

St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Special Meeting
June 16, 2023
Slidell Library
555 Robert Blvd.
Slidell, LA 70458
9:00 A.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. Please note, all comments must pertain to the agenda item announced, there is no general public comment at the end of the meeting. Any person wishing to comment on a topic not listed on the agenda may do so by e-mailing lboc@stpl.us by 8:00am on Friday, June 16th.

AGENDA

Call to order by President and Roll Call by Director

1. New Business
 - A. Challenged Materials Process
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
2. Adjournment

Section 407. Statements of Concern about Library Resources

Effective Date: 12/13/2022

Revision Date: 12/13/2022

A. General

The choice of library materials by users is an individual matter. Responsibility for the use of library materials by children rests with their parents or legal guardians. While a person may reject material for themselves and for their children, an individual may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others to read, see, or hear. No one, least of all the public library, has the right to judge what another may read, view, or hear.

B. Process

1. Any person residing in St. Tammany Parish and wishing to express concerns about library materials, programs, or displays shall complete a "Statement of Concern About Library Resources" form. The Statement of Concern form shall be available at the library circulation desk, the library's website, by email request, and at all Library Board of Control meetings. All completed Statement of Concern Forms will be forwarded to the Library Director and to each member of the Library Board of Control. Upon receipt of the Statement of Concern Form the Director will confirm receipt in writing to the complainant(s).

2. The Director will select two or more staff members to serve on an internal committee to review each Statement of Concern and the subject of the concern. Committee members will be chosen by the Director based on the type of material under review and taking into consideration the staff member's education and experience. A recommendation regarding which action to be taken, if any, will be made by the committee within 45 days of the Director receiving the Statement of Concern Form, unless a longer period is authorized by the Library Board of Control, in which case the complainant(s) shall receive notice.

3. The committee members shall:

- a. Review the material in its entirety
- b. Create and consider a resume of the material which can include:
 - A brief synopsis
 - Reviews in standard evaluation guides
 - Topical information concerning the material
 - Circulation information
 - Information about holdings in other public libraries
 - Awards received
 - Biographical information about the author/producer
 - Library of Congress Subject Headings
- c. Consider the suitability for age level of current placement
- d. Consider present and potential relevance to community needs
- e. Conduct a discussion to reach a recommendation

- f. Submit a written report to the Director with recommendations based on the result of the committee's efforts.
4. The complainant(s) shall be notified of the date of the Library Board of Control meeting at which the committee's report and recommendation will be on the agenda. A copy of the correspondence to the complainant(s) shall be forwarded to each member of the Library Board of Control.
5. The Director will present the committee's recommendation to the Library Board of Control at a properly noticed Board meeting report.
6. The complainant(s) will have five minutes to address their concern to the Library Board of Control prior to any action taken by the Board. In lieu of addressing the Board in person at the meeting, the complainant(s) may submit a written statement to the Board. A period of public comment will precede any action taken by the Board.
7. The Library Board of Control shall vote to affirm, modify, reject, or take under advisement the committee's recommendation. Matters taken under advisement shall be renoticed for a future meeting. Upon modification or rejection of the recommendation of the committee, the Board shall make a decision on what action will be taken in response to the Statement of Concern. The decision of the Board shall be rendered by a majority vote. In the event there is a tie, the recommendation is affirmed.
8. The complainant(s) will be notified in writing of the decision of the Library Board of Control.

Section 409. Access to Library Materials by Minors

Effective Date: 12/13/2022

Revision Date: TK

The St. Tammany Parish Library does not, to its knowledge, have any materials in its collection that are “obscene” or “pornographic” by legal definition.

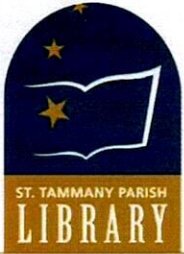
The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has determined that "public libraries must have broad discretion to decide what material to provide to their patrons."

Based on a review of case law by the St. Tammany Parish District Attorney’s office,

1. Public libraries do not have the legal right or responsibility to act in the place of parents or legal guardians in deciding what material their minor children are permitted to read.
2. But public libraries may restrict access to materials by minors, as long as the motives for these restrictions are not unconstitutional.
3. On the basis of findings by SCOTUS, it is proper and constitutional to restrict minors’ access to public library materials if they are “pervasively vulgar.”
4. However, to remove or restrict access to books on the grounds of religious beliefs, politics, nationalism, or any other matters of opinion would constitute viewpoint discrimination and not be considered constitutional.

Therefore, it is the policy of the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control to restrict access by minors to individual books and materials that are found to be inappropriate, i.e. “pervasively vulgar” for minors.

Pending a determination that an item that is the subject of a Statement of Concern is “pervasively vulgar,” according to the standard established by SCOTUS, access to the item will be restricted. These items will be available to all patrons 18 years or older and to those minors whose parents or legal guardians have given them permission.



St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Resolution regarding temporary disposition of challenged materials

December 13th, 2022

BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control directs library administration and staff to do what is necessary to move all currently challenged items off of the shelves and have them placed on reserve behind the circulation desk.

WHEREAS, the Library Board of Control has heard the concerns of parents and community members, and

WHEREAS, the Library Board of control continues to recognize that parents and guardians make decisions for what their children may check out, and

WHEREAS, these items will be available for check out based on the permissions of the library card in possession of the patron.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Library Board of Control directs the administration and staff to move forward with this directive.

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

Moved for adoption by B. Allin and seconded by M. Reneau

YEAS: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 3

ABSTAIN: 0

AND THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED ON THIS DAY, THE 13th DAY OF DECEMBER 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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COVINGTON (985) 893-6280	FOLSOM (985) 796-9728	LACOMBE (985) 882-7858	LEE RD (985) 893-6284
MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819	MANDENVILLE (985) 626-4293	PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518	SLIDELL (985) 646-6470