Policy that was approved on March 29, 2022 and expired at the end of 2022. The Board has the option of extending COVID leave for 2023. The policy gives full-time employees 40 hours of COVID leave and part-time employees 20 hours of COVID leave. B. Geiger reported that there were 45 employees who used COVID leave in 2022 for a total of 1338 hours, and the total cost to the library was \$22,673.

B. Taylor asked if there was a reduction in the number of COVID cases towards the end of 2022. B. Geiger stated that the cases stayed consistent through the year and he did not notice a spike or reduction.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: C. Butler moved to approve the COVID Leave Policy and Procedure Renewal for 2023. It was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

D. Admin Building Lease Renewal

Discussion: K. LaRocca reported that the current lease for the Administration Building at 1112 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433 will expire on March 31, 2023. The library has the option to renew for two years. The terms of the current lease remain the same. The Board will need to vote in order to take the option and extend the lease. There is a typo on the lease that will need to be corrected before signing. Section two should state the term as two years, not five. The lease renewal shall commence on April 1, 2023 and terminate on March 31, 2025. The cost of the lease will be \$5,488.23 each month and the rate will increase each year due to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. Emily Couvillon, legal counsel, noted a misspelling on page 12. Number 34 should state the word Subordination.

Public Comment: J.P. Warner – Asked if the Admin building could be sub-leased if the library leaves before the two-year term is reached. K. LaRocca stated that we do not have plans to leave prior to the completion of the two-year term.

Vote: C. Butler moved to approve the Admin Building Lease Renewal. It was seconded by M. Reneau. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

E. Extension of the Hwy. 36 Lease

Discussion: K. LaRocca reported that the current lease for the Technical Services/Maintenance building (Annex) will expire on April 30, 2023. Our new building is likely to be under construction starting in March. Construction is estimated to last 90 days. The library has the opportunity to extend the lease until June 30, 2023 at the same rate of \$3,000 per month. The same conditions as the previous lease apply, except that Maintenance will need to move their items into storage. The building owner owns a carpet company and would like to use the back of the warehouse to store carpet. The Board will need to vote to extend the lease.

M. Reneau asked what would happen if the new Annex building is not ready by June 30th. K. LaRocca stated that the Technical Services Department would have to temporarily move into a library meeting room, though she does not anticipate that happening. A. Shaw asked if we will incur additional expenses by moving the Maintenance Department's items into storage. K. LaRocca stated that the move will be minimal and on a month-to-month basis, as we will be discarding old and unusable items.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: M. Reneau moved to approve the extension of the Hwy. 36 lease. It was seconded by C. Butler. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

F. Resolution Regarding Graphic Novels

Discussion: K. LaRocca introduced a resolution regarding graphic novels that depict sexual conduct. This is different from the two previous resolutions that were considered. This resolution is narrower and only applies to graphic novels that depict sexual conduct as recently defined by the Attorney General. K. LaRocca met with Technical Services and they estimated the library has 1,728 titles that are graphic novels. She is only currently aware of five that this resolution would affect. She stated that we will have to review all 1,728 titles to check for sexual conduct as defined in the resolution and Exhibit A. Staff would be assigned to review the titles during their work day.

E. Couvillon recommended proceeding with public comment and then returning to discussion by the Board. The Board agreed.

Public Comment: Diane Bruni – Stated that literature in books form images in your mind. Referenced the book *Oryx and Crake*. Stated that the book references bestiality, rape, and naked children. Stated that it is not appropriate for children or adults and is a pollution of the human spirit. Told the Board that if they are Christian and not standing up to this, shame on them. Stated that God sent her to the meeting to warn that there is a millstone being prepared for people who allow this to go on.

Sonnet Ireland – Stated that Shakespeare, the Bible, classical literature, and Greek mythology have references to bestiality as well. Shared a story of her mother passing away due to cancer and how graphic novels helped her through that loss. Spoke in general about the beauty of finding books you never knew you needed. Stated that visual components such as graphic novels help those most vulnerable, as Louisiana is the 5th state in the country with the lowest literacy rate.

Roxanne Newman – Stated that the determination of obscenity requires that the average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the conduct taken as a whole would appeal to prurient interests, is presented in an offensive way, and lacks literary, political, or scientific value. She asked when staff will have the time to review an additional 1,728 books in their entirety in addition to the 150 challenged books. Stated it is red flagging and is a slippery slope.

Ruth Terry Sipos – Stated that passing the resolution would cause shame for those seeking the books in question. Stated that it appears to be logical and may get the library off the hot seat, but no one should have to ask permission to access the books, as it opens people up to judgement, is unnecessary and harmful.

Erin Kennedy – Spoke of her past experience reading over 500 graphic novels. Stated that the library does abide by obscenity laws. Stated that most graphic novels intended for mature audiences are found on the Hoopla app, which is regulated by Hoopla and has its own rating system. Asked why there are 150 challenged books if there are only 5 items that may be considered obscene.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Stated that she is new to graphic novels because they have been central to this issue. Stated that she has more empathy for those represented in the books. Stated that authors of banned books are thankful that their readership numbers have soared. Stated the graphic novels challenged in our system are already in the adult section and she trusts the librarians to follow the standards that have worked for 50 years.

Joan Simon – Stated that the resolution is an effort to satisfy a group of people who have already stated that they are not satisfied with the resolution. Stated that the St. Tammany Parish Library system is excellent and has done everything necessary to safeguard children from a manufactured, non-existent threat.

Jeri Creson – Stated that the accountability group presents things out of context for shock value to mislead our community. Referenced the book *Beyond Magenta*, noting that Connie Phillips stated in the Statement of Concern that it should be shelved in the adult non-fiction section. J. Creson stated that the book is already shelved in the adult non-fiction section, not the children's section.

Jonathan Varnado – Stated that he agrees that enough is enough and would rather be reading than fighting book bans. Shared a story of how books played a role in his life. Stated that the library was a lifeline for him as a child and while he was deployed in Iraq. Stated that it is ironic that he is now in Madisonville, LA in the United States of America standing up against censorship and radical fundamentalism.

Margie Vicknair-Pray – Stated that she first saw pictures of nude people in National Geographic at the Slidell Library when she was a child, yet National Geographic was never removed from the library. Stated that censorship is about control over others accessing information and is not what the library system is for. Stated that she knows some teenagers who only read graphic

novels. Stated that parents should be in control of what their children learn. Stated that adults and even young adults should have the right to choose what they read.

Camille Thompson – Asked when are we going to do something about protecting children. Stated that there are age restrictions on smoking and getting a driver’s license, and there is an appropriate time and age for children to learn about sex. Stated that she would like her tax money to go towards books that teach children about honesty, courage, hard work, perseverance, selflessness, cooperation, generosity, patriotism, self-control, Godliness and virtue.

Fran Smith – Stated that her brother read books like these, he hurt her, and was a pedophile. Stated that the library is a beautiful building that provides porn for young children. Stated she does not see how reading these books helps people. She read the summary for the book *Push*. Stated the book contains themes such as explicit sexual activity, incest, molestation, nudity, frequent profanity, derogatory terms, controversial racial commentary, drug use, and self-harm. Stated that reading things like this hurts your mind and soul.

Kitty Carmody – Stated that she is terribly sorry for the previous speaker’s experiences. Regarding the mention of bestiality, she stated that she views it as more of a cautionary story, rather than glorifying bestiality. Stated that some books portray people who have suffered at the hands of a molester. Stated that putting books behind the counter because of sexual content excludes victims who might see themselves in these books and are seeking help. Stated that they are less likely to ask a librarian for a book if it is behind the desk.

Christian Suprean – Stated that he loves everyone here and does not judge anyone. Stated that we have to keep this away from kids. Stated that the author of the book *Gender Queer* writes about masturbating while thinking about his gay-ish relationship. Stated that it is a comic book for kids, not adults, no matter where it is located in the library. Stated that the library should not have pornography and pedophilia.

Jeannene Kogler – Spoke about the book *Living Dead Girl*. Stated the main character was abducted by a pedophile at the age of 10 and he abused her for five years. Asked if this book is one of the books that was pulled from the shelves. K. LaRocca stated that it is currently behind the circulation desk while it is in the challenge process. Stated that the eye acts as a gate to the soul. Stated that a demonic soul tie can take hold, like it did with Fran Smith’s brother.

Jean Wiggan – Stated that it is a waste of time moving books behind the counter. Stated that what children can see on a computer is 10 times worse than what is in books in the library. Stated she is opposed to the resolution.

Laura Dinapolis – Stated that she is opposed to the resolution. Stated that it is censorship and an unnecessary burden on the library staff and that there is already a procedure in place to prevent minors from checking out these types of books.

Michelle Gardner – Stated she is a disabled veteran and that there is no expiration date for the oath she took to defend the Constitution. Stated that there is a difference between sexuality and pornography. Stated this is unlawful censorship. Stated she is discouraged by the harsh language and the hatred that is happening. Stated that one book taken off the shelf is not going to save a child, but one book on the shelf might. Stated that her job as a Christian is to love people and apologized for the Christians who have called librarians derogatory names.

Robert Smith – Stated that censorship is not good and that the library is where people learn. Spoke about the graphic novel *Maus*, which is about the Holocaust and is set in a format to allow a for a broader audience. *Maus* was one of the first graphic novels he read. Stated that he takes his kids to the library and they do not peruse the adult shelves. He asked that the Board oppose the resolution.

Arthur Laughlin – Parish Councilman for District 11 in Slidell. Asked how many books have been challenged and what is the time limit on decisions. K. LaRocca stated that 151 titles have been challenged and the Board extended the time to 120 days. She stated we are awaiting legal advice before recommending a decision on the challenged books. A. Laughlin asked if they are out of circulation in the meantime. K. LaRocca clarified that they are not out of circulation, but are located behind the circulation desk. They can be checked out upon request using the appropriate library card. Stated that he went to the library to see the books, but was not able to view them because they were not on the shelf. A. Laughlin stated that there are brave people who are concerned about these books and are being ridiculed for expressing their faith. Stated that great guidance was given by the Attorney General and the District Attorney. He stated that his community would like to participate and create a lay board of diverse citizens to help shoulder the burden.

Maureen O'Brien – Parish Councilwoman for District 10 in Mandeville. Stated she is against anything that has been determined by appropriate authorities to be sexually explicit or lewd being available to children without parental consent. She shared the story of Corrie ten Boom asking her father about sex. The moral of the story is that some knowledge is too heavy for children to carry.

Casey Rushing – Read excerpts of the book *Born on the Bayou* by Blaine Lourd aloud. He asked if the book will be included in the resolution. K. LaRocca stated that *Born on the Bayou* is not a

graphic novel, however it is located behind the circulation desk because a Statement of Concern for that title was submitted on February 20th.

Jan Miner – Read excerpts of the book *Tricks* by Ellen Hopkins aloud. Stated that this book is not part of the resolution.

Cynthia Weatherly – Stated that people are confusing churches with libraries and that this is a place of knowledge and human experience, not a church. Stated that there is already a tiered library card system. Stated it is a parent's personal responsibility to monitor their child's literature. Stated that *Oryx and Crake* was written by Margaret Atwood, one of North America's greatest authors. Noted that Atwood also wrote *The Handmaid's Tale*, which she says is where we are headed if we ban books. Stated that we already have a panel of diverse community members that make up the Library Board of Control.

J. Airey stated that voting for or against an action involving emotional topics such as this will make some people happy and some people upset. He stated that the resolution at hand is narrow and will not affect the vast majority of the graphic novels. He stated that putting the graphic novels with sexual images in a restricted area of the library is a very narrow, reasonable accommodation to some people. He explained that he does not believe that having a book in the adult section of the library that someone finds offensive means that we are endangering kids. He stated that he believes there is a dichotomy between parents being responsible for their kids in the library and moving items that the vast majority of people would say are graphic.

He noted that there have been Statements of Concern submitted on books with full-text that are not graphic novels, and those are not the type of books that are referenced in the resolution. Those books are currently located behind the desk while they are being challenged and are only accessible by adults or minors with parental permission on their library card. He stated he understands people are upset that we are not addressing both the graphic novels and full-text books all at once, but he does not think that is possible. He explained that taking certain passages out of a book that consists of all written words is different in context to the sexual images in graphic novels. He stated that he cannot speak about the full-text novels that were challenged, as he has not read them yet and agrees that they should be read in their entirety before discussing.

J. Airey added that his statements are his views and opinions only and he does not represent President Cooper or the Parish Council. He stated to the Board that he is only one vote and that no one has to vote the same as him just because he is a Council Member. He urged Board members to do what they think is right and what helps the Board and librarians do their jobs.

M. Reneau stated that the public library is an institution that is committed to providing information that is needed or asked for by its community. She explained that librarians

understand that there are categories of books – Children, Young Adult (YA), and Adult. If a book is classified as an adult book it is shelved in the adult section. She stated that the library has a tiered library card policy, which allows parents to approve or restrict materials their children check out. If we move materials out of an adult area that has unsupervised children going into a section of the library that is not designed for them and does not have literature for them, we are restricting adults from accessing adult books. Adults will have to ask for permission to check out those restricted adult materials.

M. Reneau agreed that there are books that contain descriptions of things that are inappropriate, but does not think that small children are pulling books with 300-400 pages to see what is inside. She repeated the statement that the Board is considering removing adult books to a restricted area and telling adults they have to ask permission to check the items out.

B. Taylor reiterated that the resolution only applies to graphic novels containing sexual conduct. M. Reneau asked if the graphic novels are categorized. K. LaRocca replied that the Children’s graphic novels are in the children’s section, YA graphic novels are in the YA section, and Adult graphic novels are in the adult section. M. Reneau asked for clarification that the books are identified as adult graphic novels. K. LaRocca confirmed that they are.

K. LaRocca read the resolution aloud.

Vote: J. Airey moved to adopt the Resolution Regarding Graphic Novels. It was seconded by A. Shaw.

Yeas: J. Airey, C. Butler, A. Shaw, B. Taylor

Nays: M. Reneau

Absent: Dr. A. Morgan

Abstain: None

Motion carried.

G. Director’s Report

Discussion: K. LaRocca reported that Maintenance washed all library buildings and sidewalks. M. Natal was the lowest bidder for the renovations at the new Annex building in the Alamosa Business Park. Their contract amount will be \$107,036. The library is working with the Parish Engineering Department and architects on the final plan revision for the outside remodel and repairs at the Covington Branch.

K. LaRocca reported that the library has received 13 public records requests (PRR) since the beginning of November. Seven are currently outstanding. Some have been easy to answer, others have required extensive search of paper and electronic documents. Email searches are done by I.T. but then have to be redacted and reviewed for relevance by the DA's office. As an example, because of the broad nature of the email searches one of the uncompleted public records requests yielded 30,459 emails that are waiting in line to be reviewed/redacted. Library Administration had already planned to hire a part-time file clerk this year, but has decided to make it a full-time position. There was no one particular person responsible for public records requests and we will need this help moving forward.

To date, the library has received 188 Statements of Concern on 151 titles since August 2022. Seven statements were reviewed by staff and two of the books were appealed and decided in December 2022. The status of the remaining Statements of Concern are still pending review. Committees have been formed and staff are reading the books for all statements submitted November 3, 2022 through December 2, 2022. There were 10 committee meetings in January to review books in this group. These committees have not submitted recommendations yet, because they are waiting for legal guidance from the hired attorneys on how to apply the standards outlined in Louisiana Revised Statute 14:191.11.

Staff promoted the Witness to Change grant program and Mardi Gras library events on The Lake and The Highway radio stations. Staff offered outreach services to the following locations and events: Regina Coeli Child Development Center, Kidz Klub House, Kinder Haus Montessori, Riverside Elementary Literacy Night, Lakeshore High School's Career Day, and the St. Tammany Parish School Board's College and Career Expo at the Harbor Center. The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) grant program called Currents: Witness to Change is underway. The Knitting Group at the Bush Library is making scarves to send to the D-Day Museum for men and women living in Veterans Homes.

New Reference Librarians: Emily Stephan at the Madisonville Branch and Kellie Nelson at the Covington Branch.

Staff attended the following conferences, meetings, and webinars: Lib Learn X conference in New Orleans, the Commission on Families meeting, Louisiana State Library's Summer Reading Workshop, State Annual Report and Data Entry and Training Update webinar, and the Fourteenth Colony: The Forgotten Story of the Gulf South During America's Revolutionary Era.

Website statistics: December 2022 – 70,858 sessions. 63.37% were new users. January 2023 – 63,654 sessions. 55.37% were new users.

Contracts: SpringShare, LLC for LibCal meeting room calendar, DATA443 Risk Mitigation for ransomware, Daiken Applied for HVAC services, Electronic Protection Systems for security systems at Covington and Slidell branches, Stanley Access Technologies for automatic doors at Covington Branch., Quest Software for Desktop Authority Support, Comprise Technologies for Smart Pay, and BiblioCommons for BiblioCore and BiblioWeb.

K. LaRocca reviewed the January 2023 service statistics.

B. Taylor asked for a brief summary of the remodeling and repairs at the Covington Branch. K. LaRocca explained that the work will consist of installing fencing around the HVAC equipment, repairs to the backflow preventers, improving parking lot accessibility, and updates to the grounds and landscaping.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Strategic Planning Committee

K. LaRocca reported that the Community Advisory Committee met on February 27, 2023 to review reports previously presented to the Board in October and to see the draft of the mission, vision, and goals. Carson Block and Susan Kent will be visiting on March 25, 2023 to present the final draft of the strategic plan for the Board's review.

B. St. Tammany Library Foundation

There was no report from the Foundation.

C. Friends of the Library Report

There was no report from the Friends of the Library.

4. Public Comment

Lisa Rustemeyer – Stated how grateful she is for the library and that the library feels like a safe place. Stated it upsets her to see how other people have been treating public servants. Stated that she is glad that the library is a member of a professional organization like the ALA, just like lawyers, doctors, and accountants are members of their professional organizations.

James Harlan – Stated he was impressed with the quality of the Board. He referenced Exhibit A and the statute used for guidance. He noted that the guidance is based on the standards of an average person, but the people who spoke so vociferously tonight are not representative of the average person. Noted that the Attorney General does not make the law, the legislature does. He stated that Exhibit A should include some of the language in the statute since it is part of the law that Exhibit A refers to.

Laura Dinapolis – Stated that it is a misconception that only conservative Republicans live in St. Tammany Parish. Stated that these are our neighbors and citizens in the community. Stated the following terms that a group has used to describe librarians: evil, sexualizers, degenerates, Neo-Marxists, dysfunctional, simpletons, groomers, pedophiles, and trolls. Stated that she cherishes her librarians and library staff.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by A. Shaw and seconded by M. Reneau. The motion carried.

Mary Reneau, Secretary

**St. Tammany Parish Library - General Fund
Balance Sheet
February 28, 2023**

2

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$ 11,196,451.56
Cash - Health Claims	(8,321.37)
Due from Paylocity	0.00
Returned Checks	0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2021	0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2022	3,747,708.73
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2020	1,932,333.34
Due from State of Louisiana	207,455.86
Prepaid Expenses	177,202.68

Total Current Assets **17,252,830.80**

Other Assets

Deposits	1,981.00
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Total Other Assets **1,981.00**

Total Assets **\$ 17,254,811.80**

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ (21.00)
Accrued Expenses	32,786.70
Accrued Salaries	170,964.09
Deferred Inflows - Ad Valorem	40,662.00
Elective Benefits Payable	(2,241.15)
Retirement Payable	135,626.63
Health Claims Payable	148,210.55
Due to Employee	219.82

Total Current Liabilities **526,207.64**

Fund Balance

Fund Balance	16,728,604.16
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Total Fund Balance **16,728,604.16**

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance **\$ 17,254,811.80**

3

St. Tammany Parish Library
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance
For the Two Months Ending February 28, 2023

Beginning Fund Balance	\$	16,828,567.16
Net Income		(99,963.00)
		<hr/>
Ending Fund Balance	\$	<u>16,728,604.16</u>

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**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Two Months Ending February 28, 2023**

	<u>Current Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Act</u> <u>to YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Revenues					
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 966,166.67	\$ 1,932,333.34	11,644,000.00	9,711,666.66	16.60
State Revenue Sharing	21,052.33	42,104.66	258,515.00	216,410.34	16.29
Fines/Fees	4,707.35	10,803.64	70,500.00	59,696.36	15.32
Grants and Other	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Interest Income	15,184.09	22,338.16	39,000.00	16,661.84	57.28
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations Received	840.77	6,881.80	50,000.00	43,118.20	13.76
Summer Reading Shirt Sales	0.00	0.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
Total Revenues	1,007,951.21	2,014,461.60	12,064,365.00	10,049,903.40	16.70
Expenditures					
Library Administration	392,765.78	776,832.96	5,555,000.00	4,778,167.04	13.98
Employee Benefits	224,550.29	394,704.22	1,962,100.00	1,567,395.78	20.12
Advertising,Dues & Subscriptio	4,075.56	5,942.38	41,500.00	35,557.62	14.32
Signage	51.56	51.56	3,000.00	2,948.44	1.72
Printing, Duplicating & Bindin	429.00	515.73	22,000.00	21,484.27	2.34
Promotional Production	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Utilities	23,812.47	55,648.19	323,050.00	267,401.81	17.23
Communications	10,668.29	21,608.94	151,500.00	129,891.06	14.26
Leases	1,831.00	34,420.97	326,500.00	292,079.03	10.54
Maintenance of Property & Equi	30,947.37	119,431.32	572,500.00	453,068.68	20.86
Maintenance Services (Building	12,398.18	32,515.55	264,055.00	231,539.45	12.31
Professional Services	13,617.36	92,867.34	313,925.00	221,057.66	29.58
Insurance and Claims	47,148.50	59,728.50	222,026.00	162,297.50	26.90
Operating Supplies	18,538.23	30,923.03	166,000.00	135,076.97	18.63
Travel & Continuing Education	12,512.99	17,391.76	86,000.00	68,608.24	20.22
Public Relations/Programming	12,430.56	18,185.28	116,200.00	98,014.72	15.65
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq.	46,654.45	136,547.29	448,758.00	312,210.71	30.43
Capital Outlay-library Res. Ac	93,277.38	317,109.58	1,473,500.00	1,156,390.42	21.52
Capital Expenditures - Cameras	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Total Expenditures	945,708.97	2,114,424.60	12,063,614.00	9,949,189.40	17.53
Excess of Revenues/(Expenditur	\$ 62,242.24	\$ (99,963.00)	751.00	100,714.00	(13,310.65)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Two Months Ending February 28, 2023

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	<u>Current Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Library Administration					
Library Salaries	\$ 392,765.78	\$ 776,832.96	\$ 5,555,000.00	4,778,167.04	13.98
Total	\$ 392,765.78	\$ 776,832.96	\$ 5,555,000.00	4,778,167.04	13.98
Employee Benefits					
FICA/ Supplemental Retirement	\$ 8,630.01	\$ 17,102.16	\$ 109,600.00	92,497.84	15.60
Retirement Contributions	37,417.84	78,829.63	516,000.00	437,170.37	15.28
Health Insurance Expense	32,675.44	64,477.68	450,000.00	385,522.32	14.33
Health Trust	145,827.00	213,647.75	855,500.00	641,852.25	24.97
Worker's Compensation Expense	0.00	20,647.00	30,000.00	9,353.00	68.82
Employee Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 224,550.29	\$ 394,704.22	\$ 1,962,100.00	1,567,395.78	20.12
Advertising, Dues & Subscriptions					
Publication of Legal Notices	\$ 1,380.56	\$ 2,847.38	\$ 7,000.00	4,152.62	40.68
Membership Dues	325.00	325.00	7,500.00	7,175.00	4.33
Advertising	2,370.00	2,770.00	27,000.00	24,230.00	10.26
Total	\$ 4,075.56	\$ 5,942.38	\$ 41,500.00	35,557.62	14.32
Signage					
Signage	\$ 51.56	\$ 51.56	\$ 3,000.00	2,948.44	1.72
Total	\$ 51.56	\$ 51.56	\$ 3,000.00	2,948.44	1.72
Printing, Duplicating & Binding					
Printing	\$ 429.00	\$ 515.73	\$ 12,000.00	11,484.27	4.30
Book Binding	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Patron Cards	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 429.00	\$ 515.73	\$ 22,000.00	21,484.27	2.34
Promotional Production					
Promotional Production	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Two Months Ending February 28, 2023

7

	<u>Current Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Utilities					
Electricity	\$ 20,091.38	\$ 48,530.68	\$ 284,000.00	235,469.32	17.09
Gas	508.23	1,089.64	3,050.00	1,960.36	35.73
Water	3,212.86	6,027.87	36,000.00	29,972.13	16.74
Total	\$ 23,812.47	\$ 55,648.19	\$ 323,050.00	267,401.81	17.23
Communications					
Postage	\$ 117.30	\$ 371.10	\$ 14,000.00	13,628.90	2.65
Voice Line	6,775.99	13,007.02	88,500.00	75,492.98	14.70
Data Lines (Internet)	3,775.00	8,212.50	48,000.00	39,787.50	17.11
Courier/Shipping	0.00	18.32	1,000.00	981.68	1.83
Total	\$ 10,668.29	\$ 21,608.94	\$ 151,500.00	129,891.06	14.26
Leases					
Building Lease Expense	\$ 1,831.00	\$ 34,149.86	\$ 318,000.00	283,850.14	10.74
Equipment Lease Expense	0.00	271.11	6,000.00	5,728.89	4.52
Vehicle Lease Expense	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Total	\$ 1,831.00	\$ 34,420.97	\$ 326,500.00	292,079.03	10.54
Maintenance of Property & Equipment					
Custodial and Janitorial	\$ 16,274.63	\$ 33,832.40	\$ 212,000.00	178,167.60	15.96
Grounds/Lawn Maintenance	6,703.00	16,203.93	85,000.00	68,796.07	19.06
Maintenance Supplies	569.06	847.13	9,000.00	8,152.87	9.41
Fuel & Lube	1,753.50	2,135.46	40,000.00	37,864.54	5.34
Vehicle Repairs	476.11	476.11	6,000.00	5,523.89	7.94
Small Tools	278.00	278.00	3,000.00	2,722.00	9.27
Office Machine & Equip Repair	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Network Utility Software	4,326.07	12,455.68	125,000.00	112,544.32	9.96
Automation System Maintenance	567.00	567.00	29,500.00	28,933.00	1.92
Polaris Maintenance	0.00	52,635.61	54,000.00	1,364.39	97.47
PC Network Maintenance & Repai	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 30,947.37	\$ 119,431.32	\$ 572,500.00	453,068.68	20.86
Maintenance of Services (Buildings)					
Physical Plant	\$ 3,542.14	\$ 20,901.92	\$ 150,000.00	129,098.08	13.93
Plumbing, Heating and AC	5,007.75	6,524.46	66,500.00	59,975.54	9.81
Electrical	1,886.64	1,886.64	8,000.00	6,113.36	23.58
Sanitation	686.65	907.53	11,000.00	10,092.47	8.25
Pest Control	550.00	1,570.00	7,000.00	5,430.00	22.43

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Two Months Ending February 28, 2023

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	<u>Current Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Termite Contract	0.00	0.00	4,555.00	4,555.00	0.00
Carpet Cleaning	725.00	725.00	17,000.00	16,275.00	4.26
Total	\$ 12,398.18	\$ 32,515.55	\$ 264,055.00	231,539.45	12.31
Professional Services					
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 3,927.92	\$ 6,694.54	\$ 34,100.00	27,405.46	19.63
Legal	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
Financial	120.35	835.35	40,000.00	39,164.65	2.09
Consultants	8,426.29	8,426.29	90,000.00	81,573.71	9.36
Security	1,142.80	1,638.02	10,000.00	8,361.98	16.38
Web Design Consultant	0.00	75,273.14	79,825.00	4,551.86	94.30
Movers	0.00	0.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 13,617.36	\$ 92,867.34	\$ 313,925.00	221,057.66	29.58
Insurance and Claims					
Library Property Insurance	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 135,500.00	135,500.00	0.00
Flood Insurance	17,667.00	17,667.00	23,500.00	5,833.00	75.18
Vehicle Insurance	22,616.00	22,616.00	42,950.00	20,334.00	52.66
LBOC Liability	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,076.00	76.00	98.14
General Liability	2,865.50	15,445.50	16,000.00	554.50	96.53
Total	\$ 47,148.50	\$ 59,728.50	\$ 222,026.00	162,297.50	26.90
Operating Supplies					
Office Supplies	\$ 2,321.84	\$ 5,412.04	\$ 33,000.00	27,587.96	16.40
Bank Service Charges	1,267.99	2,777.87	16,000.00	13,222.13	17.36
Book Preparation Supplies	5,483.02	8,434.61	44,000.00	35,565.39	19.17
Computer/Printer Supplies	8,632.17	13,424.77	65,000.00	51,575.23	20.65
Programming Supplies	833.21	873.74	8,000.00	7,126.26	10.92
Total	\$ 18,538.23	\$ 30,923.03	\$ 166,000.00	135,076.97	18.63
Travel and Continuing Education					
Staff Travel - Local	\$ 555.20	\$ 945.47	\$ 22,000.00	21,054.53	4.30
Library In-service Training	5,000.00	5,000.00	9,000.00	4,000.00	55.56
Conventions & Seminars	6,957.79	11,446.29	55,000.00	43,553.71	20.81
Total	\$ 12,512.99	\$ 17,391.76	\$ 86,000.00	68,608.24	20.22
Public Relations/Programming					

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Two Months Ending February 28, 2023

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	<u>Current Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Summer Reading Program	\$ 280.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 45,000.00	44,720.00	0.62
Summer Reading T-shirts	0.00	0.00	6,400.00	6,400.00	0.00
Adult Programming	2,047.56	6,520.13	36,000.00	29,479.87	18.11
Young Adult Programming	479.58	479.58	15,000.00	14,520.42	3.20
Juvenile Programming	9,612.57	10,894.72	12,000.00	1,105.28	90.79
LEH Grant	10.85	10.85	1,800.00	1,789.15	0.60
Total	\$ 12,430.56	\$ 18,185.28	\$ 116,200.00	98,014.72	15.65
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq					
Landscape Additions	\$ 8,190.00	\$ 8,190.00	\$ 33,000.00	24,810.00	24.82
Imp Phys Plant	11,800.00	18,300.00	132,000.00	113,700.00	13.86
Vehicles	0.00	0.00	68,758.00	68,758.00	0.00
Office Equip, Furn & Shelving	3,658.40	9,863.76	48,000.00	38,136.24	20.55
PC Network	23,006.05	100,193.53	146,000.00	45,806.47	68.63
Integrated Lib Automation Sys	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Audio/Visual Equipment	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 46,654.45	\$ 136,547.29	\$ 448,758.00	312,210.71	30.43
Capital Outlay-Library Res. Acq.					
Adult Books	\$ 14,690.46	\$ 31,222.82	\$ 205,000.00	173,777.18	15.23
Lease/Purchase Books	0.00	18,203.89	18,400.00	196.11	98.93
Juvenile Books	6,577.30	7,274.35	105,000.00	97,725.65	6.93
Young Adults	1,734.72	2,386.12	15,000.00	12,613.88	15.91
Music Recordings	85.42	151.36	4,000.00	3,848.64	3.78
Adult Reference	5,329.16	13,498.71	111,000.00	97,501.29	12.16
Juvenile Reference	2,366.30	2,366.30	45,000.00	42,633.70	5.26
Periodicals	0.00	10,000.00	52,000.00	42,000.00	19.23
Audio Recordings	774.79	1,111.68	12,600.00	11,488.32	8.82
Video Recordings	3,773.95	6,359.43	69,000.00	62,640.57	9.22
Genealogy	135.69	135.69	5,000.00	4,864.31	2.71
Microfilm	5,867.00	5,867.00	10,000.00	4,133.00	58.67
Downloadable Media	23,917.59	60,202.67	415,000.00	354,797.33	14.51
CD/Software	8,674.00	20,791.03	85,500.00	64,708.97	24.32
Internet Database Subscription	19,351.00	137,538.53	321,000.00	183,461.47	42.85
Total	\$ 93,277.38	\$ 317,109.58	\$ 1,473,500.00	1,156,390.42	21.52
Capital Expenditures					
Capital Expenditures - Cameras	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00

Director's Report

March 27, 2023

FACILITIES

The Notice to Proceed for the renovation of the new Technical Services building was signed by the parish and the contractor. The work will begin on April 3, 2023. The contractor has 60 consecutive calendar days to complete the work. The work should be finished by June 2, 2023.

IT

Per our Cyber Security policy, an external penetration test was conducted by a certified security consultant to test the vulnerability of our data systems. The report is very positive, stating that "overall, STPL has a strong external security posture for the targets in the scope of this engagement. The IT team should be commended for its work to maintain a secure Internet-facing structure." In addition, our IT Manager, Amanda Soileau, reports that her team identified the recommended actions prior to testing and plan to implement them in the coming months. An internal test is underway.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Jackie Riecke, Public Relations and Community Coordinator, and Ellen John, Reference Coordinator, went on the Lake and the Highway radio stations to discuss events and new databases on March 3rd.

Debbie Cuevas, Brent Geiger, Assistant Director of Public Services, and Mary Thompson attended the St. Tammany Health System and Ochsner Employer Breakfast on March 14th.

Tanya DiMaggio, Assistant Director of Support Services, attended a meeting about the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Clean Up Supplies Loaner Library Program on March 24.

Amy Strain, Folsom Branch Manager, attended the Library Foundation meeting on March 14 and Family Literacy Night at Folsom Elementary on March 21st.

Emily Stephan, Madisonville Reference Librarian, and Robert Barnes, Causeway Reference Librarian, provided outreach for Folsom COAST March 13th.

Jessica Aucoin, Mandeville Children's Librarian, performed Storytime at Kinder Haus Montessori Mandeville March 20th.

Rhonda Spiess, Lacombe Branch Manager, presented Storytime as Cat in the Hat for Read Across America at five local preschools and elementary schools in March.

Jennifer Rifino, Teen Services Coordinator, and Jackie Riecke attended the St. Tammany Commission on Families on March 14th.

Jackie Riecke, Jillian Boudreaux, Adult Programming Coordinator, and Jenny Mayer, Children's Services Coordinator, taped an episode March 15th of Check It Out at STPG-TV on Koop Dr. to air in April.

Abby Mayfield, Slidell Teen Librarian, and Jennifer Rifino attended the Exceptionalities Games at Lakeshore High School on March 23rd.

Carly Nguyen visited Bayou Woods Elementary for STEM Day on March 9th.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

On March 10th, a local author, Jay Jacquet visited the Slidell Library for a book reading and signing of his cartoon memoir.

At the South Slidell library, retired meteorologist, David Gilhousen led a Weather Adventure where families could witness a tornado demonstration on March 10th.

A cooperative endeavor agreement was signed with Northshore Technical Community College to offer their WorkReadyU – Adult Education classes for enrolled students at the library. The pilot program has begun at the Covington branch meeting room every Monday and Thursday.

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Ethan Drott, Adult Services Assistant, and Jillian Boudreaux attended the State Library's Summer Reading Workshop for Adults on February 28th in Baton Rouge.

Rhonda Spiess, Lacombe Branch Manager, attended Zoom Branch Manager Meetings

Byron Holdiman, attended the RootsTech Genealogy Conference

PROGRAMMING SERVICES

Amy Strain held several Storytime events, the monthly Recipe Swap, Book Club, Genealogy Time and Tech Time.

Byron Holdiman, Genealogy Librarian, held the African American Genealogy Research events at the Lacombe and Slidell branch. He also presented the Irish Genealogy Research event at Covington.

Rhonda Spiess, presented Storytime as Cat in the Hat for Read Across America on February 28th.

Sarah Aucoin, Slidell Reference Librarian, hosted Google Tools, Intro to the Cloud, Top Scams in LA in 2022 and Zentangle for Brain Health.

WEBINAR ATTENDANCE

Emily Stephan attended the Pennies in the Cup webinar March 2nd.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

We have received 18 public records requests since the beginning of November 2022. Ten are currently outstanding. Some have been easy to answer; others have required extensive searches of paper and electronic documents. Email searches are done by our IT department but then have to be redacted and reviewed for relevance by the DA's office. As an example, because of the broad nature of the email searches, one of the uncompleted public records requests yielded 30,459 emails that are waiting in line to be reviewed/redacted.

The Library interviewed candidates for a full-time position to help with public records requests. We previously had no one person responsible for public records requests, and we will need this help moving forward. A candidate was offered the job but did not accept the position. We will hold more interviews in the next few weeks.

CHALLENGE MATERIALS UPDATE

To date, the Library has received 194 Statements of Concern on 157 titles since August 2022. The most recent Statement of Concern was submitted on February 20th, 2023. After a concern last week that we had a book on the shelf that had a Statement of Concern filed, investigated our email server and cross-referenced with the Statement of Concern list to discover 6 titles that had been submitted in late December that we had not seen.

Under the old policy, seven Statements of Concern were reviewed by staff, and complainants were informed of the decisions. Two of those books were appealed and decided on in December. Of the original seven (even the two already appealed and decided), six had an additional statement of concern filed citing a criminal statute. In fact, the majority of 157 titles are under a statement of concern citing a criminal statute requiring us to obtain criminal legal advice.

We received approval from the AG's office on March 15th to obtain outside legal advice. Library staff will now be making recommendations for Board decisions at upcoming meetings. The

Library Board will be deciding on five titles at this meeting. The status of the remaining Statements of Concern is still "pending review."

CONTRACTS

- Microsoft 365 for Subscription license renewal \$9,315 (for email and Microsoft Office)
- OCLC for GreenGlass Subscription \$11,669 (print collection analysis)
- Librarica for CASSIE support renewal \$4,419 (manages public computers)
- Librarica for Jamex Warranty renewal \$4,875 (coin machines for public printers)
- Daikin for Slidell HVAC Service agreement renewal \$9,679
- Daikin for Madisonville HVAC Service agreement renewal \$10,372

February 2023 Service Statistics

Branch	Adult Books	CD	DVD	ILL	Juv Bks	Mag	Pbks	YA	Virtual	Total Circulation	Computer Usage	Door Count	Wireless Inside	Wireless Outside
Admin/Annex	270	59	82	21	112	6		20		570				
Abita	522	53	241	16	464	2		31		1,329	128	1,607	95	270
Bush	205	15	392	1	121	13		12		759	64	687	47	138
Causeway	2217	157	782	24	1810	19		203		5,212	531	5,055	1,289	1,562
Covington	3432	310	1485	21	3419	113	72	174		9,026	1,085	5,700	2,743	1,260
Folsom	488	30	358	8	369	77		21		1,351	233	1,172	163	229
Lacombe	267	27	203	3	226	3		7		736	217	2,366	125	183
Lee Road	365	39	204	1	326	10	5	18		968	79	699	69	203
Madisonville	1127	189	323	12	1345			111		3,107	370	4,302	1,069	607
Mandeville	2580	297	742	15	2839	71	3	202		6,749	935	5,788	853	553
Pearl River	410	6	131	9	217	6	24	45		848	251	1,653	93	172
Slidell	3768	289	1113	24	2905	248	215	328		8,890	1,799	9,837	1,518	975
South Slidell	597	69	501	9	687	12	12	40		1,927	1,135	4,285	828	1,258
Virtual ¹									31,717	31,717				
Total	16,248	1,540	6,557	164	14,840	580	331	1,212	31,717	73,189	6,827	43,151	8,892	7,410

1 - Virtual stats include Overdrive, Tumblebooks, 3M Cloud Library, Rbdigital, Hoopla

CD=CompactDisc; DVD=DigitalVersatileDisc; ILL=InterLibraryLoan; Mag=Magazines
Pbks=Paperbacks; YA=Young Adult

Patrons Registered: 747

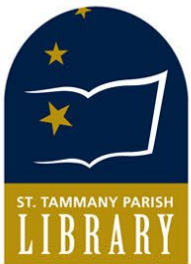
YTD Jan - Feb. 2023
Service Statistics

Branch	Adult Books	CD	DVD	ILL	Juv Bks	Mag	Pbks	YA	Virtual	Total Circulation	Computer Usage	Door Count	Wireless Inside	Wireless Outside
Admin/Annex	511	91	149	54	374	7		55		1,241				
Abita	1,099	123	470	48	1,010	5		45		2,800	303	3,492	185	503
Bush	340	21	732	12	227	23		25		1,380	184	1,484	91	256
Causeway	4,217	286	1,514	90	3,584	34		341		10,066	991	9,974	2,601	3,190
Covington	6,671	573	2,923	64	6,636	218	136	308		17,529	2,263	11,678	5,523	2,576
Folsom	947	57	667	25	683	167		31		2,577	493	2,419	314	427
Lacombe	522	52	462	11	427	5		25		1,504	447	4,471	225	336
Lee Road	640	90	351	4	763	20	5	39		1,912	145	1,377	135	419
Madisonville	2,295	325	673	37	3,055	4		248		6,637	720	9,293	2,139	1,194
Mandeville	5,048	536	1,571	50	6,148	132	3	369		13,857	2,071	12,203	1,712	1,161
Pearl River	816	23	241	36	486	13	35	58		1,708	602	3,223	192	363
Slidell	7,045	581	2,353	85	5,865	464	471	593		17,457	3,738	20,166	2,944	1,938
South Slidell	1,195	126	985	32	1,417	21	17	97		3,890	2,421	8,887	1,462	2,238
Virtual ¹									59,742	59,742				
Total	31,346	2,884	13,091	548	30,675	1,113	667	2,234	59,742	142,300	14,378	88,667	17,523	14,601

1 - Virtual stats include Overdrive, Tumblebooks, 3M Cloud Library, Rbdigital, Hoopla

CD=CompactDisc; DVD=DigitalVersatileDisc; ILL=InterLibraryLoan; Mag=Magazines
Pbks=Paperbacks; YA=Young Adult

Patrons Registered: 1,310



**St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Extension of time to allow for procedural due process of undecided Statements of Concern**

March 27rd 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control grants a waiver of the 45-day time limit for response to any and all pending statements of concern. The response time is extended to 120 days from the date of this resolution.

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Library has received statements of concern on 157 titles and

WHEREAS, reconsideration committee recommendations shall be mailed to complainants and copied to the Library Board of Control on a rolling basis,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Library Board of Control grants this waiver of time.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Moved for adoption by _____ and seconded by _____,

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

AND THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED ON THIS DAY, THE 27th DAY OF MARCH 2023, AT A MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING PRESENT.

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

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Statement of Concern about Library Resources

Intellectual freedom in a public library necessitates selecting some materials that may be considered controversial by some individuals or groups. Reasons often cited for materials considered offensive include use of profanity, divergent viewpoints, controversial authors, sexual content, and depictions of violence and criminal acts. The acquisition of such materials does not imply approval or endorsement of their contents. The selection criteria used by the St. Tammany Parish Library must remain broad and flexible in order to provide a collection that supports the broad range of interests and diverse backgrounds of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Date 12-30-2022

Name Connie Phillips

Address [REDACTED]

City Mandeville State LA Zip 70471

Telephone [REDACTED]

Representing (self) St. Tammany Parish LAP, Citizens Against Child Exploitation. (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

book Book Newspaper Other
 Magazine Content of Library Program
 Audiovisual Electronic Resource

2. Title I am Jazz

Author/Producer Jessica Herthel

3. What brought this title to your attention?

Gender issue for toddlers

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way.

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Move to request only section as this book violates the The Harmful to Minors Statute in particular R.S. 94:91:11 in particular section 3..“The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors.”

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

The subject about a toddler confused about identity. This should be read with a parent if you are indeed interested in the topic. There are a minuscule number of transgender people in St. Tammany Parish and “The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors.” Therefore, in order to represent the tax paying majority of the Parish who find this book offensive and confusing to children, it should be moved to a "request only" section of the library.

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

No specific request other than books about transgender toddlers, sexual toddlers should be in a "upon request" section of the library. Nothing related to sex should be in the Juvenile section of the library without express consent from a parent of guardian. Louisiana residents do not concur with the ALA Bill of Rights for Minors ...“Libraries should not limit the selection and development of library resources simply because minors will have access to them. A library's failure to acquire materials on the grounds that minors may be able to access those materials diminishes the credibility of the

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee’s decision. Thank you for your concern and input.

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

No specific request other than books about transgender toddlers, sexual toddlers should be in a "upon request" section of the library. Nothing related to sex should be in the Juvenile section of the library without express consent from a parent or guardian. Louisiana residents do not concur with the ALA Bill of Rights for Minors ... "Libraries should not limit the selection and development of library resources simply because minors will have access to them. A library's failure to acquire materials on the grounds that minors may be able to access those materials diminishes the credibility of the library in the community and restricts access for all library users. "



March 17th 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips


Dear Connie Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *I am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

Pursuant to La. R.S. § 14:91.11, it is unlawful for any St. Tammany Library to display, exhibit, disseminate, check-out, or otherwise provide any minor anything that constitutes material harmful to minors by law. However, materials are only deemed harmful to minors if **all** four (4) of the following apply beyond a reasonable doubt:

1. First, the material must exploit, be devoted to, or principally consist of "descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality." To be "descriptions or depictions of illicit or sexual immorality," the material must convey ultimate sex acts, masturbation or excretory functions, lewd exhibition of private areas, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual intimacy via physical acts of private areas, or stimulation of human genitalia.
2. Second, the material must incite, appeal to, or be designed to incite or appeal to "the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors," i.e., a sexual response over and beyond those that would be characterized as normal for a minor.
3. Third, the material must be "offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors." These standards are not defined or limited by any specific geographic area.
4. Fourth, the material, when considered in its entirety (including both objectionable and nonobjectionable parts), must lack any "literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors." If any of the foregoing requirements are not met, the material is not unlawful under La. R.S. §14:91.11.

Importantly, the statute defines "minor" as "any person under the age of eighteen years." Thus, the last three (3) elements above must be considered in that context, e.g., "The material taken as a whole [must] lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for [any person

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under the age of eighteen years].” Additionally, if materials that qualify as harmful to minors are not sold, distributed, advertised, or otherwise distributed to minors, it is permissible under the law to have them available for adults to do so, as long as the minors are unable to see, “as displayed,” descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality.”

Under this analysis, the staff committee determined that the material at issue in your Statement of Concern does not qualify as unlawfully harmful to minors.

1. The material is not devoted to “descriptions of illicit sex or immorality.” There was no sexual content at all in the book.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. There was no sexual content.
3. The committee paid particular attention to the concern about community standards, as you listed this as your primary concern. The committee did not find the material to be offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors. The book is not intended for children of “toddler” age but for older children. The book is not in an area that is conducive to spontaneous discovery by young children, such as the picture book section, but is in an area where someone looking for information would seek it out. It is shelved with other books in the sociology section because of the topic. The book was published in 2014, and the Library purchased three copies for the Juvenile Non-Fiction collection in 2019. These three copies circulated a total of 26 times over the last three years.
4. The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. The committee found that the book has literary and scientific (or educational) value. Jazz Jennings is a well-known public figure with a reality TV show. It describes the subject’s own experience as a child and is not persuasive. It is shelved in the Juvenile Non-fiction section because it contains factual information at the back of the book and is written in a memoir style, albeit for children.

This book is currently located in the children’s non-fiction collection. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate the statute, and the book is shelved in the appropriate section of the Library.

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While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for their family, that alone does not render it unlawful and does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. Parents are the ultimate deciders of which books and media their children will consume. At the same time, we do acknowledge that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what their own children will read or hear.

The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 27th, 2023, where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,



Kelly LaRocca, Director

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Statement of Concern about Library Resources

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Date 12-30-2022

Name Connie Phillips

Address [REDACTED]

City Mandeville State LA Zip 70471

Telephone [REDACTED]

Representing _____ (self) St. Tammany Parish LAP, Citizens Against Child Exploitation. (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

book Book Newspaper Other
 Magazine Content of Library Program
 Audiovisual Electronic Resource

2. Title Julian is a Mermaid

Author/Producer Jessica Love

3. What brought this title to your attention?

The Transgender phenomenon is a serious issue and should be shelved in a separate "Upon Request" section of the library. The library is full of different sections. These books should be shelved or placed in an "upon request" section of the library as they do not represent the majority views of St. Tammany Parish taxpayers.

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

From your website confirming topic: "While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow ☒

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Move to request only section as this book violates the The Harmful to Minors Statute in particular R.S. 94:91:11 in particular section 3..“The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors.”

Transgenderism is rare, sexual disorder with mature subject matter. Books of the nature should be shelved in a "Upon Request" section of the library.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

Mature subject matter that does not comport with the value systems of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish. There should be no effort to "normalize" this confuse children about their sexuality.

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

No need to replace just move to a different place designated as "Upon Request"

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.

Addendum – Julian is a Mermaid

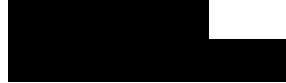
4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

From your website confirming topic: "While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes -- and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself?"



March 17th 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips



Dear Connie Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *Julian is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

Pursuant to La. R.S. § 14:91.11, it is unlawful for any St. Tammany Library to display, exhibit, disseminate, check-out, or otherwise provide any minor anything that constitutes material harmful to minors by law. However, materials are only deemed harmful to minors if **all** four (4) of the following apply beyond a reasonable doubt:

1. First, the material must exploit, be devoted to, or principally consist of "descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality." To be "descriptions or depictions of illicit or sexual immorality," the material must convey ultimate sex acts, masturbation or excretory functions, lewd exhibition of private areas, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual intimacy via physical acts of private areas, or stimulation of human genitalia.
2. Second, the material must incite, appeal to, or be designed to incite or appeal to "the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors," i.e., a sexual response over and beyond those that would be characterized as normal for a minor.
3. Third, the material must be "offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors." These standards are not defined or limited by any specific geographic area.
4. Fourth, the material, when considered in its entirety (including both objectionable and nonobjectionable parts), must lack any "literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors." If any of the foregoing requirements are not met, the material is not unlawful under La. R.S. §14:91.11.

Importantly, the statute defines "minor" as "any person under the age of eighteen years." Thus, the last three (3) elements above must be considered in that context, e.g., "The material taken as a whole [must] lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for [any person

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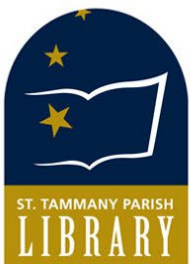
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under the age of eighteen years].” Additionally, if materials that qualify as harmful to minors are not sold, distributed, advertised, or otherwise distributed to minors, it is permissible under the law to have them available for adults to do so, as long as the minors are unable to see, “as displayed,” descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality.”

Under this analysis, the staff committee determined that the material at issue in your Statement of Concern does not qualify as unlawfully harmful to minors.

1. The material is not devoted to “descriptions of illicit sex or immorality.” There are no sexual acts depicted in the book.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors as all of the characters were fully clothed or wearing modest bathing suits such as one would see at a pool or beach.
3. The committee did not find the material to be offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors. The characters are clothed appropriately for the activities: swimming, changing clothes, and a parade with a mermaid theme. Furthermore, while the committee members feel that the discussion of gender identity is not offensive or unsuitable for minors, even at a young age, Julian does not change gender. The Library has owned the book since February 2019, and it has been checked out 67 times.
4. The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. In fact, the committee unanimously agreed that the illustrations were highly artistic and beautiful. The committee thought the book had literary and cultural value in that children in St. Tammany Parish would relate to the story of wearing a costume to a parade.

This book is currently located in the children’s picture book collection. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate the statute, and the book is shelved in the appropriate section of the Library.

While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for their family, that alone does not render it unlawful and does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. At the same time, we do acknowledge

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that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what their own children will read or hear.

The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 27th, 2023, where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,



Kelly LaRocca, Director

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Date 12-30-2022

Name Connie Phillips

Address [REDACTED]

City Mandeville State LA Zip 70471

Telephone [REDACTED]

Representing _____ (self) St. Tammany Parish LAP, Citizens Against Child Exploitation. (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

book Book Newspaper Other
 Magazine Content of Library Program
 Audiovisual Electronic Resource

2. Title My Rainbow

Author/Producer Trinity Neal

3. What brought this title to your attention?

The Transgender phenomenon is a serious issue and should be shelved in a separate "Upon Request" section of the library. The library is full of different sections. These books should be shelved or placed in an "upon request" section of the library as they do not represent the majority views of St. Tammany Parish taxpayers.

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

From your website confirming topic: "A dedicated mom puts love into action as she creates the perfect rainbow-colored wig for her transgender daughter, based on the real-life experience of mother-daughter advocate duo

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Move to request only section as this book violates the The Harmful to Minors Statute in particular R.S. 94:91:11 in particular section 3.. "The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors."

Transgenderism is rare, sexual disorder with mature subject matter. Books of the nature should be shelved in a "Upon Request" section of the library.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

Mature subject matter that does not comport with the value systems of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish. There should be no effort to "normalize" this confuse children about their sexuality.

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

No need to replace just move to a different place designated as "Upon Request"

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.



March 17th 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips


Dear Connie Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *My Rainbow* by Trinity and DeShanna Neal. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

Pursuant to La. R.S. § 14:91.11, it is unlawful for any St. Tammany Library to display, exhibit, disseminate, check-out, or otherwise provide any minor anything that constitutes material harmful to minors by law. However, materials are only deemed harmful to minors if **all** four (4) of the following apply beyond a reasonable doubt:

1. First, the material must exploit, be devoted to, or principally consist of "descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality." To be "descriptions or depictions of illicit or sexual immorality," the material must convey ultimate sex acts, masturbation or excretory functions, lewd exhibition of private areas, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual intimacy via physical acts of private areas, or stimulation of human genitalia.
2. Second, the material must incite, appeal to, or be designed to incite or appeal to "the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors," i.e., a sexual response over and beyond those that would be characterized as normal for a minor.
3. Third, the material must be "offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors." These standards are not defined or limited by any specific geographic area.
4. Fourth, the material, when considered in its entirety (including both objectionable and nonobjectionable parts), must lack any "literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors." If any of the foregoing requirements are not met, the material is not unlawful under La. R.S. §14:91.11.

Importantly, the statute defines "minor" as "any person under the age of eighteen years." Thus, the last three (3) elements above must be considered in that context, e.g., "The material taken as a whole [must] lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for [any person

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under the age of eighteen years].” Additionally, if materials that qualify as harmful to minors are not sold, distributed, advertised, or otherwise distributed to minors, it is permissible under the law to have them available for adults to do so, as long as the minors are unable to see, “as displayed,” descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality.”

Under this analysis, the staff committee determined that the material at issue in your Statement of Concern does not qualify as unlawfully harmful to minors.

1. The material is not devoted to “descriptions of illicit sex or immorality.” There was no sexual content at all in the book.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors as all of the characters were fully clothed, and there were no sexual activities.
3. The committee paid particular attention to the concern about community standards, as you listed this as your primary concern. The committee did not find the material to be offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors. The committee discussed that while most people would not be offended by the book, some adults might feel unprepared to explain some of the terminology used. It was also noted by the committee that the book portrays a style of parenting that is more common for younger generation parents. STPL has had four copies at the Covington, Lacombe, Mandeville, and Slidell branches since November, 2020. The books have circulated a total of 23 times as of September 23, 2022.
4. The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. The committee thought the book had literary value as a story about parents’ unconditional love. The committee thought the book had artistic value especially in its authentic portrayal of African American hair culture. The committee thought the book had educational value for families with young children who have questions about gender. This story may offer tools for families who are searching for a way to identify and work through similar issues with their own children, or children who may know someone (a friend) who identifies as transgender. This book is an age-appropriate approach to an ongoing national conversation.

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MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

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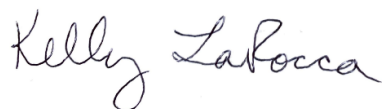
This book is currently located in the children's picture book collection. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate the statute, and the book is shelved in the appropriate section of the library.

While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for their family, that alone does not render it unlawful and does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. Parents are the ultimate deciders of which books and media their children will consume. At the same time, we do acknowledge that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what their own children will read or hear.

The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 27th, 2023, where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,



Kelly LaRocca, Director

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Statement of Concern about Library Resources

Intellectual freedom in a public library necessitates selecting some materials that may be considered controversial by some individuals or groups. Reasons often cited for materials considered offensive include use of profanity, divergent viewpoints, controversial authors, sexual content, and depictions of violence and criminal acts. The acquisition of such materials does not imply approval or endorsement of their contents. The selection criteria used by the St. Tammany Parish Library must remain broad and flexible in order to provide a collection that supports the broad range of interests and diverse backgrounds of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Date 12-30-2022

Name Connie Phillips

Address [REDACTED]

City Mandeville State LA Zip 70471

Telephone [REDACTED]

Representing _____ (self) St. Tammany Parish LAP, Citizens Against Child Exploitation. (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

book Book Newspaper Other
 Magazine Content of Library Program
 Audiovisual Electronic Resource

2. Title WHEN AIDAN BECAME A BROTHER

Author/Producer KYLE LUKOFF

3. What brought this title to your attention?

The Transgender phenomenon is a serious issue and should be shelved in a separate "Upon Request" section of the library. The library is full of different sections. These books should be shelved or placed in an "upon request" section of the library as they do not represent the majority views of St. Tammany Parish taxpayers.

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

From your website confirming topic: "'Aidan, a transgender boy, experiences complicated emotions as he and his parents prepare for the arrival of a new baby'--

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Move to request only section as this book violates the The Harmful to Minors Statute in particular R.S. 94:91:11 in particular section 3.. "The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors."

Transgenderism is rare, sexual disorder with mature subject matter. Books of the nature should be shelved in a "Upon Request" section of the library.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

Mature subject matter that does not comport with the value systems of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish. There should be no effort to "normalize" this confuse children about their sexuality.

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

No need to replace just move to a different place designated as "Upon Request"

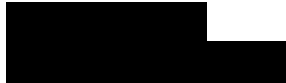
NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.



March 17th 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips



Dear Connie Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *When Aidan Became a Brother* by Kyle Lukoff. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

Pursuant to La. R.S. § 14:91.11, it is unlawful for any St. Tammany Library to display, exhibit, disseminate, check-out, or otherwise provide any minor anything that constitutes material harmful to minors by law. However, materials are only deemed harmful to minors if **all** four (4) of the following apply beyond a reasonable doubt:

1. First, the material must exploit, be devoted to, or principally consist of "descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality." To be "descriptions or depictions of illicit or sexual immorality," the material must convey ultimate sex acts, masturbation or excretory functions, lewd exhibition of private areas, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual intimacy via physical acts of private areas, or stimulation of human genitalia.
2. Second, the material must incite, appeal to, or be designed to incite or appeal to "the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors," i.e., a sexual response over and beyond those that would be characterized as normal for a minor.
3. Third, the material must be "offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors." These standards are not defined or limited by any specific geographic area.
4. Fourth, the material, when considered in its entirety (including both objectionable and nonobjectionable parts), must lack any "literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors." If any of the foregoing requirements are not met, the material is not unlawful under La. R.S. §14:91.11.

Importantly, the statute defines "minor" as "any person under the age of eighteen years." Thus, the last three (3) elements above must be considered in that context, e.g., "The material taken as a whole [must] lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for [any person

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under the age of eighteen years].” Additionally, if materials that qualify as harmful to minors are not sold, distributed, advertised, or otherwise distributed to minors, it is permissible under the law to have them available for adults to do so, as long as the minors are unable to see, “as displayed,” descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality.”

Under this analysis, the staff committee determined that the material at issue in your Statement of Concern does not qualify as unlawfully harmful to minors.

1. The material is not devoted to “descriptions of illicit sex or immorality.” There was no sexual content at all in the book.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. There was no sexual content.
3. The committee paid particular attention to the concern about community standards, as you listed this as your primary concern. The committee did not find the material to be offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors. The committee found that the book is suitable for minors and not offensive as the main subject was a child’s apprehension about getting a new sibling. The transgender issue was secondary and not offensive. The book portrays contemporary parenting that may not be the style used by some people in our community. However, it is not offensive. STPL has owned four copies of the book since March 2020 at Covington, Mandeville, Slidell, and South Slidell branches and has circulated a total of 18 times as of September 23rd, 2022.
4. The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. The committee thought the book had literary value as a useful tool for parents who have a child that may have anxiety over the anticipation of a new sibling. The book shows the different ways “to be” a boy or girl. It also shows a variety of different family makeups. This book is an age-appropriate approach to an ongoing national conversation.

This book is currently located in the children’s picture book collection. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate the statute, and the book is shelved in the appropriate section of the library.

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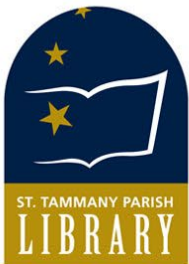
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While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for their family, that alone does not render it unlawful and does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. Parents are the ultimate deciders of which books and media their children will consume. At the same time, we do acknowledge that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what their own children will read or hear.

The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 27th, 2023, where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,



Kelly LaRocca, Director

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Statement of Concern about Library Resources

Intellectual freedom in a public library necessitates selecting some materials that may be considered controversial by some individuals or groups. Reasons often cited for materials considered offensive include use of profanity, divergent viewpoints, controversial authors, sexual content, and depictions of violence and criminal acts. The acquisition of such materials does not imply approval or endorsement of their contents. The selection criteria used by the St. Tammany Parish Library must remain broad and flexible in order to provide a collection that supports the broad range of interests and diverse backgrounds of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Date 11/30/22

Name fran Smith

Address [REDACTED]

City slidell State la Zip 70461

Telephone [REDACTED]

Representing (self) _____ (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

Book _____ Newspaper _____ Other
 Magazine _____ Content of Library Program
 Audiovisual _____ Electronic Resource

2. Title The Bluest Eyes

Author/Producer Toni Morrison

3. What brought this title to your attention?

I have heard about this book a long time ago.

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

I read enough.. Pages 18 83 85

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?
take it out of the libraries

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

It's sick. Children do not have to be exposed to this piece of garbage. What good does it do them to read about such things? You people are fowl and I wonder what your mother would have said if you brought this book home to read.

7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

Your judgement or whoever you choose to read these books is so crude and vile I wouldn't trust any of you with my child's welfare.

Yes I am very concernedNow more than ever since I have had to degrade myself reading bits and pieces of these horrible books that you have permitted our children to read.

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.



March 17th 2023

Ms. Fran Smith


Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

The author was a Pulitzer Prize, Nobel Prize, and Presidential Medal of Freedom winner, and this book is part of the canon of American Literature. The book has had a high circulation, with 336 circulations since 2004. It is held in over 6,000 other public libraries across the country.

While this book is not appropriate for young children or even young teens, many high schools include it on reading lists. It is taught in many colleges and universities. The library recognized the mature subject matter and content of this book and, upon purchase, placed it into the Adult Fiction collection. The sexual material in the book is not erotic but informs us about the characters and their development. The book is realistic for its setting.

You asked specifically that this item would be "taken out of the libraries." After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book should be retained and it is shelved in the appropriate section of the library.

While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for themselves or their family, that alone does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. Parents are the ultimate deciders of which books and media their children will consume. At the same time, we do acknowledge that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what they and their own children will read or hear.

The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the

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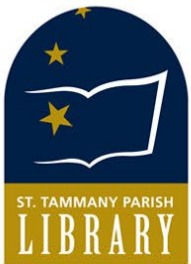
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next regularly scheduled meeting on March 27th, 2023, where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly LaRocca".

Kelly LaRocca, Director

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Statement of Concern about Library Resources

Intellectual freedom in a public library necessitates selecting some materials that may be considered controversial by some individuals or groups. Reasons often cited for materials considered offensive include use of profanity, divergent viewpoints, controversial authors, sexual content, and depictions of violence and criminal acts. The acquisition of such materials does not imply approval or endorsement of their contents. The selection criteria used by the St. Tammany Parish Library must remain broad and flexible in order to provide a collection that supports the broad range of interests and diverse backgrounds of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish.

Date 11-19-2022

Name Connie Phillips

Address [Redacted]

City Mandeville State LA Zip 70471

Telephone [Redacted]

Representing (self) St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

- Book, Newspaper, Other, Magazine, Content of Library Program, Audiovisual, Electronic Resource

2. Title The Bluest Eye

Author/Producer Toni Morrison

3. What brought this title to your attention?

Content violates the state obscenity statues
2021 Louisiana Laws
Revised Statutes
Title 14 - Criminal Law

4. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

yes

5. What course of action do you recommend in regard to this resource?

Restrict access to minors as outlined in statute above. Require parent to check out for minor. The book should be shelved in a section where minors do not have access. A separate place in the library. A room or some section where minors do not have entry without parent and minors cannot check out.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains profanity and derogatory terms; sexual activities including sexual assault and molestation; alcohol use; inflammatory racial and religious commentary and references.

Page Content



7. In its place, what materials would you recommend on this topic?

Something that does not violate the state obscenity statues for minors.

NOTE:

This statement will be referred to a Library Resource Review Committee. You will be advised in writing of the committee's decision. Thank you for your concern and input.

Addendum – The Bluest Eye

3. What brought this title to your attention?

Content violates the state obscenity statutes

2021 Louisiana Laws

Revised Statutes

Title 14 - Criminal Law

§91.11.

2) "Material harmful to minors" is defined as any paper, magazine, book, newspaper, periodical, pamphlet, composition, publication, photograph, drawing, picture, poster, motion picture film, video tape, video game, figure, phonograph record, album, cassette, compact disc, wire or tape recording, or other similar tangible work or thing which exploits, is devoted to or principally consists of, descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality for commercial gain, and when the trier of fact determines that each of the following applies:

(a) The material incites or appeals to or is designed to incite or appeal to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors.

(b) The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors.

(c) The material taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

(3) For the purpose of this Section "descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality" includes the depiction, display, description, exhibition or representation of:

(a) Ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual, simulated, or animated, whether between human beings, animals, or an animal and a human being;

(b) Masturbation, excretory functions, or exhibition, actual, simulated, or animated, of the genitals, pubic hair, anus, vulva, or female breast nipples;

(c) Sadomasochistic abuse, meaning actual, simulated, or animated, flagellation or torture by or upon a person who is nude or clad in undergarments or in a costume which reveals the pubic hair, anus, vulva, genitals, or female breast nipples, or the condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained, on the part of one so clothed;

(d) Actual, simulated, or animated, touching, caressing, or fondling of, or other similar physical contact with, a pubic area, anus, female breast nipple, covered or exposed, whether alone or between human*, animals or a human and an animal, of the same or opposite sex, in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or gratification; or

(e) Actual, simulated, or animated, stimulation of the human genital organs by any device whether or not the device is designed, manufactured, and marketed for such purpose.

(4) "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen years.

6. Please state your reasons for making this recommendation. To what in the resource do you object? Please be specific: cite pages, scenes or sections. Consider commenting on the resource as a whole, as well as being specific on the matters which concern you.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains profanity and derogatory terms; sexual activities including sexual assault and molestation; alcohol use; inflammatory racial and religious commentary and references.

Page Content

18 When she comes out of the car we will beat her up, make red marks on her white skin, and she will cry and ask us do we want to pull her pants down.

29 I destroyed white baby dolls.

But the dismembering of dolls was not the true horror. The truly horrifying thing was the transference of the same impulses to little white girls.

32 "You want to go up to Mr. Henry's room and look at girlie magazines?"

Frieda made an ugly face. She didn't like to look at dirty pictures.

36 "Mrs. MacTeer! Mrs. MacTeer!" Rosemary hollered. "Frieda and Claudia are out here playing nasty! Mrs. MacTeer!"

Mama opened the window and looked down at us.

"What?"

"They're playing nasty, Mrs. MacTeer. Look. And Claudia hit me 'cause I seen them!"

Mama slammed the window shut and came running out the back door.

"What you all doing? Oh. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Playing nasty, huh?"

41 Pleading eyes and tightened testicles.

44 Even from where Pecola lay, she could smell Cholly's whiskey.

...Cholly had come home drunk.

48 She ran into the bedroom with a dishpan full of cold water and threw it in Cholly's face. He sat up, choking and spitting. Naked and ashen, he leaped from the bed, and with a flying tackle, grabbed his wife around the waist, and they hit the floor. Cholly picked her up and knocked her down with the back of his hand. She fell in a sitting position, her back supported by Sammy's bed frame. She had not let go of the dishpan, and began to hit at Cholly's thighs and groin with it. He put his foot in her chest, and she dropped the pan. Dropping to his knee, he struck her several times in the face, and she might have succumbed early had he not hit his hand against the metal bed frame when his wife ducked.

...Sammy, who had watched in silence their struggling at his bedside, suddenly began to hit his father about the head with both fists, shouting "You naked fuck!" over and over and over. Mrs. Breedlove, having snatched up the round, flat stove lid, ran tippy-toe to Cholly as he was pulling himself up from his knees, and struck him two blows, knocking him right back into the senselessness out of which she had provoked him. Panting, she threw a quilt over him and let him lie.

59 Neither were they the sloppy, inadequate whores who, unable to make a living at

it alone, turn to drug consumption and traffic or pimps to help complete their scheme of self-destruction, avoiding suicide only to punish the memory of some absent father or to sustain the misery of some silent mother.

...On one occasion the town well knew, they lured a Jew up the stairs, pounced on him, all three, held him up by the heels, shook everything out of his pants pockets, and threw him out of the window.

60 Into her eyes came the picture of Cholly and Mrs. Breedlove in bed. He making sounds as though he were in pain, as though something had him by the throat and wouldn't let go.

77 Instead we saw Mr. Henry and two women. In a playful manner, the way grandmothers do with babies, he was sucking the fingers of the women, whose
Page Content

laughter filled a tiny place over his head.

...The sight of him licking her fingers brought to mind the girlie magazines in his room.

82 They do not drink, smoke , or swear, and they still call sex "nooky."

83 He must rest his weight on his elbows when they make love, ostensibly to avoid hurting her breasts but actually to keep her from having to touch or feel too much of him.

While he moves inside her, she will wonder why they didn't put the necessary but private parts of the body in some more convenient place- like the armpit, for example, or the palm of the hand. Someplace one could get to easily, and quickly, without undressing. She stiffens when she feels one of her paper curlers coming undone from the activity of love; imprints in her mind which one it is that is coming loose so she can quickly secure it once he is through. She hopes he will not sweat the damp may get into her hair; and that she will remain dry between her legs—she hates the glucking sound they make when she is moist. When she senses some spasm about to grip him, she will make rapid movements with her hips, press her fingernails into his back, suck in her breath, and pretend she is

having an orgasm. She might wonder again, for the six hundredth time, what it would be like to have that feeling while her husband's penis is inside her. The closest thing to it was the time she was walking down the street and her napkin slipped free of her sanitary belt. It moved gently between her legs as she walked. Gently, ever so gently. And then a slight and distinctly delicious sensation collected in her crotch. As the delight grew, she had to stop in the street, hold her thighs together to contain it. That must be what it is like, she thinks, but it never happens while he is inside her. When he withdraws, she pulls her nightgown down, slips out of the bed and into the bathroom with relief.

85 White kids; his mother did not like him to play with niggers. She had to explain to him the difference between colored people and niggers. They were easily identifiable. Colored people were neat and quiet; niggers were dirty and loud.

89 "Gimme my cat!" His voice broke. With a movement both awkward and sure he snatched the cat by one of its hind legs and began to swing it around his head in a circle.

"Stop that!" Pecola was screaming. The cat's free paws were stiffened, ready to grab anything to restore balance, its mouth wide, its eyes blue streaks of horror. Junior tried to push her away, but she grabbed the arm which was swinging the cat. They both fell, and in falling, Junior let go the cat, which, having been released in mid-motion, was thrown full force against the window. It slithered down and fell on the radiator behind the sofa. Except for a few shudders, it was still. There was only the slightest smell of singed fur.

Geraldine opened the door.

"What is this?" Her voice was mild, as though asking a perfectly reasonable question. "Who is this girl?"

"She killed our cat," said Junior. "Look." He pointed to the radiator, where the cat lay, its blue eyes closed, leaving only an empty, black, and helpless face.

93 "Mr. Henry."

"What'd he do?"

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"Daddy beat him up."

..."He...picked at me."

"Picked at you? You mean like Soaphead Church?"

"Sort of."

"He showed his privates at you?"

"Noooo. He touched me."

"Where?"

"Here and there." She pointed to the tiny breasts that, like two fallen acorns, scattered a few faded rose leaves on her dress.

"Really? How did it feel?"

..."It didn't feel like anything."

"But it wasn't supposed to? Feel good, I mean?" Frieda sucked her teeth. "What'd he do? Just walk up and pinch them?"

She sighed. "First he said how pretty is was. Then he grabbed my arm and touched me."

96 "You could drink whiskey."

"Where would I get whiskey?"

..."Pecola," I said. "Her father's always drunk. She can get us some."

"You think so?"

"Sure. Cholly's always drunk..."

100 Black people were not allowed in the park, and so it filled our dreams.

111 No better than whites for meanness.

113 Nasty white folks is about the nastiest things they is.

117 I hurt just like them white women. Just 'cause I wasn't hooping and hollering before didn't mean I wasn't feeling pain. What'd they think? That just 'cause I knowed how to have a baby with no fuss that my behind wasn't pulling and aching like theirs?

120 Then he lift his head, turn over, and put his hand on my waist. If I don't move,

he'll move his hand over to pull and knead my stomach. Soft and slow-like. I still don't move, because I don't want him to stop. I want to pretend sleep and have him keep on rubbing my stomach. Then he will lean his head down and bite my tit. Then I don't want him to rub my stomach anymore. I want him to put his hand between my legs. I pretend to wake up, and turn to him, but not opening my legs. I want him to open them for me. He does, and I be soft and wet where his fingers are strong and hard. I be softer than I ever been before. All my strength in his hand. My brain curls up like wilted leaves. A funny, empty feeling is in my hands. I want to grab hold of something, so I hold his head. His mouth is under my chin. Then I don't want his hand between my legs no more, because I think I am softening away. I stretch my legs open, and he is on top of me. Too heavy to hold, and too light not to. He puts his thing in me. In me. In me. I wrap my feet around his back so he can't get away. His face is next to mine. The bed springs sounds like them crickets used to back home. He puts his fingers in mine, and we stretches our arms outwise like Jesus on the cross. I hold on tight. My fingers and my feet hold on tight, because everything else is going, going. I know he wants me to come first. But I can't. Not until he does. Not until I feel him loving me. Just me. Sinking into me. Not until I know that my flesh is all that be on his mind. That

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he couldn't stop if he had to. That he would die rather than take his thing out of me. Of me. Not until he has let go of all he has, and give it to me. To me. To me. When he does, I feel a power I be strong, I be pretty, I be young. And then I wait. He shivers and tosses his head. Now I be strong enough, pretty enough, and young enough to let him make me come. I take my fingers out of his and put my hands on his behind. My legs drop back onto the bed. I don't make no noise, because the chil'ren might hear. I begin to feel those little bits of color floating up into me—deep in me. That streak of green from the june-bug light, the purple from the berries trickling along my thighs, Mama Is lemonade yellow runs sweet in me. Then I feel like I'm laughing between my legs, and the laughing gets all

mixed up with the colors, and I'm afraid I'll come, and afraid I won't. But I know I will. And I do. And it be rainbow all inside. And it lasts and lasts and lasts. I want to thank him, but don't know how, so I pat him like you do a baby.

..."But it ain't like that anymore. Most times he's thrashing away inside me before I'm woke, and through when I am..."

123 When Cholly was four days old, his mother wrapped him in two blankets and one newspaper and placed him on a junk heap by the railroad.

127 To Aunt Jimmy she said, "You done caught cold in your womb. Drink pot liquor and nothing else."

129 He was aware, in his sleep, of being curled up in a chair, his hands tucked between his thighs. In a dream his penis changed into a long hickory stick, and the hands caressing it were the hands of M'Dear.

135 Cholly could see her bloomers and the muscles of her young thighs.

136 He rose to his knees facing her and tried to tie her ribbon. Darlene put her hands under his open shirt and rubbed the damp tight skin. When he looked at her in surprise, she stopped and laughed. He smiled and continued knotting the bow. She put her hands back under his shirt.

...She tickled his ribs with her fingertips. He giggled and grabbed his rib cage. They were on top of each other in a moment. She corkscrewing her hands into his clothes. He returning the play, digging into the neck of her dress, and then under her dress. When he got his hand in her bloomers, she suddenly stopped laughing and looked serious. Cholly, frightened, was about to take his hand away, but she held his wrist so he couldn't move it. He examined her then with his fingers, and she kissed his face and mouth. Cholly found her muscadine-lipped mouth distracting. Darlene released his head, shifted her body, and pulled down her pants. After some trouble with the buttons, Cholly dropped his pants down to his knees. Their bodies began to make sense to him, and it was not as difficult as he had thought it would be. She moaned a little, but the excitement collecting inside him made him close his eyes and regard her moans as no more than pine sighs

over his head. Just as he felt an explosion threaten, Darlene froze and cried out. He thought he had hurt her, but when he looked at her face, she was staring wildly at something over his shoulder. He jerked around.

There stood two white men. One with a spirit lamp, the other with a flashlight. There was no mistake about their being white; he could smell it. Cholly jumped, trying to kneel, stand, and get his pants up all in one motion. The men had long guns.

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..."I said, get on wid it. An' make it good, nigger, make it good."

...The flashlight man lifted his gun down from his shoulder, and Cholly heard the clop of metal. He dropped back to his knees. Darlene had her head averted, her eyes staring out of the lamplight into the surrounding darkness and looking almost unconcerned, as though they had no part in the drama taking place around them. With a violence born of total helplessness, he pulled her dress up, lowered his trousers and underwear.

"Hee hee hee hee heeeeee."

Darlene put her hands over her face as Cholly began to simulate what had gone on before. He could do no more than make-believe. The flashlight made a moon on his behind.

"Hee hee hee hee heeee."

"Come on, coon. Faster. You ain't doing nothing for her."

"Hee hee hee hee heeee."

Cholly, moving faster, looked at Darlene. He hated her. He almost wished he could do it—hard, long, and painfully, he hated her so much. The flashlight wormed its way into his guts and turned the sweet taste of muscadine into rotten fetid bile. He stared at Darlene's hands covering her face in the moon and lamplight. They looked like baby claws.

"Hee hee hee hee heeee."

..."Wait," said the spirit lamp, "the coon ain't comed yet."

"Well, he have to come on his own time. Good luck, coon baby."

...Cholly raised himself and in silence buttoned his trousers. Darlene did not move.

Cholly wanted to strangle her, but instead he touched her leg with his foot. "We got to get, girl. Come on!"

She reached for her underwear with her eyes closed, and could not find them.

The two of them patted about in the moonlight for the panties. When she found them, she put them on with the movements of an old woman.

140 It had occurred to him that Darlene might be pregnant.

149 Pecola lost her balance and was about to careen to the floor. Cholly raised his other hand to her hips to save her from falling. He put his head down and nibbled at the back of her leg. His mouth trembled at the firm sweetness of the flesh. He closed his eyes, letting his fingers dig into her waist. The rigidness of her shocked body, the silence of her stunned throat, was better than Pauline's easy laughter had been. The confused mixture of his memories of Pauline and the doing of a wild and forbidden thing excited him, and a bolt of desire ran down his genitals, giving it length, and softening the lips of his anus. Surrounding all of this lust was a border of politeness. He wanted to fuck 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 to his guts and fly out into her, and the gigantic thrust he made into her then provoked the only sound she made—a hollow suck of air in the back of her throat. Like the rapid loss of air from a circus balloon.

Following the disintegration—the falling away—of sexual desire, he was conscious of her wet, soapy hands on his wrists, the fingers clenching, but whether her grip was from a hopeless but stubborn struggle to be free, or from some other emotion, he could not tell.

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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. Cholly stood up and could see only her grayish panties, so sad and limp around her

ankles. Again the hatred mixed with tenderness. The hatred would not let him pick her up, the tenderness forced him to cover her.

So when the child regained consciousness, she was lying on the kitchen floor under a heavy quilt, trying to connect the pain between her legs with the face of her mother looming over her.

152 The careful design was marred occasionally by rare but keen sexual cravings. He could have been an active homosexual but lacked the courage. Bestiality did not occur to him, and sodomy was quite out of the question, for he did not experience sustained erections and could not endure the thought of somebody else's. And besides, the one thing that disgusted him more than entering and caressing a woman was caressing and being caressed by a man. In any case, his cravings, although intense, never relished physical contact. He abhorred flesh on flesh.

...all the natural excretions and protections the body was capable of- disquieted him. His attentions therefore gradually settled on those humans whose bodies were least offensive- children. And since he was too diffident to confront homosexuality, and since little boys were insulting, scary, and stubborn, he further limited his interests to little girls. They were usually manageable and frequently seductive. His sexuality was anything but lewd; his patronage of little girls smacked of innocence and was associated in his mind with cleanliness.

154 They were industrious, orderly, and energetic, hoping to prove beyond a doubt De Gobineau's hypothesis that "all civilizations derived from the white race, that none can exist without its help, and that a society is great and brilliant only so far as it preserves the blood of the noble group that created it."

165 The little girls are the only things I'll miss. Do you know that when I touched their sturdy little tits and bit them—just a little—I felt I was being friendly? I didn't want to kiss their mouths or sleep in the bed with them or take a child bride for my own. Playful, I felt, and friendly.

...Two of them, Doreen and Sugar Babe, they'd come together. I gave them mints,

money, and they'd eat ice cream with their legs open while I played with them. It was like a party. And there wasn't nastiness, and there wasn't any filth, and there wasn't any odor, and there wasn't any groaning—just the light white laughter of little girls and me. And there wasn't any look—any long funny look—any long funny Velma look afterward. No look that makes you feel dirty afterward. That makes you want to die. With little girls it is all clean and good and friendly.

...I did what You did not, could not, would not do: I looked at that ugly little black girl, and I loved her. I played You. And it was a very good show!

168 A slim young girl in a pink crepe dress. One hand is on her hip; the other lolls about her thigh- waiting.

169 "Did you hear about that girl?"

"What? Pregnant?"

"Yas. But guess who?"

"Who? I don't know all these little old boys."

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"That's just it. Ain't no little old boy. They say it's Cholly."

"Cholly? Her daddy?"

"Uh-huh."

"Lord. Have mercy. That dirty nigger."

..."Oh, come on. She ain't but twelve or so."

178 Oh. She's all right. For a half-white girl, that is.

180 All he did was get drunk and beat her up.

...Anyway, if she didn't love him, she sure let him do it to her a lot.

...I saw them all the time. She didn't like it.

Then why'd she let him do it to her?

Because he made her.

182 You said he tried to do it to you when you were sleeping on the couch.

See there! You don't even know what you're talking about. It was when I was washing dishes.

Profanity Count

Ass 1

Bitch 1

Coon 2

Fuck 3

Nigger 8



March 17th 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips


Dear Connie Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Per the St. Tammany Library Board of Control's policies and procedures, this correspondence is to notify you of the recommendation of the library staff committee regarding the material referenced in your Statement of Concern.

Pursuant to La. R.S. § 14:91.11, it is unlawful for any St. Tammany Library to display, exhibit, disseminate, check-out, or otherwise provide any minor anything that constitutes material harmful to minors by law. However, materials are only deemed harmful to minors if **all** four (4) of the following apply beyond a reasonable doubt:

1. First, the material must exploit, be devoted to, or principally consist of "descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality." To be "descriptions or depictions of illicit or sexual immorality," the material must convey ultimate sex acts, masturbation or excretory functions, lewd exhibition of private areas, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual intimacy via physical acts of private areas, or stimulation of human genitalia.
2. Second, the material must incite, appeal to, or be designed to incite or appeal to "the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors," i.e., a sexual response over and beyond those that would be characterized as normal for a minor.
3. Third, the material must be "offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors." These standards are not defined or limited by any specific geographic area.
4. Fourth, the material, when considered in its entirety (including both objectionable and nonobjectionable parts), must lack any "literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors." If any of the foregoing requirements are not met, the material is not unlawful under La. R.S. §14:91.11.

Importantly, the statute defines "minor" as "any person under the age of eighteen years." Thus, the last three (3) elements above must be considered in that context, e.g., "The material taken as a whole [must] lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for [any person

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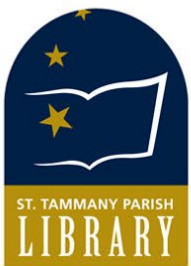
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under the age of eighteen years].” Additionally, if materials that qualify as harmful to minors are not sold, distributed, advertised, or otherwise distributed to minors, it is permissible under the law to have them available for adults to do so, as long as the minors are unable to see, “as displayed,” descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality.”

Under this analysis, the staff committee determined that the material at issue in your Statement of Concern does not qualify as unlawfully harmful to minors.

1. The book does contain sexual acts and sexual abuse. However, the book is not primarily consisting of nor is it devoted to sexual content.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. The sexual content of the book is not erotic. The sexual content is meant to elicit discomfort or to inform the reader about the characters and their development. The sexual content illustrates complex emotions.
3. The committee did not find the material to be offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors. While this book is not appropriate for young children, it may be appropriate for 16 and 17-year olds. Many high schools include it on reading lists. It is taught in many colleges and universities. The profanity and derogatory terms are realistic for the setting and characters.
4. The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary or artistic value for minors. The author is a Pulitzer Prize, Nobel Prize, and Presidential Medal of Freedom winner, and this book is part of the canon of American Literature. The sexual material in the book is not erotic but informs us about the characters and their development. The ending of the book would not make sense without the sexual content. The reader would not understand the character Pecola’s break from reality. The book has a high circulation rate at STPL, with 336 circulations since 2004. The title is held in over 6,000 other public libraries across the country.

This book is currently located in the Adult fiction collection. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate the statute, and the book is shelved in the appropriate section of the library.

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While we recognize that some may find the material in question not suitable for their family, that alone does not render it unlawful and does not warrant censoring the public at large from accessing and/or checking out the material. Parents are the ultimate deciders of which books and media their children will consume. At the same time, we do acknowledge that this book may not be in line with the values of all families in the Parish. The purchase of any item by the St. Tammany Parish Library is not an affirmation of the content of the item, and each family in our Parish has the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding what their own children will read or hear.

The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 27th, 2023, where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes.

Regardless of the outcome, we hope you will recognize the important role that a public library plays in a free and open democratic society as a neutral resource for everyone.

Respectfully,



Kelly LaRocca, Director

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Surplus Property

As the Maintenance department has been packing for the move to the new Technical Services building, they are evaluating tools and materials that are no longer working or no longer needed. The Maintenance Department Manager has identified several tools that are old, still in working order, but are no longer needed. In addition, there is an old refrigerator in the maintenance garage that is no longer needed. A resolution is required so the items can be donated to Good Will or Habitat for Humanity ReStore. A sample resolution declaring the items surplus property follows this explanation for your consideration.



St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Resolution to declare certain movable property surplus and authorizing its disposition.
March 27th, 2023

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Library is the owner of the following described movable property;
and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Library declares the following movable property no longer needed for a public purpose due to its age and repair costs and, thus, no longer viable to maintain; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Library desires to declare said movable property as surplus and dispose of the same.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control hereby declares the following movable property as surplus and authorizes the disposition of the same, all in accordance with state law:

Id Number/Description:

4667 REFRIGERATOR - ROPER (2008)

10966 Hedger Attachment – Stihl (2013)

10968 Brush Blade Attachment – Stihl (2013)

10967 Chainsaw attachment – Stihl (2013)

10961 Paint Sprayer - Graco Magnum XR9 (2013)

10992 Stihl Powerhead KM130R (2013)

10933 Handicap Ramp - 8ft Long Temporary Ramp with Handles (2013)

10997 Chainsaw - Echo CS 670 Chainsaw (2013)

10998 Chainsaw - Husqvarna 455 Rancher (2013)

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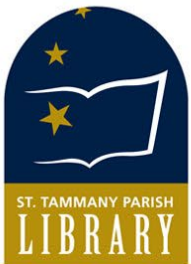
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THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Moved for adoption by _____ and seconded by

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

AND THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED ON THIS DAY, THE 27th DAY OF MARCH 2022, AT A MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING PRESENT.

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

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Strategic Planning Committee Update

Carson Block and Susan Kent presented a draft of the mission, vision, and goals that resulted from community engagement in 2022. Feedback given will be incorporated so that the Board can consider the adoption of the Strategic Plan at our April meeting.