

St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
August 21, 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. In the case of a Statement of Concern decision, the person who filed the Statement of Concern is given 5 minutes to speak. **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 4:00 PM on Monday, August 21st, 2023.

AGENDA

Call to order by President and Roll Call by Director

1. Recognition and thanks for years of service to the Library Board of Control – Dr. Argiro Morgan
2. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the Library Board of Control that were held on June 27th, June 28th, and July 24th 2023.
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
3. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Financial Reports – July 2023
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
 - B. 2023 Summer Reading Wrap-Up
 - C. Director’s Report
 - D. Statement of Concern Decision – *Two Boys Kissing*
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote
 - E. Statement of Concern Decision – *What Are Your Words*
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote

F. 2024 Budget

- Public Hearing (motion required to open and close)
- Discussion
- Vote

G. Designation of Surplus Property

- Public Comment
- Discussion
- Vote

H. Designation of Capital Funds – Tech Services Elevator

- Public Comment
- Discussion
- Vote

I. Designation of Capital Funds – Outreach service facility

- Public Comment
- Discussion
- Vote

4. Adjournment

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Special Meeting
June 27, 2023
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.,
Mandeville, LA 70471
10:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

The meeting was scheduled as a Rules and Regulations Committee meeting. Due to a quorum of the Library Board of Control, the meeting became a special board meeting.

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, Bill McHugh, Anthony Parr, Becky Taylor

Absent: Carmen Butler, Mary Reneau, Ann Shaw

Emily Couvillon with the Civil Division of the District Attorney's Office was also present as legal counsel for the library.

B. Taylor explained the rules 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. This is a special board meeting with only one item on the agenda. Public comments were accepted by email (lboc@stpl.us) until 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the meeting.

1. New Business

A. Challenged Materials Process

Discussion:

K. LaRocca noted that this is a Rules and Regulations Committee meeting discussion and there will be no changes recommended to the Board for approval at this time. The Board was provided with a revised working document comprised of feedback received from the Board, the public, and the committee. The original policy was also provided for comparison. K. LaRocca read through the original policy and all of the suggested changes based on the previously

mentioned feedback. Library Administration and the Board discussed various changes to the policy, such as adding words for clarity, revising phrases, general sentence structure, and organization of paragraphs.

There was discussion about the suggestion of resources not being subject to a statement of concern (SOC) if they are only available digitally for download or stream and are categorized as adult material. B. McHugh and A. Parr agreed with the suggestion. J. Airey commented that the SOC should not be based on the placement of the item in the library if the item is only available online.

Regarding the suggestion that religious beliefs should not be a valid reason for a complaint, E. Couvillon advised that the suggestion is already covered in Section 407, paragraph A, and again in Section 409.

There was discussion about costs of processing a SOC. There were suggestions to limit the number of SOCs that could be submitted by one person within a certain timeframe. B. Taylor stated that the public has the right to submit a properly completed statement, but the objective is to eliminate the number of frivolous statements received. B. McHugh does not agree with restricting the number of statements someone can submit.

J. Airey suggested that an appeal to the Board should be an appeal of the library staff review committee recommendation. He stated that there are times when the committee recommends what the complainant is asking for, yet the challenged item automatically goes to the Board for final review. The complainant could appeal to the Board if they disagree with the committee's recommendation. E. Couvillon confirmed that was the rule until the policy was revised.

The next discussion was regarding how many statements should be submitted before a full review occurs. B. McHugh and B. Taylor stated they were not in favor of requiring multiple statements to be submitted before triggering a full review. The current process will remain in the policy.

K. LaRocca stated that the current policy states that only St. Tammany Parish residents can submit a SOC. There was a suggestion that only library card-holders can submit a SOC. It was decided that the requirement could be easily met by getting a library card. The card requirement will not be included in policy. There was discussion regarding organizations obtaining library cards. It was clarified that nursing homes and some child care centers are the

only organizational cards and there is a procedure for obtaining those cards. The committee agreed to consider the requirement that only an individual can submit a SOC.

There were suggestions regarding the SOC form, such as removing email submissions of SOCs, require in-person paper submissions to a manager or librarian, or make the form a printable PDF instead of a fillable form. B. McHugh agreed with the suggestion that it should be noted on the form or website that we encourage complainants to speak to a manager, librarian, or the Library Director about their concerns before engaging in the SOC process. The committee agreed to keep the form a fillable PDF on the website.

There was discussion about whether or not to make the resolution regarding the temporary disposition of challenged materials dated December 13, 2023, part of the policy. E. Couvillon stated that if the Board wants to continue with the resolution it should become part of the written policies and procedures for transparency purposes. If the Board does not want to continue with the resolution, the Board would have to vote to negate the resolution.

B. McHugh noted that he was not a board member at that time, but commented that the resolution was made during a time of uncertainty prior to the Board receiving legal advice regarding La R.S. 14:91.11. He stated that he learned from K. LaRocca that there was concern about the possibility that someone would ask for K. LaRocca or other staff members to be arrested. B. McHugh noted that the police were in fact called to the library on at least one occasion due to a criminal complaint. Outside legal counsel has since been retained and has provided straightforward analysis of the criminal statute and outlined the four specific criteria that must be met for an item to be in violation of the statute. The practice of moving the challenged books behind the desk has continued because the resolution had previously been adopted.

There was discussion about including two options in the draft. K. LaRocca asked E. Couvillon for clarification on whether or not there needs to be a new resolution negating the previous resolution. E. Couvillon advised that the point at issue would need to be a separate agenda item for the full Board to consider. K. LaRocca suggested that the committee wait for the item to be discussed and voted on by the Board, then the policy can be updated accordingly.

There were suggestions and discussion about pull cards or placeholder books in place of challenged materials on the shelves and each branch displaying a poster listing all of the challenged books. It was decided that this would become a procedure, not a policy.

There was discussion about referring the complainant to the Attorney General's office when an item does not meet the criteria in the obscenity statute, yet the statute is cited as the basis of the complaint. J. Airey stated that a book does not have to fall under the obscenity statute for the Board to exercise its discretion and place it in a restricted area. He spoke of the issues that could arise with copyright-holders, publishers, and authors if the Library Board says their book is obscene when the Attorney General has said it is not. J. Airey commented that if it has already been determined that the book does not violate the statute, then appeals should be based on a different reason. He spoke about weighing harmfulness vs. artistic value.

K. LaRocca clarified that the committee does not just evaluate the challenged materials based on the statute. The committee reviews and discusses all aspects of the material such as the appropriate location in the library collection. The committee may recommend moving an item to a different collection even if the item does not violate the statute. The committee decided not to include referring items to the Attorney General for review.

There was continued discussion about the appeals process vs. the challenge automatically going before the Board for review. K. LaRocca clarified that the reason the challenges automatically go before the Board now is because members of the public said that librarians were not making fair decisions regarding the challenged books. The decision process was then designated to the Library Board, which consists of community members who are appointed by the Parish Council and Parish President to represent the community.

J. Airey commented that there should be an additional step in dialog between the complainant and the library after the committee recommendation, but before the challenge goes before the Board. If the complainant agrees with the committee's recommendation, then the recommendation should stand. If the complainant disagrees with the recommendation, then it should go before the Board. K. LaRocca explained that when there was an appeals process, most of the complainants did not appeal the committee's recommendations, but instead spoke publicly about how the library did not do what they asked for.

It was suggested that fraudulent complaints should not be considered and SOC's should not be required to be notarized. The committee will work on writing and incorporating suggested ideas into the policy for future consideration.

Spoke about SOC's with incorrect titles, authors, and citations. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the complainants asking for clarification, which gives them an opportunity to fix the SOC. It was suggested that if a complainant challenges a title that the library does not own, a

letter should be sent to the complainant informing them that the library does not own a copy of the title. There was discussion about whether or not these points should be policy or procedure.

There was additional discussion about rejecting all SOC's in which the only complaint is that it violates R.S. 14:91.11. K. LaRocca commented that the committee does a full evaluation when reviewing challenged materials. J. Airey recommended the committee still review the item to determine if it is in the appropriate location, even if it does not violate the statute.

K. LaRocca spoke of the demographics of the staff review committees, which are formed to constitute a fair representation of individuals. There was discussion of whether or not to have members of the public serve on the review committees. J. Airey stated that he does not think we need another board to oversee the Library Board. He suggested having a member of the public participate in a review committee so that they are part of the initial process and it would show the public exactly how these reviews are done.

B. McHugh stated that the review process should be left to the professionals. B. Taylor agreed and stated that involving the public would complicate the process, rather than streamline it. J. Airey respectfully disagreed with relying on what the librarians recommend. He compared it to the Parish zoning staff, who are experts in development, giving reports to appointed members of the public to make complex, billion-dollar zoning decisions that affect everyone in the Parish. He agreed that the library staff are doing a great job on the committees. He agreed that the process should return to a committee recommended decision. If the complainant does not agree with the decision, then they can appeal to the Board.

Discussed the method of sending the decision letters to complainants, because sending certified letters has been unsuccessful up to this point. J. Airey recommended sending the letters in the same method that the SOC was sent. E. Couvillon suggested an addition to the SOC form asking how the complainant would like to be notified. Discussed possible time limits on requesting an appeal.

Discussed adding audience recommendations by the publisher, vendor, and reviewer to the book résumé. It was also recommended to note whether or not the material was patron-requested, if that information is available. Discussed the suggestion of requiring people to show identification to give public comment. E. Couvillon advised that under Louisiana's Open Meetings Law, we cannot require anyone to show identification before speaking during a public comment period regarding an item on the meeting agenda.

Discussed requiring a complainant to attend the Board meeting where the challenged material is being decided upon. K. LaRocca clarified that the policy states that the complainant will have five minutes for public comment to address their concern or the complainant can submit a written statement to the Board. It was agreed that the current policy is sufficient.

K. LaRocca reviewed the minutes from the board meeting on April 24, 2023, and confirmed that the decision on a SOC about specific materials, programs, or displays will remain in effect for five years. Within this five-year period, complainants submitting a new SOC on a decided title, program, or display shall receive a copy of the Board's current decision. The current version of this policy will be updated with that information. K. LaRocca noted that she has heard feedback that some are not happy with that length of time, so she reminded the Board that they can reconsider that as well. There was discussion about whether or not the five-year decision on SOCs will be in effect retroactively. K. LaRocca explained that there had only been a handful of decisions made prior to that policy being approved, therefore the five-year time period applies to almost all of the challenged titles.

The next Rules and Regulations Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for mid-July. The date and time will be determined and will be posted on the website and each branch location.

Public Comment:

Camille Thompson – Spoke about the importance of public input in the process. Stated the Board needs to think about the kids and community standards. Stated the process should be as open as possible and not worry about what is legal or not. Stated there were things in Germany that were legal but terrible.

Fran Smith – Slidell, LA. Stated she is opposed to the books being in the library. Stated she does not like to read them and they make her sick. Stated that the people reviewing the books are all of the same mind. Spoke of the books *Flamer* and *It's Perfectly Normal*. Stated that the Board has no idea what they are doing. Spoke of promoting the books in displays, having an agenda, and called the books obscene and pornographic.

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. Stated the library belongs to everyone. Proposed having strict criteria for book challenges. Spoke of the individual who has submitted the majority of the SOCs not attending LBOC meetings, but is photographed attending politically advantageous meetings. Stated the books should remain on the shelves while under review. Stated that staff and the LBOC do not deserve the attacks, name-calling, and harassment they have received.

Jonathan Varnado – Madisonville, LA. Spoke of treating books as second-class citizens and compared the books to people. Stated the challenged books are connected to gender, sexual identity, and race. He explained that a process like this is divisive to people because placing LGBTQ books behind the desk is equivalent to saying that people should be removed and put away. Spoke of having a Pride display last year, but not this year.

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. Stated the library has done a good job addressing concerns and commended the tiered card system. Spoke of the restriction of books. Read quote from the American Library Association's statement on this issue. Thanked the Board and staff for their hard work and dedication to St. Tammany Parish's excellent library system.

Johanna Miner – Spoke on behalf of the Accountability Project. Stated that the outcomes are predetermined and that library staff are purchasing agents, judge, and jury for book challenges. Asked why the library has a larger budget than the Coroner, District Attorney, and Sheriff's Office. Accused library administrators of conspiring to sexualize children. Spoke of creating reform and defeating the library's millage.

Iris Gallatin – Questioned whether or not the Parish needs to pay for a library system anymore. Stated that everyone is dependent on the internet and it is freely available. Stated that brick-and-mortar libraries are out and the internet is in. Asked for book titles and statements of concern to be published on the website 30 days in advance of the meeting and asked for one copy of each challenged book to be made available at the Covington and Slidell branches.

Roland Gallatin – Suggested an independent review committee with authority to overturn any decision by the Library Board of Control. Stated that if a board member violates the rules and regulations of the library, that member should be penalized, removed from the library board, or at least suspended from voting for a period of time. Asked for a provision that allows residents to challenge the development of the collection.

Donna Bonnoitt – Stated that the library receives twice as much money as the District Attorney's office. Stated that five-year limits on SOCs is ridiculous. Asked for transparency, stated the library staff are foot soldiers for the ALA (American Library Association), and stated the library has violated community standards. Stated the library is frivolously spending money on garbage. Stated that a restricted area can solve the whole issue.

Terri Lewis Stevens – Covington, LA. Stated she supports the library, free speech, and the ability for everyone to go to the library and read what they choose. Stated that no one is forcing

anyone, adults or children, to read anything. Stated that many of these books are taken out of context because the complainants have not read the entire work.

Rebecca Bohm – Mandeville, LA. Stated that the library should send their decision to the complainant by email or mail and it is the complainants' responsibility to respond. Stated the complainant could appeal the decision to the library board. Spoke of complainants copying and pasting the complaints from other websites. Stated that many of the challenged books are adult books in the adult section.

Sharon Hagstette – Stated she loves brick-and-mortar libraries. Stated that it is obscene that we are considering the censorship of books. Stated that she is responsible for what her children and grandchildren read. Stated that books are being challenged that enrich our literary experience. Stated that no one else should be able to choose what others read.

2. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by J. Airey and seconded by B. McHugh. The motion carried.

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Special Meeting
June 28, 2023
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.,
Mandeville, LA 70471
9:30 A.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: Bill McHugh, Anthony Parr, Mary Reneau, Becky Taylor

Absent: Jake Airey, Carmen Butler, Ann Shaw

Emily Couvillon with the Civil Division of the District Attorney's Office was also present as legal counsel for the library.

B. Taylor explained the rules 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. In the case of a Statement of Concern (SOC) decision, the person who filed the SOC is given five minutes to speak. B. Taylor informed the Board that they may request a brief recess if needed, as a quorum of four board members is required to conduct the meeting and there are only four board members in attendance. Public comments were accepted by email (lboc@stpl.us) until 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the meeting.

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. Statement of Concern Decision - *Flamer*

There were four SOC's submitted for the book *Flamer* by Mike Curato by the following people: Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project, Rosalind Murr, Jacki Schneider, and Frances Smith. K. LaRocca read each SOC aloud.

The recommended action by C. Phillips is: "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.” Reason given: “Content violates the state obscenity statutes [sic]. 2021 Louisiana Laws, Revised Statutes, Title 14 - Criminal Law.” Cited excerpts from the book.

The recommended action by R. Murr is: “Remove it from any children’s sections, ask for ID to check out and not allowable for a minor to download.” Reason given: “This is breaking child.”

The recommended action by J. Schneider is: “This book is in violation of state Obscenity Laws. Content violates the state obscenity statutes [sic] 2021 Louisiana Laws, Revised Statutes, Title 14 Criminal Law. I suggest that a separate board be formed comprised of parents and teachers to review these books prior to purchase.” Reason given: “It promotes sexual activities and violence to our young people. It’s [sic] contents are pornographic.”

The recommended action by F. Smith is: “Take it out of the library.” Reason given: “This is not for children to read. 76, 132. I couldn't read it myself. It has no use in the public library and certainly cannot help our children prepare themselves for a happy normal life.”

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher’s summary, number of copies STPL owns (4), total circulation on all print copies (23), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Kirkus Reviews*, *The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, *School Library Journal*, *Shelf Awareness*, *Booklist*, and *Hornbook Guide to Children*. Also noted are awards and lists featuring this title. A total of 1,126 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is categorized as Young Adult Non-fiction and is shelved in the Adult Non-fiction section at STPL with 741.5973 Cur YA as the call number. The book includes a Young Adult (YA) sticker on the spine.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee’s evaluations of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee’s reports, and the committee’s recommendations.

Since C. Phillips and J. Schneider cite the Louisiana Criminal Law Revised Statute 14:91.11, the book was evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the statute. K. LaRocca stated that legal counsel has advised the Board that all four criteria in the R.S. 14:91.11 must be true to be a violation of the statute. The committee did not find a violation of the statute.

Summary of Committee Reports: The book does not primarily consist of or is devoted to the sexual acts described in Part A 2 of La R.S. 14:91.11. Sexual acts are implied but are not drawn explicitly. Self-harm is considered but not acted upon. The scene leads to the character’s self-realization. While pornography is mentioned, it is part of the backstory of the character to show the character’s mental state. The story describes a young man coming to terms with himself and his family. It deals with bullying, race, and religion. The book is intended for older teens. Young children would not understand the story or the emotional journey that the main character takes. Overall the committee thought the tone of the book was similar to a PG-13 rated movie or television show. The story is well told and has emotional impact. The book

illustrates complex emotions of teen boys and also the hypocrisy of teen boys. The creation of a separate board made up of parents and teachers is a policy that would have to be made by the Library Board of Control (LBOC) or even the Parish Council.

Options for the Board: This book was originally shelved in the Adult Non-fiction section with a YA label. It was moved behind the circulation desk due to the resolution to move all graphic novels that portray sexual conduct behind the circulation desk. The Board could choose to keep the book behind the circulation desk, move the book back to Adult Non-fiction with the YA sticker, move the book back to Adult Non-fiction without the YA sticker, or remove it from the library. K. LaRocca reminded the Board that the tiered card system treats this title as an Adult book.

Committee Recommendation: Book should remain in the collection and is appropriate in its current location in Adult Non-Fiction. Note: The resolution to move all graphic novels that portray sexual conduct as defined by the LBOC was made after the committee's meeting.

Public Comment:

Connie Phillips, Rosalind Murr, Jacki Schneider, and Frances Smith, the patrons who submitted the SOC's for *Flamer*, were offered five minutes for public comment. None were in attendance and none appeared for public comment.

Roland Gallatin – Spoke for five minutes in place of Connie Phillips. Stated that *Flamer* violates the Harmful to Minors statute and disagreed with the committee's evaluation of the criteria in the statute. Stated the book has no theme, portrays bullying and cross-dressing, insults Catholicism, Asians, gays, includes profanity, racism, uses derogatory language towards homosexuals, and contains suicidal ideations. Cited excerpts from the book. Stated he is outraged that his tax money has paid for the book, which he refers to as garbage. Stated the Director has violated the library's rules by purchasing the book because it does not serve a community need. Stated that the book should not have been purchased, but since it is in the collection, it should remain behind the circulation desk.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Provided a handout of suggestions to the Board. Suggested having a copy of the books available for viewing at the Covington and Slidell Branches. Suggested posting the SOC's for the upcoming books to be reviewed on the website at least 30 days before the board meeting. Referred to the book *Flamer* as garbage. Agreed that it should not be in the YA section. Asked for clarification on what age groups are appropriate for the different categories of books. Asked for the meaning of terms such as minors, young adults, picture books, and graphic novels.

K. LaRocca explained that graphic novels are not connected to a particular age group and are called graphic novels because the book uses art to tell a story rather than full text. She

explained that *Flamer* was written for young adults up to 17 years old and was located in the Adult section before being moved behind the circulation desk. She explained that the term young adult refers to readers between 12-17 years old, juvenile books are for children 11 years old and under, and a minor is anyone under the age of 18. K. LaRocca stated that the library is currently working on creating a reference collection of the challenged materials for the public to view in the library. B. Taylor thanked G. Lacoste for the handout of suggestions and stated that the Rules and Regulations Committee will consider this, as they are currently reviewing the Statement of Concern policy.

Becky Bohm – Mandeville, LA. Stated *Flamer* does not violate the statute. Stated that the book mentions topics that are relevant to boys in the 14-17 age group, such as masturbation, bullying, and fitting in. Stated that profanity was used in the book to prove a point and to show how upsetting it was for the character. Stated the book should be placed back in the Adult section.

Erin Kennedy – Folsom, LA. Stated that *Flamer* is a graphic novel based on events in the author's life. She explained that the panels shared online as examples of obscenity are actually from hazing scenarios. Stated that the actions alluded to are not visually represented in the scenes and the intent is to make the protagonist and reader uncomfortable. Stated that graphic novels can tell powerful and compelling stories.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Covington, LA. Commented that the library budget divided by the number of residents in the Parish equals \$45 per person. Stated that there is no pornography or explicit sex in the book and it was shelved appropriately prior to restricting it behind the circulation desk. Stated that libraries should have stories that represent everyone.

Harry Morgan – Slidell, LA. Stated he is a Christian and that everyone will be accountable for this one day. Asked for the books to be put where children do not have access. Stated that children have no rights and it is up to parents to raise them until they are of proper age to make decisions. Stated he has a moral compass and prays that the Board does as well.

Laura Dinapolis – Covington, LA. Stated that *Flamer* is an adult graphic novel that is based on the author's personal experiences and has never been located in the children's section of the library. Stated that with the tiered card system, no minor can check it out without permission from their parent. Stated that literature is art and should not be restricted.

Mike Smith – Parish Council, District 9. Stated that he is speaking as an individual, is not representing a group involved in library discussions, and is not speaking for everyone on the Parish Council. Stated he has a responsibility to advocate for the best interests of all people in the Parish. Stated he took an oath to follow the laws of the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights. Suggested using a reserve room in the library, which he says is a practice in every major library he has visited. Stated the materials are accessible to the public by asking a librarian. Stated that he does not think having a reserve room is a violation of free speech.

B. McHugh asked M. Smith to clarify whether or not the items were in reserve rooms because of the subject matter. M. Smith confirmed that there was adult fiction such as *Catch-22* and *Catcher in the Rye* in the reserve rooms. B. McHugh asked which libraries have reserve rooms with those types of items. M. Smith listed the Memphis Main Library, Memphis University Library, LSU, and noted that the University of Virginia has a collection of slave narratives. M. Smith stated items are put in reserve rooms for a variety of reasons. B. McHugh commented that the reserve rooms that he has personally seen have housed historic or rare books and were not placed there based on the subject matter of the book itself.

There were two public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. One in favor of restricting the book and one not in favor of restricting the book.

Discussion:

A. Parr stated that the book made him uncomfortable. Spoke of the poignancy of the overall message of the book. Explained that he once taught history at the Northlake Behavioral Health System (NBHS), previously Southeast Louisiana Hospital, and feels that this book could have been used to help deter self-injurious behavior of the at-risk population. Stated that the book has value and should remain in the adult section without the YA sticker.

M. Reneau agreed that the book has value. Stated that when her own three sons became adults, she learned about their experiences in summer camp and how they were impacted by those experiences. Stated that her sons are professionals and well-respected in their communities. Stated that the book should remain in the adult section without the YA sticker. Stated that children are going to do unacceptable and irresponsible things that their parents would not approve of when they are not supervised. To remove this book denies teens in similar situations the understanding that they are important, valued, not alone, and encourages them to take a stance.

B. McHugh stated the common theme of all four books being discussed at the meeting is acceptance. Stated that in *Flamer* the theme is self-acceptance. Acknowledged that there are a lot of gross things in the book, but recognized that teenage boys say and do a lot of gross things. Stated boys engage in immature behavior of all kinds, but it is part of the process of growing up. Stated he does not see any pornography in the book. Noted the end of the book where the figure appears to the main character, Aiden, and says the following quote: "Even if all of them were to forsake you, you are enough." B. McHugh stated that Aiden's self-realization that he is enough and is valuable is the theme of the book.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to return the book *Flamer* back to the Adult Non-fiction shelf location with the YA sticker to remain on the spine. It was seconded by A. Parr. Roll call vote: Airey: Absent Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Reneau: No Shaw: Absent Taylor: Yes Motion carried.

B. Statement of Concern Decision – *Frankie and Bug*

K. LaRocca presented the SOC for the book *Frankie and Bug* by Gayle Forman. The statement was submitted by Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

The recommended action by C. Phillips is: "Move to request only section as this book violates the [sic] The Harmful to Minors Statute in particular R.S. 94:91:11 [sic] 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 [sic] "Upon Request" section of the library." Reason given: "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 [sic] confuse children about their sexuality."

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher's summary, number of copies STPL owns (3), total circulation on all print copies (3), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, and *School Library Journal*. Also noted are awards and lists featuring this title. A total of 901 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Juvenile Fiction section at STPL with J Form as the call number. K. LaRocca noted that the book did not have a chance to circulate very much, as it was purchased in June 2022, available on the shelf in August 2022, and was challenged shortly thereafter.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee's evaluation of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee's report, and the committee's recommendation. The

title was previously challenged in September 2022 and was reviewed by a committee. That complainant wanted the book removed from the collection because they felt the book was “all about being gay.” The SOC committee at that time concluded that the book was appropriate for the intended audience and had value to the juvenile fiction collection.

Since the current complainant cites the Louisiana Criminal Law Revised Statute 14:91.11, the book was evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the statute. K. LaRocca stated that legal counsel has advised the Board that all four criteria in the R.S. 14:91.11 must be true to be a violation of the statute. The committee did not find a violation of the statute.

Summary of Committee Report: There was no sexual content in the book. The book is written for older children and strong readers. Young children will not find the book appealing. the committee recognizes that not all families would be comfortable with their preteen child reading about the content of the book. The book portrays the threat of racial violence and mentions a serial killer. The committee thought the book had great literary value as realistic and historical fiction. The subject of the book is not sexuality but a window into another time. The book holds lessons on empathy, fairness, and some challenges that other people go through.

Options for the Board: Return it to its original location in Juvenile Fiction, move it into the Teen section of the library, move it into the Adult Fiction section of the library, restrict it behind the circulation desk, or remove it from the library.

Committee Recommendation: Book is appropriate in its current location in the Juvenile Fiction collection.

Public Comment:

Connie Phillips, the patron who submitted the Statement of Concern for *Frankie and Bug*, was offered five minutes for public comment. C. Phillips was not in attendance and did not appear for public comment.

Roland Gallatin – Spoke for five minutes in place of Connie Phillips. Stated *Frankie and Bug* is another example of the Library Director violating the library rules. Stated the book is an open endorsement of transgender ideology for children without an opposing view, balance, or counterpart. Stated that he is at the meeting to make a record and that he does not think that the Board is going to listen to anything that he says. Compared the Board meetings to a kangaroo court on steroids and told the Board to enjoy it while they can. Stated that the Board does not provide oversight to the library and described them as one entity. Stated he is tired of hearing the same cut and pasted reports. Stated that he does not think it is appropriate for him to speak to the Board in a tone of voice that one would use to discuss what color to paint the

library conference room. Stated that the library has been taken over by the radical left. Stated the library has the law on its side, but his group has the taxes on their side. Stated that the Board is insincere with the use of their tone of voice when discussing the matter. Accused the library of endorsing one side over the other and being biased. Spoke of the American College of Pediatricians being against transgender ideology for children. Spoke of their adversaries, the American Academy of Pediatrics, endorsing transsexual ideology for children.

A. Parr asked R. Gallatin if he had requested that the library purchase the list of books that he mentioned in a previous meeting. R. Gallatin answered that he has not, but intends to. He asked if the library will purchase the books if he requests them. K. LaRocca informed R. Gallatin that the library did purchase all but one of the books he mentioned. One of the titles was not available. R. Gallatin thanked K. LaRocca for purchasing the books and stated that he will request more.

B. McHugh asked R. Gallatin to clarify his statement that the library is advocating for a single point of view over others. R. Gallatin explained that if all the books were one point of view up until last week, he presumed his statement is a valid conclusion or observation. B. McHugh asked for the Library Director, K. LaRocca, to respond to R. Gallatin's statement. R. Gallatin clarified that when he refers to "all the books" he means transgender advocacy for children books.

K. LaRocca answered that the library's juvenile collection consists of 159,000 items. Of those items, there are 79 books that include topics of transgenderism, homophobia, and LGBTQIA+ themes, which is .13% of the juvenile collection. K. LaRocca stated that the library is not promoting one viewpoint over another in regard to that topic. R. Gallatin argued that it is not a fair comparison and stated she is comparing transgender ideology books to books that have nothing to do with transgender topics. He clarified and asked how many books advocate an issue and how many books oppose or portray a different viewpoint of an issue. B. McHugh suggested that R. Gallatin request 79 books to purchase that advocate the opposing views and the library will purchase them for the collection. R. Gallatin stated he would do so and thanked the library again for taking the initiative and purchasing the books he previously mentioned.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Asked about juvenile books being located on the upper shelves so that they are not accessible for small children to see. Stated that *I Am Jazz* was on a display table at the Mandeville Branch. Stated that two board members said that the YA sticker should be removed from *Flamer*, and one said it should remain. Asked how does one member overrule two. Also asked for clarification on where *Flamer* will be shelved.

K. LaRocca answered that it will be shelved in the Adult Non-fiction section, where it was originally. G. Lacoste asked if removing the sticker would help prevent the book from accidentally getting shelved in the children's section. K. LaRocca explained that the call number on the spine delineates that the book is shelved in the Adult section. G. Lacoste mentioned his suggestion again regarding the books being available for the public to view in the library. B. Taylor addressed G. Lacoste's question about the YA sticker decision. She explained that the motion that was passed places the book back in the Adult section with the YA sticker remaining on the book.

Laura Dinapolis – Covington, LA. Stated that *Frankie and Bug* is not offensive or harmful. Stated she would give it to her child to read if they were in a similar situation. Stated that Connie Phillips has decided that any mention of transgender topics in literature should not be allowed for minors to look at unless a parent checks it out for them. Suggested that people stay in their own lane and mind their own business. Asked for the book to remain in the juvenile section.

Johanna Miner – J. Miner asked for her three-minute public comment period to begin after she asks a question and receives an answer. Asked for an explanation of the Juvenile and YA sections. K. LaRocca explained that the juvenile children's area serves children ages 0-11 years old and contains picture books shelved low to the ground. Juvenile Fiction and Juvenile Non-fiction titles are on higher shelving because they are meant for older children. Audio and video materials are located on separate shelving. The teen area serves both young and older teens aged 12-17 and only contains Young Adult Fiction. Young Adult Non-fiction books are interfiled with Adult Non-fiction books. The tiered card system treats them as adult books. J. Miner stated that *I Am Jazz* and *Frankie and Bug* were in the children's section, not the adult section. K. LaRocca explained that the reason they are located in the children's section is because *I Am Jazz* is a Children's Biography and *Frankie and Bug* is a Juvenile Fiction book. J. Miner told K. LaRocca that she stated to a previous public commenter that the book was put back in the Adult section. K. LaRocca clarified that the previous commenter's question was about the shelf location of the book *Flamer*, not *Frankie and Bug*.

J. Miner's three-minute public comment period began. Stated she read *Frankie and Bug* and it is not until page 192 that transitioning is mentioned. She stated it is not historical and is about transitioning from a girl to a boy. Stated that children do not need to know about this. She read Ezekiel 3:16 from the Bible aloud. She declared to the Board that they have been warned for the second time about what they are doing to the children in the community.

There were two public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. One in favor of restricting the book and one not in favor of restricting the book.

Discussion:

A. Parr stated that as an amateur historian, he has read a lot about oppression, subjugation, and fear. Stated that it was nice to see a historical fiction novel full of kindness and acceptance of differences. Agreed with the committee's recommendation to keep the book shelved in Juvenile Fiction.

B. Taylor stated that the book is historical fiction because it is set in the 1980s, not the present time period. Stated the book does not violate the statute. Agreed with the committee's recommendation to keep the book shelved in Juvenile Fiction.

M. Reneau agreed that it does not violate the statute and should be shelved in Juvenile Fiction. Stated that children should read about how to get along with others.

B. McHugh stated the book is about acceptance. Complimented the author about the work and creativity that she put into writing the book. Noted that the end notes show that the story is based on solid evidence of the topic. Stated the book is valuable to a young person.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to affirm the committee's recommendation to return the book *Frankie and Bug* back to the Juvenile Fiction section. It was seconded by M. Reneau. Roll call vote:

Airey: Absent Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Reneau: Yes Shaw: Absent Taylor: Yes
Motion carried.

C. Statement of Concern Decision – *Fred Gets Dressed*

K. LaRocca presented the SOC for the book *Fred Gets Dressed* by Peter Brown. The statement was submitted by Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

The recommended action by C. Phillips is: "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. D.A. Warren Montgomery has instructed you to have a separate place where minors cannot go so shelve it in this section." Reason given: "Content violates the state obscenity statutes [sic] 2021 Louisiana

Laws - offensive to the average adult applying St. Tammany Parish community standards. Stop sexualization of our kids.”

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher’s summary, number of copies STPL owns (6), total circulation on all print copies (9), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Horn Book Magazine*, and *School Library Journal*. A total of 1,102 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Juvenile Picture Books section at STPL with E Bro as the call number.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee’s evaluation of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee’s report, and the committee’s recommendation.

Since the current complainant cites the Louisiana Criminal Law Revised Statute 14:91.11, the book was evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the statute. K. LaRocca stated that legal counsel has advised the Board that all four criteria in the R.S. 14:91.11 must be true to be a violation of the statute. The committee did not find a violation of the statute.

Summary of Committee Report: The book contains no mention of sexuality. No genitals are shown. Simply drawn buttocks are portrayed but not in a sexual context. Not wanting to wear clothes is age appropriate behavior for preschool children. Young children will find Fred not wearing clothes amusing, not sexual. Playing dress up at that age is not sexual behavior. The book has educational (scientific) value as the text gives parents opportunities for dialogic reading by asking open ended questions.

Options for the Board: Return it to its original location in Children’s Picture Books, move it into the Adult section of the library, restrict it behind the circulation desk, or remove it from the library.

Committee Recommendation: Book is appropriate in the Picture Book section. Peer libraries also have it shelved in their “Easy” or Picture Book section.

Public Comment:

Connie Phillips, the patron who submitted the SOC for *Fred Gets Dressed*, was offered five minutes for public comment. C. Phillips was not in attendance and did not appear for public comment.

Roland Gallatin – Spoke for five minutes in place of Connie Phillips. Stated again that the library is violating its own rules. Stated the underlying message is that boys can be girls. Spoke of trans ideology being advocated to children. Stated he does not expect to sway anyone, he is there to make a record and be heard. Spoke of other states with legislation underway regarding the

prevention of advocating transgender ideology to minors. Spoke of trying to confuse healthy children and putting them at risk. Stated that people do not want unhealthy children fabricated out of healthy children and that is what is at stake here. Stated that the Board is supposed to be impartial, but stated that B. McHugh is biased against Republicans.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Stated that it is troubling that Fred fits into his mother's clothes, but not his father's clothes. Stated that is deceptive, as the illustrations at the end of the book show that his parents appear to be the same size. Stated that it is questionable whether or not it should be considered grooming.

Becky Bohm – Mandeville, LA. Commented on C. Phillips' statement in the SOC about Fred's buttocks being shown in the book and stated that the buttocks are depicted in a very basic manner. Stated that the book is shelved appropriately in the Picture Books section. Noted that the American College of Pediatricians has 700 members and is considered a hate group, whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics has 67,000 members. Commented that the library purchasing requested books on both sides of the issue shows that the library is here for all.

Leyla Hekmatdoost – Covington, LA. Stated that *Fred Gets Dressed* is benign and cute. Stated that clothes do not determine someone's gender. Stated that trans people do not decide to be trans because of books, but they do deserve to see themselves represented in books. Spoke of people who take delight in hurting marginalized people. Stated that anyone who finds the illustration of Fred's butt sexual, they should seek therapy.

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. Stated that *Fred Gets Dressed* is a beautifully illustrated sweet, innocent book that is a true reflection of real children. Stated it has brought out the morality police with all of their fears and prejudices. Recommends shelving the book in its original location in the Picture Books section. Read excerpts from the Freedom to Read Statement.

Erin Kennedy – Folsom, LA. Commented on G. Lacoste's earlier statement about Fred fitting in his mother's clothes and not his father's. E. Kennedy stated that the reason is because Fred was wearing his mother's sleeveless blouse, not a dress. Read a quote from author Peter Brown as he described his inspiration behind writing the book, which includes an instance of playing with his mother's makeup. Stated that Brown is married to a woman named Susan and did not grow up to be gay or transgender.

Laura Dinapolis – Covington, LA. Spoke of her kids running around naked after swimming and her son wearing her grandmother's shoes. Stated her son did not grow up to be gay or

transgender. Stated that the book does not violate state obscenity laws, is not grooming children, and should not be in a restricted area.

Alexis Smith – Pearl River, LA. Stated that she takes her kids to the library twice per week. Stated that *Fred Gets Dressed* is a book about what every parent faces – a toddler who does not want to wear clothes. Gave an example of her son playing dress-up with his older sister. Stated there is no porn in the library. Stated that an illustration of a butt in a picture book is not going to turn a child gay or trans.

It was noted that there was one public comment card listing multiple agenda items submitted by a member of the public who had previously spoken under Agenda Item B. Separate comment cards for each agenda item are required to be called for public comment. There were no written comments on the card and the individual did not elect to complete additional cards for the current or subsequent agenda items. There were two public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. One in favor of restricting the book and one not in favor of restricting the book.

Discussion:

B. Taylor stated the book does not violate R.S. 14:91.11. Agreed with the committee's recommendation to return the book to the Picture Book section.

M. Reneau stated that the LBOC has a responsibility to provide resources for all members of the community, not just any particular political, religious, independent, liberal, or conservative groups. Stated that we provide books for a diverse community. Stated that denying access to books that certain people want and need to read is censorship. Explained that she is not pro or con for any group and is standing on the side of fighting against censorship. Agreed with the committee's recommendation to return the book to the Picture Book section.

B. McHugh stated that this book is about acceptance and kids being loved by their parents. Reiterated the earlier point that Fred was wearing his mother's blouse and not a dress. Agreed with the committee's recommendation to return the book to the Picture Book section.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to affirm the committee's recommendation to return the book *Fred Gets Dressed* to the Picture Book section. It was seconded by M. Reneau. Roll call vote: Airey: Absent Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Reneau: Yes Shaw: Absent Taylor: Yes
Motion carried.

D. Statement of Concern Decision – *Pinks Is for Boys*

K. LaRocca presented the SOC for the book *Pink Is for Boys* by Robb Pearlman. The statement was submitted by Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

The recommended action by C. Phillips is: “Move to minor restricted area of the library. Where kids cannot have access without an adult checking out the material.” Reason given: “Not suitable for children in St. Tammany Parish See La. R.S. 14:91:11 [sic] The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors.” Cited pages, excerpts, and a profanity count from a different book.

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher’s summary, number of copies STPL owns (2), total circulation on all print copies (28), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, and *Hornbook Guide to Children*. A total of 1,050 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Picture Books section at STPL with E Pea as the call number.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee’s evaluation of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee’s report, and the committee’s recommendation.

Since the current complainant cites the Louisiana Criminal Law Revised Statute 14:91.11, the book was evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the statute. K. LaRocca stated that legal counsel has advised the Board that all four criteria in the R.S. 14:91.11 must be true to be a violation of the statute. The committee did not find a violation of the statute.

Summary of Committee Report: The committee noted that page numbers and quotes listed in the SOC are not in this book. There is no profanity in the book, no sexuality, and no nudity. The children pictured in the book all wear traditionally gendered clothing. There are no boys wearing dresses. The book only discusses gender in terms of appropriateness of colors. The book has education (scientific) value as a color concept book. It shows children of different races, ethnicities, and abilities and has beautiful illustrations that show the variety of shades and hues of the color spectrum. This book was patron-requested.

Options for the Board: Return it to its original location in Children’s Picture Books, move it into the Juvenile Non-fiction collection with other books about color (the science of color), restrict it behind the circulation desk, or remove it from the library.

Committee Recommendation: Book is appropriate in the Picture Book section. Peer libraries also have it in their “Easy” or Picture Book section.

Public Comment:

Connie Phillips, the patron who submitted the SOC for *Pink Is for Boys*, was offered five minutes for public comment. C. Phillips was not in attendance and did not appear for public comment.

Roland Gallatin – Spoke for five minutes in place of Connie Phillips. Stated that the committee’s report is inaccurate. Read an excerpt from the publisher’s summary that says, “empowers kids and their grown-ups to express themselves in every color of the rainbow.” Stated that people are not colors, but mammal bodies. Stated that the book advocates transsexual ideology. Asked if the Board has ever seen a book that was not appropriate for the public. Stated that STPL is associated with the Louisiana Library Association (LLA), which is associated with the American Library Association (ALA). Referred to the president of the ALA as a lesbian Marxist and asked if that represents impartiality in serving the community needs of St. Tammany Parish. Stated that the number of children who are claiming distress about their gender is increasing. Stated the profile is changing and it is no longer primarily males claiming to be females, but now young girls are having gender distress. Stated that the treatment and surgery was pioneered in Europe, but has been cut back dramatically. Stated that the ideology targeting children leads to them transitioning. Spoke about the impossibility of a male having a baby.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Asked again about being able to review the books prior to the meetings.

Becky Bohm – Mandeville, LA. Noted that the SOC for *Pink Is for Boys* contained information for a different book with different page numbers and content. Asked for the book to remain in the Picture Book section. Spoke about validity of the SOC’s.

Erin Kennedy – Folsom, LA. Expressed her apologies to the Board and stated that none of them deserve to be lectured or to have biblical verses directed to them in this manner. Stated that the book is simply about children wearing different colors.

Laura Dinapolis – Covington, LA. Stated that the book is a lovely illustrated children’s book with no offensive material in it. Spoke of the SOC containing information about the wrong book. Asked for the book to remain in the Picture Book section. Spoke of threats from the opposition to defeat the millage renewal. Stated that more than 1% of the community disagrees with them.

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. Stated that these books are real life. Asked for the books to be kept on the shelves, not restricted. Stated that some day there will be books written about this

travesty. Stated that the complainants cannot deal with their own homophobia. Spoke of the audacity for a member of the Parish Council to come speak before the LBOC and called it political intimidation by Mike Smith. Asked the Board not to be deterred. Stated she is a proud lesbian, a lifelong Louisianian, a taxpayer, and not a pedophile. Spoke of the United States being a nation for Americans of all races and faiths. Stated the public library is for all.

There were two public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. One in favor of restricting the book and one not in favor of restricting the book.

Discussion:

A. Parr commented that he thought the book was innocuous and agreed with the committee's recommendation to return the book to the Picture Books section.

B. Taylor also agreed with the committee's recommendation. Stated it is not a violation of R.S. 14:91.11.

M. Reneau stated that she was surprised the book was challenged. Stated that the book's theme is that anyone can wear any color they want. Agreed with the committee's recommendation.

B. McHugh questioned whether or not anyone would have challenged the book if the title were *Blue Is for Girls*. Stated that the book is about acceptance and that all colors are for everyone.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to affirm the committee's recommendation to return the book *Pink Is for Boys* to the picture books section. It was seconded by M. Reneau. Roll call vote:

Airey: Absent Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Reneau: Yes Shaw: Absent Taylor: Yes
Motion carried.

E. Resolution regarding extension of time to allow for procedural due process of Statements of Concern received since March 2023.

Discussion:

K. LaRocca asked for a waiver of the 45-day time limit for responses to pending SOCs received since March 2023 and asked for the response time to be extended to 120 days from the date of this resolution. B. Taylor was amenable to the extension. A. Parr spoke of the 45-day time limit and it was clarified that there are currently 210 SOCs and no more than 20 have been

completed. He agreed to the extension. B. McHugh commented that the extension gives library staff the time needed to review all of the challenges.

Public Comment:

Becky Bohm – Asked the Board grant the 120-day extension. Thanked the Board for their work.

Vote: A. Parr moved to adopt the resolution to extend time to allow for procedural due process of SOCs received since March 2023. It was seconded by M. Reneau. Roll call vote:

Airey: Absent Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Reneau: Yes Shaw: Absent Taylor: Yes
Motion carried.

2. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by M. Reneau and was seconded by A. Parr. All were in favor, none were opposed, and three were absent. The motion carried.

Becky Taylor, Board President

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
July 24, 2023
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.,
Mandeville, LA 70471
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, Bill McHugh, Anthony Parr, Ann Shaw, Becky Taylor
Absent: Carmen Butler

Jim Bolner with the Civil Division of the District Attorney's Office was also present as legal counsel for the library.

B. Taylor explained the rules 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. Persons wishing to speak on multiple agenda items must fill out separate comment cards for each agenda item. If a speaker asks questions, those questions are part of their three-minute public comment period and will be noted as such. In the case of a Statement of Concern (SOC) decision, the person who filed the SOC is given five minutes to speak.

B. Taylor noted that she made an error in a previous meeting by allowing a representative of the author of a SOC to speak for five minutes. This action did not conform to St. Tammany Parish Library policy. Only the author of a SOC can address the Board for five minutes during the public comment period. If they choose not to attend or speak, they may submit a written statement. Anyone representing them must complete a speaker card and will have three minutes to speak. B. Taylor noted that copies of the policy concerning this matter are available on the table with the comment cards. Board members can request a brief recess during the meeting if needed. Public comments were accepted by email (lboc@stpl.us) until 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

1. Recognition and thanks for years of service to the Library Board of Control – William Allin and John Danjean

B. Taylor recognized John Danjean for his 11 years of service to the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control. Mr. Danjean served from 2010 to 2021. B. Taylor stated that Mr. Danjean brought a lot of experience as a contractor while serving on the Board. He has since been enjoying his retirement. B. Taylor presented Mr. Danjean with his award in gratitude and appreciation for his service.

B. Taylor recognized Bill Allin for his 11 years of service to the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control. Mr. Allin served from 2012 to 2023. B. Taylor stated that Mr. Allin brought expertise from the corporate world to the Library Board. He was meticulous in reviewing the monthly documents in preparation for Library Board meetings, asked very good questions, and always did his homework. B. Taylor presented Mr. Allin with his award in gratitude and appreciation for his service.

Mr. Allin stated that his years of serving on the Library Board was one of the most important aspects of his community service. He said he did his best to protect the library system and to help move it forward towards a successful millage renewal. Stated that it pains him greatly to see libraries being caught up in this debilitating and dangerous culture war. Stated he is sorry he resigned in the middle of it, but his health made him do so. Stated he has enjoyed working with everyone, especially Kelly LaRocca and the library staff, who he described as dedicated, impartial, and talented public servants who deserve praise, not the abuse and misinformation that is being directed towards them. He wished everyone luck and expressed his support.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the Library Board of Control that were held on June 5th and June 16th 2023.

Discussion for June 5, 2023 minutes: There were no suggested corrections to the minutes.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 library board meeting. It was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

Discussion for June 16, 2023 special meeting minutes: B. McHugh asked for a correction on page 7, paragraph 2, second to last sentence. The statement was directed at politics specifically, so he asked for the wording to be changed to read: "Stated that no one's politics, including his own, will have an influence on his decision-making for the Library Board."

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: B. Mchugh moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2023 special board meeting with the stated corrections. It was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Reports – June 2023

Discussion: K. LaRocca reported that the library received more Ad Valorem and State Revenue Sharing in June 2023. The budget percentage should be 50% for this point in the year. Revenues are at 50.35% and Expenditures are at 49.36%.

K. LaRocca explained lines that were over or under budget and noted that some of the explanations will be repeated in the budget amendment later in the meeting. Interest Income remains higher than budgeted due to higher interest rates. The Health Insurance Expense line fluctuates depending on how many full-time employees are on staff. The Health Trust line is at 69% due to paying some bills in February that were leftover from 2022. The Publication of Legal Notices line continues to be higher due to longer board meeting minutes. The Advertising line is higher due to the Summer Reading postcards that were sent out this year and the line will be in balance later in the year. The Signage and Promotional Production lines will be expended later in the year. Under Utilities, Water is higher due to paying for service at the two annex buildings temporarily, but will be in balance at the end of the year. The Postage line is higher because the postage meters were refilled. The Network Utility Software and Polaris Maintenance lines were expended early in the year.

The Financial line is above budget due to paying for the audit for the year. Most of the Web Design Consultant line has been expended for the year, but there are some other expenses that will come out of that line before the end of the year. The Property Insurance line will be expended once we receive the bill from the Parish. The Computer/Printer Supplies line is above budget due to increased costs of toner. The Office Equipment, Furniture, and Shelving line is higher due to purchasing the furniture for the new Annex building. Many of the lines under Library Resource Acquisitions will be expended later this year after Summer Reading.

A. Parr asked for K. LaRocca to explain the website expense. K. LaRocca explained that the web design expense pays for the software and framework that runs our website. There are three main components – Polaris catalog, event calendar, and the actual website. Multiple departments use and maintain various aspects of the website components.

Public Comment:

Kevin Marino – Asked about the line for Ad Valorem for 2020 on page 2 of the financial reports. K. LaRocca explained that it is a typo that needs to be updated by the CPA and is actually for

2023. She explained that the line will increase throughout the year as we receive more Ad Valorem revenue.

Vote: A. Parr moved to approve the June 2023 financial reports. It was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

B. 2022 Auditor's Report

John Murray from Laporte CPA firm presented the 2022 Audit Report. A copy of the report was provided to the Board and is also in the board packet posted on the library's website for the public to view. J. Murray reported that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The auditor gave a clean, unmodified opinion on the financial statements for the year. There was one accounting standard change this year regarding leases. In the past, non-purchase type leases were recorded as expenses as they were incurred. The library adopted new accounting guidance, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87. The adoption of GASB Statement No. 87 required the library to report a right-to-use asset and a lease liability for leases which were previously accounted for as operating leases. The effect was a reduction in net position of approximately \$94,000.

J. Murray reviewed the Statement of Net Position, Statement of Activities, Governmental Fund balance sheet, Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, and budgetary comparison schedule. Variances in expenditures were within the 5% threshold in accordance with state law. There were no deficiencies in internal controls and no instances of non-compliance. There were no findings to report in the audit for 2022.

This was the first year that the library has been under the Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUP), since St. Tammany Act 774 was repealed. J. Murray stated that it is comprehensive with 14 different compliance and best practice areas. There was one exception related to cash collections. The Legislative Auditor has set a best practice for collections to be deposited within one business day. Some deposits are made on a weekly basis due to the small monetary amount of deposits and other internal controls mitigate that.

A. Parr asked for J. Murray to explain the Differed Inflows on page six. J. Murray explained that the amounts are determined by an annual actuarial evaluation related to employee pensions and post-retiree health insurance.

J. Airey asked if a clean audit is a good audit with no findings. J. Murray confirmed that it is.

J. Murray thanked Kelly LaRocca and Debbie Cuevas for their efforts and hard work throughout the audit.

C. Director's Report

K. LaRocca reported that the Technical Services' move to the new Annex building was complete on June 16th. The South Slidell roof replacement was complete on July 12th. During the roof replacement process there was heavy rain and there was some water damage to the inside of the building, but that has been mitigated.

Staff held Storytimes at A-Z Preschool, 1st Class Academy, Mayfield Elementary School, Park Place Academy, Little Feet First, Open Arms Academy, Little Academy, Lancaster Elementary, the Children's Museum, Kidz Klub House, Tiny Tumbler Preschool, and Fontainebleau Children's Academy.

Staff offered outreach services and promoted the library to William Pitcher Jr. High School, the Slidell Rotary Club, MLK Gardening Day, The Lake and The Highway radio stations, Northshore Resource Round-up, Folsom Kiwanis Club, and the Northlake Nature Center. Adult Programming has a monthly Outreach Book Club with St. Anthony's Gardens. Adult Programming also opened the Creative Writing Showcase for public submissions in June. The library held 6 writing workshop events in July with local award-winning authors as the presenters.

Staff attended the following conferences, meetings, and webinars: Telehealth 101: What libraries need to know, American Library Association Conference, Louisiana Library Association Conference, Bibliocommons BiblioApps webinar, and Managing Difficult Conversations webinar.

Byron Holidman was appointed to the position of Vice-Chair and spoke on a panel for the pre-conference for the ALA Genealogy Committee of the RUSA History Section. He also presented a webinar for BYU Library's Genealogy Department.

The following contracts were renewed or began: BiblioCommons for BiblioSuggest (facilitates patron requests for materials), Gallagher Benefit Study (salary study), Loomly, Inc. social media management system, Librarica for SPOT Global Print upgrade, Procurify renewal (purchase approval and order system), and Swank renewal (public showing movie license for all large branches). SPOT Global Print is an application that allows patrons to print from their phone or other device. This upgrade allows patrons to send print jobs to the library branch of their choice when at home or on the go.

We have received 19 public records requests since the beginning of November 2022. Eight are currently outstanding. The outstanding requests consist of extensive email searches that are in line for redaction and combinations of electronic and paper documents that will need to be sorted and organized to ensure the completeness of the records. Our new file clerk is pulling and redacting the needed records.

To date, the library has received 210 statements of concern on 167 titles since August 2022. The library board has made decisions on 14 titles and will be deciding on two titles during this board meeting. Of the remaining 151 titles, the time extension for review granted by the Board will expire on July 25th for 139 titles. The Board will consider extending the review time for these titles during this Board meeting. Library staff continue to read titles, hold meetings, and make recommendations.

Staff have begun working on writing implementation plans for the Strategic Plan. The first two goals are as follows:

Goal 1. The St. Tammany Parish Library will be recognized as a major civic institution that will be responsive to the needs of all residents in a changing, evolving and increasingly diverse community.

Goal 2. The St. Tammany Parish Library will serve as a platform for creativity, innovation, and community interaction.

Library Administration has also had their first meeting with Gallagher regarding the staff salary study. This ties into Goal 7 – The St. Tammany Parish Library will ensure that its staff has the resources and professional development opportunities needed to underpin the library’s goals for the future and maintain its reputation for excellence in customer services.

K. LaRocca reviewed the May 2023, June 2023, and year-to-date service statistics.

A. Parr stated the library is doing a great job reaching people at St. Anthony’s Gardens. Asked how the library could service The Windsor or The Trace. K. LaRocca explained that we have relationships with program coordinators at different facilities and we periodically let them know what book club boxes are available. A. Parr asked about the Bibliocommons BiblioApps webinar. K. LaRocca explained that it is staff training for using the software for our website.

B. McHugh thanked K. LaRocca for the effort in making the reports so detailed and informative. He stated they give a good perspective of the extensive offerings of the library system. Stated that there is so much more to the library than buying books and putting them on the shelf or behind the circulation desk. Spoke of the amount of effort it takes to make the library what it is and acknowledged that many people are working really hard to make this an excellent library system.

D. 2023 Summer Budget Amendment

Discussion: K. LaRocca explained the differences in revenue and expenditure forecasts between the 2023 Spring Amendment and the 2023 Summer Amendment. Overall, there is an increase of \$156,768 in revenue. K. LaRocca noted that the 2023 Budget was produced in July of 2022.

This budget amendment is adjusted based on how the library ended the 2022 fiscal year, how the budget has performed over the first two quarters of 2023, and projects such as the Annex building replacement.

The Board was provided with the Budget Amendment and Savings spreadsheets along with the explanations. This information is also included in the board meeting packet posted on the website for the public to view. K. LaRocca reviewed adjustments to budget lines with explanations for each adjustment. The current Unassigned Savings is \$869,521, which puts the library in a good position to work on goals identified during the strategic planning process.

The Budget Analysis shows a forecasted increase in revenue of \$156,768 due primarily to increased interest income. The budget amendment shows an increase in expenditures of \$156,760. The budget is balanced, leaving \$760 of revenue unbudgeted.

A. Parr asked for an explanation of the Publication of Legal Notices. K. LaRocca explained that we are required to publish a notice for the budget hearing for the upcoming year and all board meeting minutes in the journal of record, which is the *St. Tammany Farmer*. The meeting minutes have become lengthier due to longer and more frequent meetings.

A. Parr asked about the prorated audit charge. K. LaRocca explained that some 12-month contracts for services span part of 2022 and 2023, rather than January through December. The auditor moved the charges to the correct years and charged them accordingly.

A. Parr asked about the Annex/Technical Services facility timeline. K. LaRocca clarified that we have moved in and are out of the old building. She noted that the Board has approved funding for an elevator, which the Parish council will have to include in the capital budget, and then it will have to go through the procurement and construction process.

McHugh asked K. LaRocca to explain the percentage rule and why we amend the budget. K. LaRocca explained that the library is required to amend the budget if revenues or expenditures are out of balance by 5%. She clarified that we have not done that, but we aim to keep the budget accurate, so we amend it approximately three times per year.

A. Shaw asked about the timeline for the Causeway, Mandeville, and Slidell furniture orders. K. LaRocca explained that we will renovate first before purchasing the furniture for Mandeville and Causeway. Stated that an architect was recently selected for the Mandeville upgrade. Causeway's renovation will be for carpet replacement and the plan is to get the furniture for both branches at the same time for a better price. K. LaRocca explained that the Slidell furniture will also be purchased after renovations are complete. The Board has not yet approved capital funding for that project. Once approved, it will then go before the Parish Council to be included in the capital budget.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

B. Taylor read the 2023 Summer Budget Amendment Adoption resolution aloud.

Vote: A. Parr moved to adopt the 2023 Summer Budget Amendment resolution. It was seconded by B. McHugh. Roll call vote:

Airey: Yes Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Shaw: Yes Taylor: Yes
Motion carried.

E. Causeway Lease Renewal

Discussion: K. LaRocca reported that the lease for the Causeway Branch (3457 U.S. Hwy 190, Mandeville, LA 70471) expires in October. We have the option to renew until the end of 2025 and then renew for five years if the millage is renewed. There is a difference in cost, but all other terms remain the same. K. LaRocca explained that the Causeway Branch provides meeting space and study rooms for the Mandeville area, as the Mandeville Branch does not have meeting or study rooms. It is a well-used branch.

J. Airey asked if this is fair rent for that area. K. LaRocca stated that rent in that area has gone up in the last five years and the shopping center has been greatly improved recently.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to approve the Causeway Branch Lease Renewal. It was seconded by A. Parr. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

F. Statement of Concern Decision – *A Costume for Charly*

K. LaRocca presented the SOC for the book *A Costume for Charly* by C.K. Malone. The statement was submitted by Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

The recommended action by C. Phillips is: “Move to minor restricted area of the library where kids cannot have access without an adult checking out the material.” Reason given: “Not suitable for children in St. Tammany Parish See La. R.S. 14:91:11 [sic]. The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards. ‘A gender-fluid teenager who struggles with identity creates a blog on the topic that goes viral, and faces ridicule at the hands of fellow students’-- NO GENDER IDENTITY BOOKS IN THE MINORS SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.”

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher's summary, number of copies STPL owns (4), total circulation on all print copies (6), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *School Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Horn Book Magazine*. A total of 174 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Juvenile Picture Books section at STPL with E Mal as the call number.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee's evaluation of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee's report, and the committee's recommendation.

Since the current complainant cites the Louisiana Criminal Law Revised Statute 14:91.11, the book was evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the statute. K. LaRocca stated that legal counsel has advised the Board that all four criteria in the R.S. 14:91.11 must be true to be a violation of the statute. The committee did not find a violation of the statute.

Summary of the Committee's Report: There are no sexual descriptions, display or depictions of sexual acts, or of genitals. The characters remain fully clothed throughout the book, even when they are changing clothes. There is nothing in the text or illustrations that would elicit a sexual response. The committee acknowledges that the book might not be for every family, but there are families in our parish that want books to use to facilitate discussion of gender. The committee also noted that the book could be read as a story about finding the perfect Halloween costume, a common dilemma for school-aged children, without the gender context. The committee noted that it was only on the shelf for two months before being challenged. The committee found that the book has literary value in its outline of the problem-solving process.

Options for the Board: Move the book to Juvenile Non-Fiction (J306.768) under the call number for gender identity, move the book to the Adult Fiction section, keep the book in the restricted area behind the circulation desk, return the book to Holiday (Halloween) Picture Books, or remove it from the library.

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommends that the book be returned to Holiday (Halloween) Picture Books.

Public Comment:

Connie Phillips, the patron who submitted the Statement of Concern for *A Costume for Charly*, was offered five minutes for public comment. C. Phillips was not in attendance and did not appear for public comment.

Rachel Rhodes – Mandeville, LA. Asked to keep the book on the shelf. Stated that it contains no sex and it is about someone modifying their Halloween costume. Stated this is a ploy to remove LGBTQ books from the shelves. Spoke of boys wearing dresses in history and elite men wearing

makeup and wigs. Stated it was once considered scandalous for women to wear pants. Stated that times are changing and people are afraid of change.

Rebecca Steele – Folsom, LA. Stated that, according to healthychildren.org, children begin understanding gender differences by age two and have a stable sense of their gender by age four. Spoke of support, love, and social acceptance. Shared that the book helped them realize they are bi-gender. Stated there is nothing harmful and no graphic scenes in the book. Asked for the book to be returned to the shelf.

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. Stated that the challenged books have opened her eyes to new material that she may not have read otherwise. Stated that the book is about a child searching for the perfect Halloween costume. Noted that children are supposed to be accompanied by parents in the library and suggested that they not allow their child to check out the book if they do not want them to read it. Spoke of censorship being illegal and asked for the book to be returned to the shelves.

Catalina Reyna – Stated that the book makes no mention of sexuality or sexual identity. Stated that the complainant treats gender and sexuality as the same. Stated the book is about a child who feels both masculine and feminine and is figuring out how to express that. Stated that finding yourself is a beautiful thing. Noted that the artwork in the book is beautiful. Thanked the Board and library staff. Commended the inter-library loan service that the library provides.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Stated there is nothing inappropriate in the book. Asked for it to be returned to the shelf. Read a statement from the author aloud. Stated that the book is about identity, not sexuality, and creates empathy and understanding. B. McHugh asked for a copy of the author's statement.

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. Stated that it is a sweet book. Agrees with the supportive comments. Stated the author's statement was very moving. Read a statement from Barack Obama aloud. Spoke of seeking to understand views that do not fit our own.

Barbara Mamoulides – Mandeville, LA. Stated that the book does not mention sexuality or sexual identity. Stated that it is simply a story about a child who feels both masculine and feminine and is figuring out how to best express that. Stated there are indeed bi-gender people in the world and even in St. Tammany Parish. Bi-gender kids will see themselves in this book. Asked for the book to remain in the children's section.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Asked for the books to be made available for the public to review before the meeting. Stated that God only created two genders. Stated that children are his main concern. Stated that children cannot buy porn or alcohol, but they can find things that are confusing for them. Stated the book should be in the Adult section.

K. LaRocca confirmed that a full set of the challenged books will be available for in-house review at the Covington and Slidell Branches. They will be placed on a special cart and will have bands on them identifying them as items that cannot be checked out.

Jean Wiggan – Abita Springs, LA. Stated that when her nephew was 4-5 years old he only wanted to wear dresses. Stated his parents were tolerant, loving, and allowed him to do so. Stated that if this book was available when her nephew was young, his parents would have read this to him to help make him feel comfortable. Asked for the book to be kept in the children's section. Stated she is opposed to the books being kept behind the circulation desk for months.

Discussion:

B. Taylor stated the book does not violate R.S. 14:91.11. Agreed with the committee's recommendation to return the book to its original location in the holiday Picture Books.

B. McHugh noted that C. Phillips has identified one of the sources of her list of challenged books – Louisiana Save Our Schools. Stated that the book is harmless, entertaining, and not pornographic.

J. Airey pointed out that the back of the book states juvenile fiction and asked what the difference is between that and picture books. K. LaRocca explained that the publisher's designation as juvenile fiction means that it is meant for children and is fiction. In our library system, juvenile fiction refers to chapter books. K. LaRocca explained that the book is actually shelved in the holiday section of the picture books at STPL along with the other Halloween picture books.

J. Airey stated the book is not pornographic, though people may disagree about what type of issues are put before kids. Recognized that parents have a role to play in that.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to affirm the committee's recommendation to return the book *A Costume for Charly* to the Holiday Picture Books section. It was seconded by A. Parr. Roll call vote:

Airey: Yes Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Shaw: No Taylor: Yes

Motion carried.

G. Statement of Concern Decision – *Tricks*

There were three SOC's submitted for the book *Tricks* by Ellen Hopkins by the following people: Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project, Rosalind Murr, and Frances Smith. K. LaRocca read each SOC aloud.

The recommended action by C. Phillips is: "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." Reason given: "Violates [sic] Content violates the state obscenity statutes [sic] for minors. 2021 Louisiana Laws Revised Statutes Title 14 - Criminal Law Not suitable for minors. This book contains explicit sexual activities including child rape and abuse; drug abuse; violence; alcohol use; and adult and child prostitution." Cites excerpts from the book.

The recommended action by R. Murr is: "Remove it from any children's sections, ask for ID to check out and not allowable for a minor to download." Reason given: "This is breaking child."

The recommended action by F. Smith is: "Any book that shows, depicts or gives this type of knowledge to a child or teenager should not be allowed in public libraries or school libraries for that matter. Adults can get this type of literature on the internet. My tax dollars do not have to pay for this. Children should not have to worry about some pervert in the library being in there with [sic]." Reason given: "The language."

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher's summary, number of copies STPL owns (2), total circulation on all print copies (136), total circulation on all E-audiobooks (3), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Kirkus Review*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, *Hornbook Guide to Children*, and *BookPage*. Also noted are awards and lists featuring this title. A total of 1,765 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Young Adult Fiction section at STPL with YA Hopk as the call number.

K. LaRocca reviewed the committee's evaluation of the title which includes demographics of the committee members, the committee's report, and the committee's recommendation.

Since complainants cite the Louisiana Criminal Law Revised Statute 14:91.11, the book was evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the statute. K. LaRocca stated that legal counsel has advised the Board that all four criteria in the R.S. 14:91.11 must be true to be a violation of the statute. The committee did not find a violation of the statute.

Summary of the Committee's Reports: Some of the passages describe sexual conduct as a positive, "normal" part of intimacy between two consenting mature teens. The negative scenes that portray sexual conduct between nonconsenting teens and adults are not written to appeal to a positive sexual response. The committee believes that the book is appropriate for many older teens ages 16-17, as evidenced by the steady circulation over the past 14 years. The book is a cautionary tale that deals with contemporary issues that persist to this day. The book brings awareness to the problem of child trafficking. The book realistically shows how grooming of young people takes place. It shows a variety of homelives and situations that can lead to young

people being preyed upon. The book also shows teens that there is a path out of destructive situations.

Options for the Board: Move the book to the Adult Fiction section, keep the book in the restricted area behind the circulation desk, remove it from the library, or return the book to the Teen Fiction section.

Committee Recommendation: The committee acknowledges that the average person in St. Tammany Parish, applying contemporary standards, may deem the material inappropriate for minors of any age because of the difficult passages that describe nonconsensual sexual conduct between minors and adults. The committee believes that the book is not harmful to minors, does not violate La R.S. 14:91.11, and that the book could in fact be helpful to some teens. The committee does not recommend removing the book from the library's collection. However, it recognizes that the gravity of the topic warrants it being moved to the Adult section to accommodate parent's and guardian's choices for their minor children within our card system.

Public Comment:

Connie Phillips, Rosalind Murr, and Frances Smith, the patrons who submitted the SOCs for *Tricks*, were offered five minutes for public comment. None were in attendance and none appeared for public comment.

Ashlie Chatagnier – Folsom, LA. Stated that the book follows five teenagers who go through different situations and end up in terrible relationships. Stated that one of the teens came out as gay to his father and he was kicked out. The teen entered into relationships with older men who own homes so that he would not be homeless. Stated that another teen was sold by her mother into a relationship and she became a sex worker to make a living. Stated that another teen gets sent to a conversion camp and sleeps with one of the workers so that he will smuggle her food. Stated that these are real things that happen to real teenagers.

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. Stated she listened to the audiobook, as it was the only format available. Stated it was a compelling story and a cautionary tale for children and parents. Stated that the sex and drug use mentioned is not appealing for prurient interests. Spoke of the tiered card system and how parents can choose a restricted card for their children. Asked for the book to be returned to the YA Fiction section.

Kathleen Wiley – Mandeville, LA. Stated she respectfully disagrees with the previous commenters. States that the book violates the obscenity laws. Read the definition of pornography aloud. Stated that the young people in the book express exhilaration from the booze and sex. Stated that it is guiding them on how to look up pornography, which she says is grooming. Read an excerpt from the book aloud.

Johanna Miner – Stated that Connie Phillips is not there because she is working behind the scenes to have the Board removed. Read an excerpt from the Bible aloud. B. Taylor advised J. Miner that her comment should pertain to the agenda item. J. Miner continued reading the excerpt. Stated that she read words from *Tricks* aloud at a previous board meeting. Stated there is no value in the book, it is disgusting, and putting it back on the shelf is a violation of the new law and promotes pedophilia. Stated that the Board will not be here much longer and their time is coming to an end.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Stated the book should only be in the Adult section. Compared it to pornography, yet it is allowed in the library. Stated that he understands free speech and is not asking for the book to be banned. Stated that it is not appropriate for teenagers. Asked for it to be noted on the website which age groups are appropriate for these books. Stated that reviews and statistics are skewed.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Stated that the book is disturbing, it's uncomfortable, and covers disturbing topics. Stated that one of the characters was raped at the age of ten. Stated that this stuff happens and noted that St. Tammany Parish had 66 sex crimes in 2022. Stated that people are being groomed, and clarified that he does not take that term lightly, unlike the complainants who accuse librarians of grooming. They are taught that this behavior is appropriate. Spoke of the tiered card system appropriately restricting usage if the parent chooses.

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. Stated that the book has been in the system since 2009, but that Connie Phillips and her cohorts have just discovered it. Stated that *Tricks* is an intriguing story and shows how difficult real life can be. Stated that she volunteers with an organization that helps children who had to be taken from their homes. Stated that a 14-year-old boy she cared for fell prey to family members giving him drugs and using him in some of the same activities mentioned in the book. Stated that books are a way for children to understand the tactics of the ministers, coaches, and teachers who are grooming them and sexually abusing them. Asked about missing books from the library that have been checked out and never returned.

There were two public comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. Both comments were not in favor of restricting the book.

Discussion:

B. Taylor stated that it took a while to get through the book, as the author writes in prose. Stated that the book does not violate each part of the La R.S. 14:91.11. Stated she is comfortable moving the book from YA Fiction to the Adult section.

J. Airey stated he has similar thoughts, as the book contains mature topics. Noted the tiered card system. Noted there are no images, but does have difficult text that reflects real life.

Commented that the story is skillfully woven together. Agreed to move the book to the Adult section and let parents make the decision for their kids via the card type.

B. McHugh agreed that the book is disturbing and that it is a cautionary tale. He shared statistics from the February 2023 Louisiana Annual Human Trafficking Data Report from the Governor's Office of Human Trafficking Prevention. The office served 992 confirmed and suspected victims in 2022. B. McHugh disagreed with F. Smith's comment that reading page 196 was enough to know what the book was about. Stated that there is redemption for the teens at the end. Stated that the book as a whole is gut-wrenching, but accurately describes what really happens in the real world. Stated that the book shows that no matter how bad things get, there is always hope, and always the possibility to make things right. Noted that teens will find the book if they want to read it. Stated his personal preference is to leave it in YA, but respects the professionalism and concern expressed by the committee and supports moving it to the Adult section.

A. Parr stated the book is a disturbing part of our reality. Stated that he has worked with troubled teens and this book reflects some of their realities. Agrees that teens will find the book if they really want to read it and supports moving the book to the Adult section.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to affirm the committee's recommendation to move the book *Tricks* to the Adult Fiction section. It was seconded by A. Parr. Roll call vote:

Airey: Yes Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Shaw: Yes Taylor: Yes

Motion carried.

H. Resolution regarding extension of time to allow for procedural due process of Statements of Concern

Discussion: K. LaRocca reported that extensions on 139 titles will expire on July 25, 2023. She is asking the Board to extend the waiver of the time limit for response to pending SOC's that will expire on July 25, 2023, and any SOC that may be received before the Library Board of Control's next regular meeting on August 21, 2023.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

B. Taylor read the resolution aloud.

Vote: J. Airey moved to adopt the resolution to extend the time to allow for procedural due process of Statements of Concern. It was seconded by A. Shaw.

Airey: Yes Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Shaw: Yes Taylor: Yes

Motion carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Rules and Regulations Committee Update

K. LaRocca reported that the Rules and Regulations meetings have focused on the Challenged Materials process and policy. Due to increased interest by the Board, these committee meetings have been upgraded to special board meetings to accommodate this. The committee met on June 16th, June 27th, and July 13th. We continue to talk about the challenged materials process. Library administration is currently working with legal counsel from the DA's office to determine what requirements newly signed ACT 436 will have on library policy. Our next meeting of the Rules and Regulations Committee or special board meeting remains to be determined.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by J. Airey and was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. The motion carried.

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

**St. Tammany Parish Library - General Fund
Balance Sheet
July 31, 2023**

2

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$	10,520,133.70
Cash - Health Claims		(46,740.57)
Due from Paylocity		0.00
Returned Checks		24.10
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2021		0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2022		222,583.97
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2020		6,763,166.69
Due from State of Louisiana		218,112.74
Prepaid Expenses		0.00

Total Current Assets **17,677,280.63**

Other Assets

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

Total Assets **\$ 17,679,261.63**

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Current Liabilities

Accrued Expenses	\$	32,787.00
Accrued Salaries		189,735.09
Deferred Inflows - Ad Valorem		167,512.00
Deferred Compensation Payable		20.00
Elective Benefits Payable		(2,246.59)
Retirement Payable		70,298.92
Health Claims Payable		255,932.55
Due to Employee		219.82

Total Current Liabilities **714,258.79**

Fund Balance

Fund Balance		16,965,002.84
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Total Fund Balance **16,965,002.84**

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance **\$ 17,679,261.63**

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 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	\$ 6,763,166.69	11,644,000.00	4,880,833.31	58.08
State Revenue Sharing	21,052.33	147,366.31	258,515.00	111,148.69	57.00
Fines/Fees	7,110.56	45,086.70	72,500.00	27,413.30	62.19
Interest Income	17,820.99	114,828.47	194,000.00	79,171.53	59.19
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations Received	165.02	14,556.84	50,000.00	35,443.16	29.11
Summer Reading Shirt Sales	0.00	2,118.98	2,118.00	(0.98)	100.05
Total Revenues	<u>1,012,315.57</u>	<u>7,087,123.99</u>	<u>12,221,133.00</u>	<u>5,134,009.01</u>	<u>57.99</u>
Expenditures					
Library Administration	420,187.17	3,020,798.01	5,555,000.00	2,534,201.99	54.38
Employee Benefits	146,891.57	1,255,096.12	2,120,600.00	865,503.88	59.19
Advertising,Dues & Subscriptio	1,111.07	27,738.84	53,000.00	25,261.16	52.34
Signage	0.00	320.41	1,000.00	679.59	32.04
Printing, Duplicating & Bindin	6,481.00	12,361.24	22,000.00	9,638.76	56.19
Promotional Production	686.80	4,415.64	10,000.00	5,584.36	44.16
Utilities	21,026.02	192,858.17	329,010.00	136,151.83	58.62
Communications	9,114.55	84,362.63	150,300.00	65,937.37	56.13
Leases	24,758.19	196,886.12	311,500.00	114,613.88	63.21
Maintenance of Property & Equi	64,224.30	418,720.18	608,750.00	190,029.82	68.78
Maintenance Services (Building	25,512.06	153,865.40	269,405.00	115,539.60	57.11
Professional Services	27,885.24	210,228.56	294,925.00	84,696.44	71.28
Insurance and Claims	145,151.86	228,706.86	231,626.00	2,919.14	98.74
Operating Supplies	16,996.35	110,711.01	179,000.00	68,288.99	61.85
Travel & Continuing Education	5,524.34	33,794.99	75,000.00	41,205.01	45.06
Public Relations/Programming	6,167.02	72,272.27	116,400.00	44,127.73	62.09
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq.	14,474.75	214,782.68	432,258.00	217,475.32	49.69
Capital Outlay-library Res. Ac	97,609.60	750,046.18	1,459,800.00	709,753.82	51.38
Capital Expenditures - Cameras	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00	0.00
Total Expenditures	<u>1,033,801.89</u>	<u>6,987,965.31</u>	<u>12,220,374.00</u>	<u>5,232,408.69</u>	<u>57.18</u>
Excess of Revenues/(Expenditur	<u>\$ (21,486.32)</u>	<u>\$ 99,158.68</u>	<u>759.00</u>	<u>(98,399.68)</u>	<u>13,064.38</u>

4

St. Tammany Parish Library
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance
For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2023

Beginning Fund Balance	\$	16,865,844.16
Net Income		99,158.68
		<hr/>
Ending Fund Balance	\$	<u><u>16,965,002.84</u></u>

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 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</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Library Administration					
Library Salaries	\$ 420,187.17	\$ 3,020,798.01	\$ 5,555,000.00	2,534,201.99	54.38
Total	\$ 420,187.17	\$ 3,020,798.01	\$ 5,555,000.00	2,534,201.99	54.38
Employee Benefits					
FICA/ Supplemental Retirement	\$ 9,992.54	\$ 68,484.24	\$ 113,600.00	45,115.76	60.29
Retirement Contributions	43,357.92	296,457.59	516,000.00	219,542.41	57.45
Health Insurance Expense	34,154.77	220,501.29	460,000.00	239,498.71	47.94
Health Trust	59,386.34	657,781.75	1,018,000.00	360,218.25	64.62
Worker's Compensation Expense	0.00	11,871.25	12,000.00	128.75	98.93
Employee Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 146,891.57	\$ 1,255,096.12	\$ 2,120,600.00	865,503.88	59.19
Advertising, Dues & Subscriptions					
Publication of Legal Notices	\$ 711.07	\$ 6,127.35	\$ 14,000.00	7,872.65	43.77
Membership Dues	0.00	1,850.00	7,500.00	5,650.00	24.67
Advertising	400.00	19,761.49	31,500.00	11,738.51	62.73
Total	\$ 1,111.07	\$ 27,738.84	\$ 53,000.00	25,261.16	52.34
Signage					
Signage	\$ 0.00	\$ 320.41	\$ 1,000.00	679.59	32.04
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 320.41	\$ 1,000.00	679.59	32.04
Printing, Duplicating & Binding					
Printing	\$ 6,481.00	\$ 9,282.19	\$ 12,000.00	2,717.81	77.35
Book Binding	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Patron Cards	0.00	3,079.05	5,000.00	1,920.95	61.58
Total	\$ 6,481.00	\$ 12,361.24	\$ 22,000.00	9,638.76	56.19
Promotional Production					
Promotional Production	\$ 686.80	\$ 4,415.64	\$ 10,000.00	5,584.36	44.16
Total	\$ 686.80	\$ 4,415.64	\$ 10,000.00	5,584.36	44.16

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**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 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</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Utilities					
Electricity	\$ 16,776.07	\$ 162,993.98	\$ 284,000.00	121,006.02	57.39
Gas	76.01	1,778.82	3,250.00	1,471.18	54.73
Water	4,173.94	28,085.37	41,760.00	13,674.63	67.25
Total	\$ 21,026.02	\$ 192,858.17	\$ 329,010.00	136,151.83	58.62
Communications					
Postage	\$ 468.20	\$ 9,397.79	\$ 15,800.00	6,402.21	59.48
Voice Line	6,228.07	45,552.22	83,500.00	37,947.78	54.55
Data Lines (Internet)	2,322.50	29,123.59	50,000.00	20,876.41	58.25
Courier/Shipping	95.78	289.03	1,000.00	710.97	28.90
Total	\$ 9,114.55	\$ 84,362.63	\$ 150,300.00	65,937.37	56.13
Leases					
Building Lease Expense	\$ 24,487.08	\$ 193,992.24	\$ 303,000.00	109,007.76	64.02
Equipment Lease Expense	271.11	2,893.88	6,000.00	3,106.12	48.23
Vehicle Lease Expense	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Total	\$ 24,758.19	\$ 196,886.12	\$ 311,500.00	114,613.88	63.21
Maintenance of Property & Equipment					
Custodial and Janitorial	\$ 18,738.21	\$ 123,816.37	\$ 212,000.00	88,183.63	58.40
Grounds/Lawn Maintenance	8,203.00	49,176.00	85,000.00	35,824.00	57.85
Maintenance Supplies	1,769.43	7,097.76	9,000.00	1,902.24	78.86
Fuel & Lube	6,294.51	19,289.41	40,000.00	20,710.59	48.22
Vehicle Repairs	0.00	5,148.56	10,000.00	4,851.44	51.49
Small Tools	450.00	2,012.34	3,000.00	987.66	67.08
Office Machine & Equip Repair	0.00	504.92	1,000.00	495.08	50.49
Network Utility Software	124.26	123,952.32	157,250.00	33,297.68	78.83
Automation System Maintenance	28,644.89	29,211.89	29,500.00	288.11	99.02
Polaris Maintenance	0.00	53,635.61	54,000.00	364.39	99.33
PC Network Maintenance & Repai	0.00	4,875.00	8,000.00	3,125.00	60.94
Total	\$ 64,224.30	\$ 418,720.18	\$ 608,750.00	190,029.82	68.78
Maintenance of Services (Buildings)					
Physical Plant	\$ 13,039.48	\$ 93,209.89	\$ 150,000.00	56,790.11	62.14
Plumbing, Heating and AC	10,919.91	41,765.14	66,500.00	24,734.86	62.80
Electrical	187.74	8,143.65	13,000.00	4,856.35	62.64
Sanitation	854.93	5,311.72	11,000.00	5,688.28	48.29
Pest Control	510.00	4,385.00	7,350.00	2,965.00	59.66

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**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 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</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	0.00	1,050.00	17,000.00	15,950.00	6.18
Total	\$ 25,512.06	\$ 153,865.40	\$ 269,405.00	115,539.60	57.11
Professional Services					
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 3,213.25	\$ 21,689.25	\$ 34,100.00	12,410.75	63.60
Legal	135.00	11,524.20	15,000.00	3,475.80	76.83
Financial	15,265.12	42,438.94	40,000.00	(2,438.94)	106.10
Consultants	254.92	35,688.20	90,000.00	54,311.80	39.65
Security	1,536.20	6,428.74	10,000.00	3,571.26	64.29
Web Design Consultant	7,480.75	82,789.97	89,825.00	7,035.03	92.17
Movers	0.00	9,669.26	16,000.00	6,330.74	60.43
Total	\$ 27,885.24	\$ 210,228.56	\$ 294,925.00	84,696.44	71.28
Insurance and Claims					
Library Property Insurance	\$ 145,151.86	\$ 145,151.86	\$ 145,500.00	348.14	99.76
Flood Insurance	0.00	25,916.00	26,000.00	84.00	99.68
Vehicle Insurance	0.00	32,538.36	32,950.00	411.64	98.75
LBOC Liability	0.00	0.00	2,076.00	2,076.00	0.00
General Liability	0.00	25,100.64	25,100.00	(0.64)	100.00
Total	\$ 145,151.86	\$ 228,706.86	\$ 231,626.00	2,919.14	98.74
Operating Supplies					
Office Supplies	\$ 2,746.93	\$ 19,241.91	\$ 33,000.00	13,758.09	58.31
Bank Service Charges	1,227.43	9,256.21	16,000.00	6,743.79	57.85
Book Preparation Supplies	3,779.84	24,815.81	47,000.00	22,184.19	52.80
Computer/Printer Supplies	8,677.47	52,047.07	75,000.00	22,952.93	69.40
Programming Supplies	564.68	5,350.01	8,000.00	2,649.99	66.88
Total	\$ 16,996.35	\$ 110,711.01	\$ 179,000.00	68,288.99	61.85
Travel and Continuing Education					
Staff Travel - Local	\$ 2,886.17	\$ 8,031.92	\$ 22,000.00	13,968.08	36.51
Library In-service Training	0.00	893.93	9,000.00	8,106.07	9.93
Conventions & Seminars	2,638.17	24,869.14	44,000.00	19,130.86	56.52
Total	\$ 5,524.34	\$ 33,794.99	\$ 75,000.00	41,205.01	45.06
Public Relations/Programming					

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Seven Months Ending July 31, 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</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Summer Reading Program	\$ 1,062.01	\$ 26,163.75	\$ 45,000.00	18,836.25	58.14
Summer Reading T-shirts	0.00	6,575.59	6,600.00	24.41	99.63
Adult Programming	4,147.83	23,696.28	36,000.00	12,303.72	65.82
Young Adult Programming	957.18	9,943.50	15,000.00	5,056.50	66.29
Juvenile Programming	0.00	4,545.23	12,000.00	7,454.77	37.88
LEH Grant	0.00	1,347.92	1,800.00	452.08	74.88
Total	\$ 6,167.02	\$ 72,272.27	\$ 116,400.00	44,127.73	62.09
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq					
Landscape Additions	\$ 0.00	\$ 13,660.00	\$ 33,000.00	19,340.00	41.39
Imp Phys Plant	0.00	18,300.00	90,000.00	71,700.00	20.33
Vehicles	9,602.75	9,602.75	63,758.00	54,155.25	15.06
Office Equip, Furn & Shelving	3,024.40	38,578.75	78,000.00	39,421.25	49.46
PC Network	1,847.60	134,641.18	156,000.00	21,358.82	86.31
Integrated Lib Automation Sys	0.00	0.00	11,500.00	11,500.00	0.00
Total	\$ 14,474.75	\$ 214,782.68	\$ 432,258.00	217,475.32	49.69
Capital Outlay-Library Res. Acq.					
Adult Books	\$ 3,093.18	\$ 87,351.73	\$ 205,000.00	117,648.27	42.61
Lease/Purchase Books	0.00	18,203.89	18,400.00	196.11	98.93
Juvenile Books	575.26	28,479.46	105,000.00	76,520.54	27.12
Young Adults	35.94	4,461.06	15,000.00	10,538.94	29.74
Music Recordings	73.02	1,250.39	2,800.00	1,549.61	44.66
Adult Reference	3,463.55	38,503.27	111,000.00	72,496.73	34.69
Juvenile Reference	0.00	2,366.30	45,000.00	42,633.70	5.26
Periodicals	26,621.42	46,663.78	52,000.00	5,336.22	89.74
Audio Recordings	424.38	5,461.66	10,100.00	4,638.34	54.08
Video Recordings	2,896.98	21,454.09	69,000.00	47,545.91	31.09
Genealogy	0.00	1,403.58	5,000.00	3,596.42	28.07
Microfilm	0.00	5,867.00	10,000.00	4,133.00	58.67
Downloadable Media	43,826.93	239,008.51	415,000.00	175,991.49	57.59
CD/Software	5,834.40	55,537.70	75,500.00	19,962.30	73.56
Internet Database Subscription	10,764.54	194,033.76	321,000.00	126,966.24	60.45
Total	\$ 97,609.60	\$ 750,046.18	\$ 1,459,800.00	709,753.82	51.38
Capital Expenditures					
Capital Expenditures - Cameras	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 800.00	800.00	0.00
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 800.00	800.00	0.00

*All
Together
Now*



SUMMER READING
CHALLENGE 2023



757

Registered

227

Completions

170

Programs

540

Registered

64

Completions

124

Programs

TEEN (12-17)

Kids (0-11)



6,701

Registered

880

Completions

433

Programs

TOTAL PATRONS REGISTERED

Director's Report

August 21, 2023

FACILITIES

Library Administration met with a representative from the Parish's Engineering department and the architect chosen by the Parish for a preliminary meeting to discuss the renovation of Mandeville Branch's restrooms, upgraded network cable, new carpet and furniture refresh.

The Maintenance Department has spent the last month taking care of the buildings as usual. However, much of their attention has been on maintaining the air conditioning at each branch so that patrons and staff are comfortable and that the libraries can stay open.

The Lee Road Branch will have some minor wall repairs, receive a new coat of paint and are scheduled for new shelving to be installed in October. The branch will be closed from October 23 through October 27 for the work to be done efficiently.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Susan Badon, Children's Librarian for Madisonville, performed Storytime at Kidz Klub House on July 31.

Jessica Aucoin, Children's Librarian for Mandeville, performed Storytime at Kinderhaus Montessori Mandeville on July 24.

Cathy Badon, Slidell Children's Services Assistant, performed Storytime for Little Academy on July 24.

Alexis Davis, Slidell Children's Librarian, and Cathy Badon participated in outreach at the Children's Museum on July 29 for the Back to School Fest.

Alexis Davis performed outreach on August 7 at Open Arms Camp.

Amy Strain, Folsom Branch Manager, attended the Kiwanis meetings on August 1 and 17 for outreach.

Jennifer Rifino, Teen Services Coordinator, Jenny Mayer, Children's Services Coordinator, and Ellen John, Reference Coordinator, attended the St. Tammany Parish School Librarian Meeting at the Treen Instructional Technology Center on August 3 to update school librarians on available library services for the 2023-24 school year.

Jennifer Rifino, now serving as a board member of the St. Tammany Commission on Families, attended their monthly meeting on August 8.

Eugenie Brignac, Covington Children's Librarian, and Jessica Aucoin attended the Back to School Fair at Bayou Lacombe Middle School on August 5.

Jackie Riecke, Public Relations and Community Coordinator, and Kelly LaRocca, Director, went on the Lake and Highway radio stations to announce the Library's new Strategic Plan publication that is available online and in all branches.

On August 15, Jackie Riecke and Kelly LaRocca filmed an episode of the STPG-TV's public access show, Check It Out, to promote Library Sign Up Month, Food for Fines, and the Strategic Plan publication.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The entire Reference department met on August 3 to discuss new programming events and updates to programs that will be showcased this fall.

WEBINAR ATTENDANCE

Emily Stephan, Madisonville Reference Librarian, attended the webinar, "Understanding Intellectual Freedom and Censorship" on August 2.

Kellie Nelson, Covington Reference Librarian, attended the webinar "Morningstar Database" on August 15, and the webinar "Fighting for the First Amendment" on August 16.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Jessica Aucoin was promoted to Causeway Branch Manager.

Ramona Elder has been promoted to Children's Librarian at the Mandeville Branch. She will receive her Master of Library and Information Science in December.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

In preparation for Library Card Sign Up Month in September, Kellie Nelson and Emily Stephan, developed a new reference program entitled "Navigating STPL Mobile", to promote and educate the public about the STPL Mobile App that will be held in September at multiple branch locations.

CONTRACTS

New

BiblioCommons: Kids Catalog- a prorated annual subscription of \$1265.75; with an implementation fee of \$6215.00.

The Kids Catalog will be a separate online catalog that will search only within materials in the children's section.

Renewals:

IDrive: \$2999.50

IDrive is used to back up computers.

EBSCO: Learning Express Package \$7,034

Several online learning databases for students as well as job skills and career skills, including Popular Software Tutorials Center, Computer Skills Center, Job and Career Accelerator Center and Learning Express Library Student Success Skills Center

EBSCO: Novelist Package \$32,669

Includes: Novelist K-8, Novelist Select, NovelistPlus. Novelist is a searchable database that provides reading recommendations based on the patron's preferences. Novelist K-8 is especially for younger readers.

ProQuest: Fold3 \$8,392.80

Provides access to military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served.

ProQuest: Books in Print \$2,371.74

The world's largest bibliographic resource, with a comprehensive database of more than 19 million books, audiobooks, and video titles.

iWave: \$4,095

iWave is a donor research tool that provides access to a comprehensive suite of reliable wealth, philanthropic, and biographic information on prospective donors.

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

We have received 23 public records requests since the beginning of November 2022. 11 are currently outstanding. We have had 4 new requests since our last meeting. Of these new requests, one was easily answered, and two more will be completed by the time of our board meeting on August 21st. The remaining outstanding new request and the older outstanding requests consist of extensive email searches that are in line for redaction and combinations of

electronic and paper documents that will need to be sorted and organized to ensure the completeness of the records. Our file clerk continues to pull and redact the needed records.

STATEMENTS OF CONCERN

To date, the library has received 212 statements of concern on 169 titles since August 2022. The most recent statement of concern was submitted on August 7, 2023. The library board has made decisions on 16 titles and will be deciding on two titles this evening. We will then have 151 remaining. Library staff continue to read titles, hold meetings, and make recommendations. The remaining statements of concern are still "pending review."

STRATEGIC PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

Staff have continued to develop implementation plans.

Library staff committees focused on Goals numbers 1 and 4 on August 14.

Goal 1. The St. Tammany Parish Library will be recognized as a major civic institution that will be responsive to the needs of all residents in a changing, evolving and increasingly diverse community.

Goal 2. The St. Tammany Parish Library will serve as a platform for creativity, innovation, and community interaction.

Although the staff continues to brainstorm on ways to meet these goals, the groups each identified the need for an outreach service and the many forms this could take. Outreach services featured prominently in focus group input from our strategic planning process. Library staff are looking at a potential space to house outreach services that is located next to our new technical services building. We are getting an appraisal done and will be able to update the board on whether this location is a viable option for a library outreach facility by our next meeting. The library will also send two staff members to the Association of Outreach and Book Mobile Services conference in October. The next meetings of these two goal committees are on September 11.

Library administration has also had our kickoff meeting with Gallagher regarding our staff salary study. We have started to work on the staff census they requested. The salary study ties into Goal # 7 - The St. Tammany Parish Library will ensure that its staff has the resources and professional development opportunities needed to underpin the library's goals for the future and maintain its reputation for excellence in customer service.

July 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	264	43	100	29	163	3		16		618				
Abita	659	53	282	31	615	21		22		1,683	210	2,282	161	373
Bush	151	14	365	3	101	18		5		657	88	828	54	131
Causeway	2235	113	1053	48	2710	91		180		6,430	563	5,831	1,412	1,668
Covington	3893	313	1923	30	4717	107	64	276		11,323	1,278	7,397	2,998	1,236
Folsom	435	20	351	5	478	84		27		1,400	278	1,480	163	241
Lacombe	344	19	266	5	473	11		32		1,150	246	3,058	140	170
Lee Road	328	21	154	2	289	8	1	4		807	60	629	87	170
Madisonville	1498	112	534	18	2350	40		157		4,709	507	4,902	1,067	623
Mandeville	2858	287	1046	43	4995	91	4	271		9,595	1,322	7,512	1,003	713
Pearl River	432	19	250	46	326	6	50	22		1,151	242	2,130	135	203
Slidell	3894	366	1450	46	4983	59	292	395		11,485	1,811	11,323	1,645	1,159
South Slidell	708	62	638	27	1020	25	3	75		2,558	1,266	5,280	713	1,054
Virtual ¹									32,708	32,708				
Total	17,699	1,442	8,312	333	23,220	564	414	1,482	32,708	86,274	7,871	52,652	9,578	7,741

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: 879

YTD Jan.-July 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	1,887	462	934	306	2,791	15		159		6,554				
Abita	4309	362	1880	166	4375	91		172		11,355	1,413	14,369	806	2,050
Bush	1246	150	2734	41	1101	75		81		5,428	656	6,271	331	922
Causeway	15900	1010	6260	311	16541	308		1363		41,693	3,865	38,420	9,136	11,171
Covington	25074	2022	11224	238	28954	808	533	1564		70,417	8,448	45,295	19,919	8,975
Folsom	3121	231	2750	54	3282	628		166		10,232	1,805	9,710	1,033	1,536
Lacombe	2067	193	1907	45	2271	28		207		6,718	1,685	19,330	846	1,147
Lee Road	2412	225	1141	22	2639	56	32	110		6,637	565	5,230	520	1,427
Madisonville	9559	1095	3164	131	14149	169		935		29,202	2,903	33,101	7,193	4,164
Mandeville	18872	1941	6289	271	29565	428	15	1721		59,102	7,877	46,654	6,366	4,385
Pearl River	2840	94	1249	178	2138	49	235	127		6,910	1,862	12,858	760	1,354
Slidell	26073	2371	9728	291	27569	1385	1963	2728		72,108	13,784	78,204	10,637	7,220
South Slidell	4566	487	3782	123	6144	71	62	529		15,764	8,906	34,626	4,783	7,136
Virtual ¹									216,808	216,808				
Total	117,926	10,643	52,108	2,177	141,519	4,111	2,840	9,862	216,808	558,928	53,769	344,068	62,330	51,487

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: 5,309



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 Book Newspaper Other
 Magazine Content of Library Program
 Audiovisual Electronic Resource

2. Title ~~Two Boys Kissing~~

Author/Producer David Levithan

3. What brought this title to your attention?

Content violates the state obscenity statutes
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.

Violates Content violates the state obscenity statues for minors.

2021 Louisiana Laws

Revised Statutes

Title 14 - Criminal Law

Not suitable for minors

Summary of Concerns:

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.

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) Sadoomasochistic 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.

Violates Content violates the state obscenity statutes
for minors.

2021 Louisiana Laws

Revised Statutes

Title 14 - Criminal Law

Not suitable for minors

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains inexplicit sexual activities and sexual nudity; alternate sexualities; inexplicit violence involving self-harm; and profanity.

5 He's only seventeen, but online he can be twenty-two, fifteen, twenty-seven.

Whatever the other person wants him to be. He has fake profiles, fake photos,

fake stats and fake histories.

7 There are few things that can make us as happy as a gay prom.

9 We think of the boys we kissed, the boys we screwed, the boys we loved, and the boys that didn't love us back,...

44 The blue-haired boy smiles as he approaches the pink haired boy. ...They say hello.. Then they teeter into a welcome hug, a reunion hug, a this means something hug...Harry leans over and whispers into Craig's ear "I love you". And Craig leans over and whispers into Harry's ear, "I love you"...They kiss

69 There are moments where Harry is so revved up, is so horny, that he'd sleep with just about anything.

101 It's time to move in. He's seen so many scenes of guys doing this- gotten hard to them doing this, jerked off to them doing this. Now here he is . Julian's got a great body...

118 We would wake up in the middle of the night. Sometimes there were tubes down our throats.... The last stop. The final destination. And there we were, trapped in those endless, unforgiving hours. Unable to sleep. Unable to live

143 There's one guy, thirty-four, who says he's long-term relationship oriented. Cooper writes back "How long term do you think these relationships are? Two hours? Three? IF you want to find a husband, maybe you should stop looking for someone to fuck.

185 But I am dead... I am already dead

190 It does not bring back the twelve-year-old who put a gun to his head. It does not bring back the fourteen-year-old who hung himself. It does not bring back the nineteen-year-old strung up on the side of an empty highway and left to die...It does not bring back any of us.

***TWO BOYS KISSING* by David Levithan**

Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2013

PUBLISHER'S SUMMARY

Based on true events--and narrated by a Greek Chorus of the generation of gay men lost to AIDS-- *Two Boys Kissing* follows Harry and Craig, two seventeen-year-olds who are about to take part in a 32-hour marathon of kissing to set a new Guinness World Record. While the two increasingly dehydrated and sleep-deprived boys are locking lips, they become a focal point in the lives of other teens dealing with universal questions of love, identity, and belonging.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS

Love

Homosexuality

Social change

Gays

Love stories

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: 14 and up

HOLDINGS AND CIRCULATION

- One print copy at Covington/ Shelved in Young Adult Fiction/Call number YA Levi
- Overdrive E-book
- Overdrive E-audiobook

Purchased in June 2015. Available on shelf June 2015

Total circulation on all print copies: 34

Total circulation on E-book: 19

Total circulation on E-audiobook: 18

OTHER LIBRARY HOLDINGS

Held in 1911 libraries.

East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library – Young Adult Fiction

Livingston Parish Library – Teen Fiction

Terrebone Parish Library – Young Adult Fiction

PATRON REQUEST/SUGGEST A PURCHASE: N/A

REVIEWS

Publishers Weekly (06/03/2013):

It's a different world for teenagers coming of age and coming out now, compared to when Levithan's *Boy Meets Boy* was published 10 years ago. He speaks directly to this new generation in this novel, which instantly claims its place in the canon of gay literature. As the title suggests, a kiss plays a central part: it takes place on the lawn of a high school where two former boyfriends try to set a world record for the longest kiss. As the title also suggests, this one's for the boys. Although varyingly supportive friends and family are part of the story, Levithan focuses on the gay male community. Craig and Henry, the two participating in the kiss, are no longer dating, throwing an element of uncertainty into an act that's romantic, political, and

personal. Neil and Peter have been dating for a year and are beginning to wonder what's next. Avery, "born a boy that the rest of the world saw as a girl," and Ryan are caught up in the dizzying excitement of meeting someone new. And Cooper is rapidly losing himself into a digital oblivion. But as much as this story is about these teenagers, it's also about their forebears. Levithan builds a bridge between today's young gay men and those who have come (and gone) before them through an audacious choice of narrator: the collective generation of gay men lost to AIDS. This chorus of voices holds court on body image ("When we were healthy we were ignorant. We could never be content in our own skin"), family (both biological and found), hookup apps, dancing, the reality of watching loved ones die, and the fleeting preciousness of life. The narrators are positioned as self-described "shadow uncles" and "angel godfathers," but Levithan doesn't canonize them. "The minute you stop talking about individuals and start talking about a group, your judgment has a flaw in it," they observe when negative reactions to the boys' kiss mount as it gains widespread attention. "We made this mistake often enough." There are no chapters; the story moves among the characters' experiences and the narrators' commentary, proceeding ever forward in the way that life does. As Craig and Henry's kiss approaches record-setting territory, and Cooper approaches becoming a statistic, the novel builds into something triumphant. Many will read the final pages with their hearts in their throats. Levithan makes it clear that loving and living are as imperfect as those who practice them, but no less precious for their flaws. A landmark achievement from a writer and editor who has helped create, in literature, a haven for queer youth. Ages 12-up. Agent: Bill Clegg, William Morris Endeavor. (Aug.) Copyright 2013 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Kirkus Reviews (07/15/2013):

Gay past and gay present collide. Right from the start readers will know something weird is going on with Levithan's latest. The narrator(s) refers to themselves as "us," and readers will soon deduce that it's the Kushner-esque collective voice of a gay generation from decades before, one that was ravaged by AIDS, anger, politics and more. It's through their lens that this story of seven boys from the present is told. The first two--whose activities are imparted in the work's title--are Craig and Harry. They're out to break the world's kissing record (32 hours, 12 minutes and 9 seconds) to protest a hate crime enacted upon their friend. They're not a couple anymore, and Craig still smarts from the breakup. A second pair--Peter and Neil--have been a couple for a while, but that doesn't mean their relationship is perfect. Pink-haired trans Avery and blue-haired Ryan meet at an alternative LGBT prom, and sparks fly. All the while, Cooper, kicked out of his parents' house and obsessed with gay-hookup apps, suffers alone. The story drifts back and forth and among these seven youth under the watchful, occasionally curmudgeonly voice of the past, which weighs down the narrative too much at times. The novel has genuine moments of insight and wisdom, but it feels calculated and lacks the spontaneity that made Levithan's first two novels so magical. Still, fans of his earlier works will appreciate the familiar tone, characters and themes they've come to love over the years. It's well-intentioned and inspiring, but it doesn't push any boundaries. (Fiction. 14 & up) COPYRIGHT (2013) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Booklist (08/01/2013):

Grades 9-12 It's impossible to ignore the context of Levithan's latest novel. The timing is perfect

in the age of Dan Savage's *It Gets Better* (2011) and recent Supreme Court rulings on marriage equality, a book meant for young adults features a real-life gay teen couple kissing on the cover, standing in for the book's two fictional boys, ex-boyfriends hoping to share the world's longest kiss. The story is narrated from the beyond by the shadow uncles -- gay men of the AIDS generation who tell millennial gay boys, We don't want our legacy to be gravitas. These narrators marvel and remark upon Harry and Craig's kiss (a protest of hate crimes committed against a friend), the impact on two other couples at different stages of their relationships, and a hopeless loner in clear emotional danger. *Levithan* leans intensely into this work, which occasionally reveals the gears grinding the piece into shape, thereby dissipating some of the magic. Still, there's little doubt that this title, with its weight, significance, and literary quality, will find its way into LGBTQ and wider canons. Stock up. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2013, American Library Association.)

School Library Journal (09/01/2013):

Gr 7 Up--Narrated by an often heavy-handed Greek chorus of men who died of AIDS, this novel features the stories of one transgender and several gay teens. It focuses on Harry and Craig, friends and ex-boyfriends who have set out to beat the Guinness World Record for kissing. Harry's parents accept that he is gay and are there as witnesses, while Craig's parents find out that he's gay after his mother is told about their record-breaking attempt. Other characters include Tariq, the victim of a hate crime; boyfriends Neil and Peter; and female-to-male (FTM) transgender teen Avery and his love interest, Ryan. Finally, there is isolated, angry, and disaffected Cooper. He spends his nights trolling sex sites online and runs away from home when confronted by his furious parents. Although *Levithan* has a tendency toward didacticism, his characters are likable, with some more developed than others. The story will engage readers, both female and male. The author's note discusses the true events that inspired this story. Despite its flaws, this title is recommended based on subject need. --Nancy Silverrod, San Francisco Public Library. Copyright 2013 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

Bulletin of Ctr for Child Bks (09/01/2013):

The two boys of the title could be Harry and Craig, the former couple, now good friends, who decide to challenge the world record for kiss length in a publicly captured event. But the title could also refer to Peter and Neil, established boyfriends who still must negotiate the occasional obstacle; it could be Avery and Ryan, who meet and fall for each other at the gay prom and who are tentatively embarking on a relationship; it could be Cooper, pressed by his parents' rejection to the brink of suicide and despising his online hookup for actually wanting a relationship with him. It's also an iconic view of young gay men, an emblem of the possibility- and risk-inherent in the act of kissing, and a focus of the narrators, a Greek chorus of ghostly men who died of AIDS just as the cultural closet door was swinging open. As a result, this is both celebratory and elegiac, an *Our Town* mourning loss of the dead and marveling, longing for, and cheering the possibilities for the living; it's the bittersweet counterpart to *Levithan*'s joyous *Boy Meets Boy* (BCCB 9/03), foregrounding the painful context that that book utopianly took off the field. While some of that context is undeniably adult centered, the generational focus conveys the cultural lines of descent, the social family, that these teens are heir to in way that identifies them as part of a larger, connected, invested group rather than the isolates they

sometimes feel. That's no surprise with Levithan, who's always a tender poet of human connection; in addition to the link between the lost and the present, the book rejoices in the bonds between the living: the friends and family who support Craig and Harry, the sister who pushes Neil's parents to acknowledge who their son is, and even the rejecting parents who embrace a nearly lost Cooper with gratitude and relief. The cast is multicultural, multi-experiential, and queer on various axes (Avery is a transman), offering multiple points of entry for readers seeking identification. There's much to discuss here about identity, about social media, about community-and it would be a particularly stellar choice for a multi-generational LGTBQ-focused book club. DS

Hornbook Guide to Children (01/01/2014):

Craig and Harry attempt to break the world record for longest kiss, which, in turn, affects the lives of the people around them. Narrated by a ghostly chorus of past generations of gay men who died of AIDS, Levithan's latest novel weaves together an informed (sometimes melodramatic) perspective on the past with the present-day stories of seven boys constructing their own sexual identities. (Copyright 2014 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

David Levithan was born in 1972. He graduated from Brown University in 1994 and is a senior editor at Scholastic. He has written numerous books including *Boy Meets Boy*, *The Realm of Possibility*, *Every Day*, and *Another Day*.

AWARDS & LISTS

2014 Lambda Literary Award

2014 Stonewall Honor Book

2013 National Book Award Longlist

2014 New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association Award

2016 Nutmeg Book Award (nominee)

2016 Nevada Young Readers' Award (nominee)

2014 Capitol Choices: Noteworthy Books for Childrens and Teens (Recommended)

RESOURCES

Ingram Content Group, LLC

Books in Print 2.0


Worldcat

Individual library websites (for holdings info)



August 4th 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips


Mandeville, LA 70471

Dear Connie Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *Two Boys Kissing* by David Levithan. 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 under the age

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1112 WEST 21ST AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433
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MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

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SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099



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 committee’s opinion is that the book does not primarily consist of or is it primarily devoted to the description of the sexual conduct outlined in La R.S. 14:91.11 Part A. 2. There are a few references to sexual conduct and masturbation, but scenes are not explicit. There are scenes of hugging and kissing.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. The character Cooper’s story is a cautionary tale about online dating sites and is not erotic. The descriptions in Cooper’s scenes give weight to his emotions and explain his actions. The scenes that refer to abuse, bullying, suicide, and self-harm are not sexual.
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. STPL has held the book for seven years with steady circulation. The digital copies have steady circulation as well. The book received very good reviews in all of the juvenile literature trade journals when it was published. STPL’s placement of the book in Teen Fiction is consistent with our peer libraries.

The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary or artistic value for minors. The committee found that the book is a well written portrayal of the joy and despair of being a teen, especially a gay teen. The use of the “Greek chorus” is a literary device that gives the book a historical perspective.

After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, that the book does not violate the statute. You asked that this book be shelved in a “upon request” section of the library. This book was located in the Teen Fiction collection. It is the recommendation of this committee that the book should remain in the collection and is appropriate in its current location in Teen Fiction.

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SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099



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 August 21st, 2023, at 6:30pm where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes. If you are unable to attend, you may submit a written statement to be included in the record of the meeting.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1112 WEST 21ST AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433
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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 11-22-2022

Name Rosalind Murr

Address [REDACTED]

City Covington State La Zip 70433

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 Two Boys Kissing

Author/Producer David Levithon

3. What brought this title to your attention?

I heard it had questionable material and upon reading was horrified!

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

I read the book in its entirety.

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

Remove it from any children's sections, ask for ID to check out and not allowable for a minor to download.

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.

This is breaking child

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

Something that does not break state obscenity laws for children.

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.



August 4th 2023

Ms. Rosalind Murr
[REDACTED]
Covington, LA 70433

Dear Ms. Murr,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *Two Boys Kissing* by David Levithan. 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.

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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 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 committee’s opinion is that the book does not primarily consist of or is it primarily devoted to the description of the sexual conduct outlined in La R.S. 14:91.11 Part A. 2. There are a few references to sexual conduct and masturbation, but scenes are not explicit. There are scenes of hugging and kissing.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. The character Cooper’s story is a cautionary tale about online dating sites and is not erotic. The descriptions in Cooper’s scenes give weight to his emotions and explain his actions. The scenes that refer to abuse, bullying, suicide, and self-harm are not sexual.
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. STPL has held the book for seven years with steady circulation. The digital copies have steady circulation as well. The book received very good reviews in all of the juvenile literature trade journals when it was published. STPL’s placement of the book in Teen Fiction is consistent with our peer libraries.

The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary or artistic value for minors. The committee found that the book is a well written portrayal of the joy and despair of being a teen, especially a gay teen. The use of the “Greek chorus” is a literary device that gives the book a historical perspective.

After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, that the book does not violate the statute. You asked that this book be removed “from any children’s sections, ask for ID to check out and not allowable for a minor to download.” This book was never located in the children’s section – it was located in the Teen Fiction collection. It is the recommendation of this committee that the book should remain in the

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collection and is appropriate in its current location in Teen Fiction. Although we do not require ID's for checkout, our card system applies. Parents have the option to choose a card that prevents their children from checking out a teen book. This will mean that a juvenile restricted card would not be able to check this book out. Similarly, the downloadable copy of this book can not be downloaded by a juvenile restricted card.

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 August 21st, 2023, at 6:30 pm where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes. If you are unable to attend, you may submit a written statement to be included in the record of the meeting.

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 _____

Name _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Representing _____ (self) _____ (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

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

2. Title _____

Author/Producer _____

3. What brought this title to your attention?

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

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

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.

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

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.

3. What brought this title to your attention?

La Save Our Schools has provided a list with sexual content and we checked your content and also found the books which violate stature

La. R.S. 14:91.11 Guidelines

(1) Sale, exhibition, or distribution of material harmful to minors, La. R.S. 14:91.11, pertains to:

- “[T]he intentional sale, allocation, distribution, advertisement, dissemination, exhibition, or display of material harmful to minors ... to any unmarried person under the age of eighteen years”
- “[T]he possession of material harmful to minors with the intent to sell, allocate, advertise, disseminate, exhibit, or display such material ... at a newsstand or any other commercial establishment¹ which is open to persons under the age of eighteen years.”

(2) These provisions do not apply to “the spouse, parent, or legal guardian of the minor”

(3) “Material harmful to minors” is defined as material “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:”

- “The material incites or appeals to or is designed to incite or appeal to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors.”
- “The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors.”
- “The material taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.”

(4) Commercial establishments² “shall require the individual purchasing the material harmful to minors to provide a driver's license, selective service card, military identification card, birth certificate, or other official form of

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

Summary of Concerns:

The book contains sexuality alternate genders ideologies. Parents should check out these books about sexual preference; This book should not be shelved in the children's section of the library. Small children should not be exposed to sexual material. The very pretext of this book relates to sexuality. The citizens of St. Tammany Parish do not subscribe to the AIA Bill of rights. We do not believe that children are sexual from birth. We believe that they are innocent and should be protected from confusion and predators. Therefore, if you think your child needs this book to understand themselves then find it in the adult section and check it out there.

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.

Not suitable for children in St. Tammany Parish See La. R.S. 14:91:11

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

46 Right now, I'm dressed as a dude. ..."This fluid thing you have going is a thing of substance." 63 "You want me to find a country girl to have sex with?" 79 Out there, I might be straight or gay or bi...or anything. Out there, I choose. No one cares whether I wear jeans or dresses. It'll feel like jumping in a coffee shop to a song called "I Cannot Be Contained." 122 ...and both of them missed my sexuality or gender or both by a mile. 131 ...I was thinking the same thing when you let Woods put me on the guy's side... 152 Daddy, I'm Atreyu. Those words are hazy, but I do remember the words that followed: "Elizabeth, Atreyu is a boy. You are a girl." 163 But I am the girl-who-isn't-a-guy who lives perpetually on the guy's side. A brother, a dude, a... 172 "No," Dad asserts. "I'm asking if Davey Winters is sexually fluid." ...Sexually fluid? ..."...they all say your generation doesn't care to define sexuality." ..."There's a whole alphabet of letters. L-G-B-T-Q-I-A-B-C-D-" 178 That sex dream. My first sex dream. My first sex anything. And...I was a guy. And...I was with Janie Lee. ...Morning doesn't care about my sexuality. 179 According to "experts" I am starved for intimacy and have a "masculine mind-set." 180 ...had a sex dream where I was a guy. 184 "Thinking of yourself as boyish is one thing, but your friends assigned you a gender- without asking- and that flayed you. If I had to speculate, you're actually upset because you believe they should know you well enough to avoid such an error. Which isn't totally fair to you or them. Gender, sexuality, fluidity: those areas require stumbling around in the dark, feeling, and bumping into things..." 185 Maybe, when it comes to sexuality, my foregone conclusions are not all that foregone. Sometimes tomboys are gay. Sometimes they're not. I wonder which kind of tomboy I am or if there is room to not know until later. 186 "And do you think you're not overly excited about the Corn Dolly because you're wrestling with what it means to be a girl?" 277 "...'Hey homos,' I heard them, but I knew I wasn't gay. I'd...well, I'd given it my best go, and I still liked girls. He liked girls too. And boys. And anyone who made him feel deeply..." 284 "Are you straight, B?" "I'm complicated," I answer 326 Two boys dancing. Two girls dancing. No one cares.

Profanity Count

Bitch

4

Fuck

4

Piss

3

Shit

11

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

Anything that does not violate the state Harmful to Minors Statute

La. R.S. 14:91.11 Guidelines

(1) Sale, exhibition, or distribution of material harmful to minors, La. R.S. 14:91.11, pertains to:

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- “[T]he possession of material harmful to minors with the intent to sell, allocate, advertise, disseminate, exhibit, or display such material ... at a newsstand or any other commercial establishment¹ which is open to persons under the age of eighteen years.”

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(3) “Material harmful to minors” is defined as material “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:”

- “The material incites or appeals to or is designed to incite or appeal to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors.”
- “The material is offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors.”
- “The material taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.”

(4) Commercial establishments² “shall require the individual purchasing the material harmful to minors to provide a driver’s license, selective service card, military identification card, birth certificate, or other official form of

WHAT ARE YOUR WORDS by Katherine Locke

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021

PUBLISHER'S SUMMARY

Whenever Ari's Uncle Lior comes to visit, they ask Ari one question: "What are your words?" Some days Ari uses she/her. Other days Ari uses he/him. But on the day of the neighborhood's big summer bash, Ari doesn't know *what* words to use. On the way to the party, Ari and Lior meet lots of neighbors and learn the words each of them use to describe themselves, including pronouns like she/her, he/him, they/them, ey/em, and ze/zir. As Ari tries on different pronouns, they discover that it's okay to not know your words right away--sometimes you have to wait for your words to find you. Filled with bright, graphic illustrations, this simple and poignant story about finding yourself is the perfect introduction to gender-inclusive pronouns for readers of all ages.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS

Gender identity
Pronoun
Neighbors
English language
Uncles

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: 4 to 8

HOLDINGS AND CIRCULATION

- 2 print copies at Covington and Slidell/ Shelves in Juvenile Picture Books/ Call number E Loc

Purchased in September 2021. Available on shelf October 2021.

Total circulation on all print copies: 11

OTHER LIBRARY HOLDINGS

Held in 753 libraries.

Jefferson Parish Library – Easy Books

Calcasieu Parish Public Library – Easy Books

Mobile Public Library – Easy Books

PATRON REQUEST/SUGGEST A PURCHASE: YES

REVIEWS

Booklist (04/15/2021):

Grades K-3 Whenever Ari's favorite person, Uncle Lior, visits, they always ask, "What are your words, Ari?" Today, before heading to the summer bash, Ari is troubled because none of Ari's words seem to fit. Usually, Ari knows which pronouns--along with other words that describe feelings--feel right. Some people's words, Ari explains, stay the same, while others' change

occasionally or frequently or just once. As they walk to the summer bash, Ari introduces readers and Uncle Lior to all the people in the neighborhood. Above each figure float their words: two descriptive adjectives, one word that shares what they do, and a pair of pronouns. Locke's simple narrative, of Ari worrying over that day's words, seamlessly incorporates the appropriate pronouns for each person (including he/him, she/her, they/them, ey/em, ze/zir, and xe/xir), demonstrating the ease with which language can change to accommodate pronoun diversity. Once Ari realizes which pronouns feel right that day, the summer bash celebration is complete. A sweet, affirming introduction to the language used to communicate a range of gender identities. COPYRIGHT(2021) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Publishers Weekly (05/03/2021):

Two nonbinary creators unite for this picture book about Ari, a narrator who sports an asymmetrical haircut and is excited about a visit from Uncle Lior, a biologist with a dark pompadour who uses *they* and *them* pronouns. Aware that pronouns can "change depending on how I feel," Lior asks, "What are your words, Ari?" whenever they drop by. Locke offers an affirming, changeable look at pronoun usage in accessible prose as Ari searches for the right pronouns to use on the day of the neighborhood's "big summer bash." On the way to the barbecue, Lior, Ari, and Ari's older sister Rachel, all brown-skinned, encounter neighbors of varying abilities and skin tones, whose adjectives and pronouns float above them ("Artistic! Sweet! Kind! Ze/zir"). Passchier adds friendly, geometric-based digital art in a mainly triadic color scheme of goldenrod, light indigo, and seagreen. A capable celebration of the rich range of pronouns. Ages 4-8. (May) Copyright 2021 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

School Library Journal (08/01/2021):

PreS-Gr 3--Ari's Uncle Lior comes to visit and the pair walk through town to a neighborhood summer bash. Uncle Lior uses they/them pronouns, and they make a habit of always asking Ari, "What are your words?" Sometimes Ari knows which pronouns feel just right, but on this day it's tricky to decide. On the way to the bash, Ari introduces Uncle Lior to everyone in town using that person's pronouns, which are illustrated over their head, along with a few words describing their personality. Ari's family is light brown-skinned, and their neighbors represent a range of skin tones, abilities, and genders. After the bash, Ari invites the reader to share their own words and pronouns after finally settling on they/them pronouns for the day. Passchier's colorful, geometric digital illustrations match the joyful tone of the text, bringing the whole neighborhood to life. Pronouns from around the world decorate the end papers. **VERDICT** An affirming, conversational picture book that models the ease with which our language can adapt to gender diversity and pronoun use. A recommended first purchase for all libraries.--*Allison Staley, Lake Oswego P.L., OR* Copyright 2021 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Katherine Locke's words are they and them! Katherine lives and writes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with their very demanding cats and overflowing bookshelves. They also wrote *Bedtime for Superheroes*, and books for older readers including *The Girl with the Red Balloon* and *The Spy with the Red Balloon*. They edited and contributed to *It's a Whole Spiel: Love, Latkes*

and Other Jewish Stories and the forthcoming *This is Our Rainbow: 16 Stories of Her, Him, Them, Us*. They can be found online at KatherineLockeBooks.com.

Anne (Andy) Passchier is a non-binary illustrator from the Netherlands, currently working in the USA. Anne lives with their cats, loves to travel, draw, and enjoys all things spooky and Halloween.

AWARDS & LISTS

N/A

RESOURCES

Ingram Content Group, LLC

Books in Print 2.0

Worldcat

Individual library websites (for holdings info)



August 4th 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips
[REDACTED]
Mandeville, LA 70471

Dear Connie Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *What are Your Words* by Katherine Locke. 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 under the age

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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 committee found that the material did not exploit, was not devoted to, or principally consist of “descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality.” There is no sexual conduct depicted in the book whatsoever.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. The book contains no sex acts or sexual conduct. The book does not discuss sexuality or sexual preference. The characters in the book are fully clothed in all of the illustrations.
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 committee acknowledged that the book may not be in line with the values of some families in St. Tammany Parish. However, there are families in our parish that do want this book to help them explain the concept of different pronouns to their young children. This title was purchased in response to a patron request. Two copies of the book were purchased in September 2021. In the fourteen months that the book was on the shelf, the two copies circulated a total of 11 times.
4. The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. The book has educational value as it introduces new pronouns and how they are used. The book shows that a person’s identity is made up of more than one characteristic, and more than what pronoun they prefer. The book is not persuasive and does not advocate for the use of one pronoun over another or that people with certain characteristics should use one or another.

The committee did not find a “pretext of sexuality or alternative gender ideology.” The characters express how they feel and how they identify but do not explain why. The page numbers, quotes, and profanity listed in your Statement of Concern are not in this book. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, that the book does not violate the statute. You asked that this book be shelved in a “upon request” section of the library. This book was located in the Children’s Picturebook collection. It is the recommendation of this committee that the book should remain in the collection and is appropriate in its current location in Children’s Picturebooks.

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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 August 21st, 2023, at 6:30 pm where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes. If you are unable to attend, you may submit a written statement to be included in the record of the meeting.

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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St. Tammany Parish Library 2024 Budget

Introduction

The library was established in March of 1951 when voters approved a millage to provide the Parish with a library system. It is the mission of St. Tammany Parish Library to cultivate discovery, creativity and lifelong learning by offering access to resources, programs and services for everyone in a welcoming environment.

The library remains an integral part of the fabric of life in St. Tammany Parish, with 541,040 visits to the library and 967,327 items checked out in 2022.

I am pleased to submit the 2024 proposed Annual Operating Budget for the St. Tammany Parish Library for your consideration. The following budget explanation and discussion should be read alongside the 2024 budget spreadsheet.

2024 Budgetary Basis and Assumptions

Expected revenue numbers were provided to the library by the Assessor's Office and the St. Tammany Parish Department of Finance. The figures provided by those offices are estimates, and because of that, we budgeted our revenue conservatively. Expected expenditures were based on the three previous years, and budget discussions about the upcoming year were held with each library department. The difference between the 2023 Summer Amendment and the 2024 proposed budget is noted for each line.

2024 Revenue

In 2024, the St. Tammany Parish Library will operate on a revenue of \$12,438,788. The primary source (i.e., 97 percent) of the library's 2023 income will be a 5.78 mil property tax millage – 4.91 mils for operations and .87 mils for capital improvements to library buildings. The remaining three percent of the library's income comes from state revenue sharing, fines and fees, interest, and donations.

We are projecting to receive a little over \$200,000 more in Ad Valorem Taxes. State Revenue Sharing reflects the amount we received in 2023. The Fines and Fees line has been adjusted upward slightly as we have received increasing fines and print fees as library usage has increased. Interest Income has been matched to the interest we have received and project to receive for 2023. The amount for Donations is reflective of previous years' experience. Summer reading t-shirt sales have been matched to the summer amendment but we opted for an even budget number. Overall, there is an increase of \$217,655 in revenue due mainly to growth in ad valorem taxes.

2024 Expenditures

The economy continues to affect the availability of supplies. Our strategic planning process has entered the implementation phase. Our Technical Services move was completed in 2023 but we now have Mandeville and Causeway updates and renovations on the horizon. Many of the increases and decreases you will see in the individual budget lines will be due to the implications of these conditions. Each section in the budget is highlighted below with an explanation.

- **Library Salaries and Employee Benefits** - There is enough funding in the salary line to cover merit raises. In approving this budget, you will also approve merit raises for the year. There is

also flexibility to allow the creation of an outreach service and to react to the salary survey that should be completed by the end of 2023. The FICA/Medicare line is increased as we anticipate more of our part-time positions being filled. The Worker's Compensation line is increased to match the premium that we pay – we received dividends from LWCC that was credited to this line in 2023 but we can not depend on receiving a dividend and how much the dividend will be.

- **Operating Services** – Publication of Legal Notices is increased as we continue to have lengthier minutes to publish in the paper. Advertising is increased slightly as we anticipate continuing summer reading postcards, and in anticipation of distributing millage information. Signage is increased as we plan to have more signage printed showing new services.
- **Printing, Duplicating, and Binding** – There are no changes being made to these lines.
- **Utilities** – The Electrical and Water lines are being increased to match projections for the end of 2023.
- **Communications** – More money was added to cover the cost of postage, which is more in line with expenditures projected for 2023 and is reflective of the increased shipping cost.
- **Lease Expense** – No changes are being made to these lines.
- **Maintenance of Property and Equipment** – Most lines in Maintenance of Property and Equipment are estimated to be the same cost as 2023. The cost of Fuel has decreased.
- **Maintenance Services** – The Sanitation line is decreased as we will not need the dumpster we had during the technical services move. Pest control was matched to the projected cost for 2023.
- **Professional Services** – Payroll service fees are increased to reflect the projected cost of adding new training functionality. The Legal line is reduced to zero as we currently do not anticipate having outside legal advice in 2024. The consultants line is decreased as we have paid the consulting fees for Strategic Planning in 2023. The security line is increased as we now have security at all Board meetings. The Web Design Consultant line is decreased as development of the new children's catalog will be completed in 2023.
- **Insurance and Claims** – It is unknown at this time what increases will be incurred with insurance of all types. We based amounts off of 2023. The only change is the LBOC liability line. We paid for LBOC Liability through the end of 2023 (for a shorter term) and set up the renewal date for January 1st so that all of the policies the library pays for would span the 12 months of the year.
- **Operating Supplies** – Book preparation supplies is reduced as the purchase of dummy books and labels to help facilitate the finding of books under challenge were spent in 2023. Computer/Printing supplies is increased due to the increased cost of toner and increased use of our printing services. Programming supplies is increased to match the increased usage of refreshments as more and more people are attending programs.
- **Travel and Continuing education** - Continuing education continues to be a priority as we are involved in implementing strategic planning. 2024 is a Public Library Association conference year.
- **Public Relations/Programming** – Public relations and programming lines have been kept stable for 2024 and match the budget for 2023 with the exception of an increase to summer reading t-shirts expenditures due to higher cost. The LEH grant line is reduced to zero as we do not anticipate receiving an LEH grant in 2024.

- **Non-Book Acquisitions** – The Improvement to Physical plant line has been increased to cover the cost of Madisonville stucco maintenance, repainting several branches and parking lot maintenance at several branches. Funding for vehicle purchase has been added to cover the cost of replacement of 2 vehicles for 2024. We had originally projected to replace one vehicle in 2024 but it is unlikely that we will receive the vehicle budgeted for 2023 until after the new year. Office equipment, furniture and shelving is increased as we will work on a new circ desk for Mandeville. Integrated Library Automation systems is increased to match the quote we have received for a new server. The Camera line is reduced to zero as we do not anticipate camera purchases in 2024.
- **Library Resource Acquisitions** – The cost of Music recordings and Video recordings is being reduced as we have had less requests for purchases in these areas. The Genealogy line is increased as the collection is being encased at Slidell.
- **Long-Term Capital expenditures** – We currently have no long-term expenditures that we will spend out of savings scheduled for 2024. We can re-evaluate this at amendment time to coincide with capital projects we coordinate with the Parish.

Prior Years’ Operating Revenue – Savings/Fund Balance

Any unused money at the end of the year becomes Prior Years’ Operating Revenue. The cash on hand after all bills were paid for December and the auditors made their adjustments in March 2023 was \$5,759,521. Based on the current 2023 budget, we will have \$598,412 unbudgeted savings on December 31st, 2023, for a total of \$5,927,664. This figure is less than half of one year’s operating revenue. These savings are dedicated to very specific purposes.

- Operational reserves are needed to run the library until we receive our first significant portion of our millage from the Parish. \$2,500,000
- Disaster and emergency funds cover our insurance deductibles and any repairs and clean-up that may be needed in the event of a disaster. \$1,475,000
- We reserve funding for immediate expenditures in 2024 that we will be obligated to pay, such as invoices left over from the previous year, salaries from the last pay period, and the retirement payment for the 4th quarter.
- Causeway Furniture – \$65,000
- Mandeville furniture \$200,000
- Slidell Furniture \$650,000

This leaves us with a current Unassigned Savings of \$598,412. This puts us in good stead to have funding for any projects identified as we implement strategic planning.

Budget Analysis

We are forecasting an increase in revenue of \$217,655 due to an increase in Ad Valorem Taxes as part of average growth. We predict an increase in expenditures of \$217,302 from 2023. This is due to anticipated increased costs for employee salaries and increases in supply costs. Almost all the revenues were budgeted to be expended leaving only \$1,112 as a free balance. We are presenting a balanced

operational budget for the 2024 year. Each library department was allocated the funds to enable their plans. I am confident that we have adequate funds to meet our goals for the year.

Conclusion

In 2024, the St. Tammany Parish Library will continue to serve the needs of St. Tammany Parish while striving to improve our collections, programs, services, and facilities. We look forward to a successful year created with the help of our partners, patrons, and friends.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly LaRocca". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully Submitted:" text.

Kelly I. LaRocca
Director

2024 Proposed Budget - St. Tammany Parish Library

		7/28/2023												
		2020 Budget Actual	2021 Budget Actual	2022 Budget Actual	2023 Budget Original	2023 Budget Last adopted (Summer Amendment)	2023 Budget Actual YTD as of 6/30/23	2023 Budget Estimated Remaining Expenditures /Revenues for Year	2023 Budget Projected Actual Year End	% Change 2023 Last adopted vs. Projected Actual Result at Year End 2023	Amount Diff. between 2023 Proposed and 2022 Last Adopted Budget	2024 Budget Proposed	% Change 2023 Projected Actual Year End vs. 2024 Proposed Budget	
				Previous Years				Current Year				Upcoming Year		
REVENUE														
	405	Ad Valorem Taxes (received)	\$ 10,538,531	\$ 11,300,476	\$ 11,494,948	\$ 11,594,000	\$ 11,644,000	\$ 11,506,153	\$ 204,983	\$ 11,711,136	0.58%	\$ 217,153	\$ 11,861,153	1.28%
	410	State Revenue Sharing	\$ 251,523	\$ 251,600	\$ 251,600	\$ 252,628	\$ 258,515	\$ 172,344	\$ 86,172	\$ 258,515	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 258,515	0.00%
	415	Fines/Fees	\$ 42,497	\$ 49,665	\$ 70,487	\$ 63,000	\$ 72,500	\$ 37,976	\$ 35,000	\$ 72,976	0.66%	\$ 500	\$ 73,000	0.03%
	416	LA Library Grant - ARPA	\$ -	\$ 47,065	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	417	Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	418	LEH Grant	\$ 6,755	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	420	Interest Income	\$ 9,224	\$ 1,142	\$ 38,715	\$ 18,500	\$ 194,000	\$ 97,007	\$ 97,000	\$ 194,007	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 194,000	0.00%
	425	Donations	\$ 22,930	\$ 9,056	\$ 33,303	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 14,392	\$ 35,000	\$ 49,392	-1.22%	\$ -	\$ 50,000	1.23%
	430	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ 14,840	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	440	CARES Act COVID-19	\$ 8,365	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	450	Summer Reading T-shirt Sales	\$ 1,551	\$ 1,267	\$ 1,317	\$ 1,350	\$ 2,118	\$ 2,119	\$ -	\$ 2,119	0.05%	\$ 2	\$ 2,120	0.05%
														0.00%
		TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,881,376.51	\$11,662,970.86	\$11,907,610.00	\$11,980,478.21	\$12,221,133.52	\$ 11,829,991	\$ 458,155	\$ 12,288,146	0.55%	\$ 217,655	\$ 12,438,788	1.23%
EXPENDITURES														
LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION														
PERSONNEL SALARIES														
	503	Library Salaries	\$ 4,752,639.13	\$ 4,846,642.94	\$ 5,005,221.13	\$ 5,555,000.00	\$ 5,555,000.00	\$ 2,600,611	\$ 2,872,664	\$ 5,473,275	-1.47%	\$ 150,000	\$ 5,705,000	4.23%
		TOTAL	\$ 4,752,639.13	\$ 4,846,642.94	\$ 5,005,221.13	\$ 5,555,000.00	\$ 5,555,000.00	\$ 2,600,611	\$ 2,872,664	\$ 5,473,275	-1.47%	\$ 150,000	\$ 5,705,000	4.23%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS														
	511	FICA/Medicare Tax	\$ 105,326.94	\$ 104,917.88	\$ 111,512.98	\$ 109,600.00	\$ 113,600.00	\$ 58,492	\$ 58,491	\$ 116,983	2.98%	\$ 3,400	\$ 117,000	0.01%
	512	Retirement Contributions	\$ 499,949.53	\$ 511,260.09	\$ 489,982.62	\$ 516,000.00	\$ 516,000.00	\$ 253,100	\$ 253,100	\$ 506,200	-1.90%	\$ -	\$ 516,000	1.94%
	513	Health Insurance/Insurance	\$ 435,993.28	\$ 412,118.33	\$ 440,256.79	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 460,000.00	\$ 186,347	\$ 260,000	\$ 446,347	-2.97%	\$ -	\$ 460,000	3.06%
	514	Health Trust	\$ 795,443.40	\$ 1,181,116.17	\$ 804,090.69	\$ 900,500.00	\$ 1,018,000.00	\$ 598,395	\$ 420,000	\$ 1,018,395	0.04%	\$ -	\$ 1,018,000	-0.04%
	515	Workers' Compensation/Unemployment Claims	\$ 27,464.71	\$ 6,318.11	\$ 31,416.00	\$ 42,492.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,871	\$ -	\$ 11,871	-1.07%	\$ 18,000	\$ 30,000	152.71%
	516	Employee Miscellaneous	\$ 310.74	\$ 2,136.60	\$ 854.42	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 1,000	0.00%
		TOTAL	\$ 1,864,488.60	\$ 2,217,867.18	\$ 1,878,113.50	\$ 2,019,592.00	\$ 2,120,600.00	\$ 1,108,205	\$ 991,591	\$ 2,099,796	-0.98%	\$ 21,400	\$ 2,142,000	2.01%
OPERATING SERVICES														
	601	Publication of Legal Notices	\$ 2,835.13	\$ 3,473.25	\$ 4,166.54	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 5,416	\$ 9,000	\$ 14,416	2.97%	\$ 1,000	\$ 15,000	4.05%
	603	Membership Dues	\$ 985.00	\$ 5,901.48	\$ 7,045.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,850	\$ 5,650	\$ 7,500	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 7,500	0.00%
	604	Advertising	\$ 20,924.60	\$ 18,765.19	\$ 24,385.41	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 19,361	\$ 12,000	\$ 31,361	-0.44%	\$ 1,000	\$ 32,500	3.63%
	607	Signage	\$ 10,361.92	\$ 3,406.00	\$ 3,498.62	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 320	\$ 680	\$ 1,000	0.04%	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	99.92%
	608	Promotional Production	\$ 5,185.37	\$ 6,664.15	\$ 19,902.10	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,729	\$ 6,300	\$ 10,029	0.29%	\$ -	\$ 10,000	-0.29%
		TOTAL	\$ 40,292.02	\$ 38,210.07	\$ 58,997.67	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 30,677	\$ 33,630	\$ 64,307	0.48%	\$ 3,000	\$ 67,000	4.19%
PRINTING, DUPLICATING & BINDING														
	611	Printing	\$ 6,190.49	\$ 8,918.93	\$ 11,998.47	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 2,801	\$ 9,000	\$ 11,801	-1.66%	\$ -	\$ 12,000	1.68%
	613	Book Binding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,840.20	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 5,000	0.00%
	615	Patron Cards	\$ -	\$ 3,380.90	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,079	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,079	1.58%	\$ -	\$ 5,000	-1.56%
		TOTAL	\$ 6,190.49	\$ 12,299.83	\$ 15,838.67	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 5,880	\$ 16,000	\$ 21,880	-0.54%	\$ -	\$ 22,000	0.55%
UTILITIES														
	621	Electricity	\$ 194,432.60	\$ 237,246.80	\$ 316,933.90	\$ 274,000.00	\$ 284,000.00	\$ 146,218	\$ 138,000	\$ 284,218	0.08%	\$ 220	\$ 284,220	0.00%
	622	Gas	\$ 1,868.32	\$ 2,376.75	\$ 2,474.76	\$ 3,050.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 1,703	\$ 1,550	\$ 3,253	0.09%	\$ -	\$ 3,250	-0.09%

2024 Proposed Budget - St. Tammany Parish Library

	7/28/2023												
		2020 Budget Actual	2021 Budget Actual	2022 Budget Actual	2023 Budget Original	2023 Budget Last adopted (Summer Amendment)	2023 Budget Actual YTD as of 6/30/23	2023 Budget Estimated Remaining Expenditures /Revenues for Year	2023 Budget Projected Actual Year End	% Change 2023 Last adopted vs. Projected Actual Result at Year End 2023	Amount Diff. between 2023 Proposed and 2022 Last Adopted Budget	2024 Budget Proposed	% Change 2023 Projected Actual Year End vs. 2024 Proposed Budget
		Previous Years			Current Year					Upcoming Year			
623	Water	\$ 23,398.60	\$ 31,790.45	\$ 35,776.99	\$ 34,605.00	\$ 41,760.00	\$ 23,911	\$ 18,000	\$ 41,911	0.36%	\$ 240	\$ 42,000	0.21%
	TOTAL	\$ 219,699.52	\$ 271,414.00	\$ 355,185.65	\$ 311,655.00	\$ 329,010.00	\$ 171,832	\$ 157,550	\$ 329,382	0.11%	\$ 460	\$ 329,470	0.03%
	COMMUNICATIONS												
625	Postage	\$ 8,442.70	\$ 5,720.78	\$ 10,899.72	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 15,800.00	\$ 8,930	\$ 7,000	\$ 15,930	0.82%	\$ 200	\$ 16,000	0.44%
626	Voice Line (Regular Phone Service)	\$ 85,695.51	\$ 85,081.73	\$ 83,668.72	\$ 88,500.00	\$ 83,500.00	\$ 39,324	\$ 42,000	\$ 81,324	-2.61%	\$ -	\$ 83,500	2.68%
627	Data Line (Internet-Network)	\$ 47,845.69	\$ 45,300.00	\$ 45,295.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 26,801	\$ 23,000	\$ 49,801	-0.40%	\$ -	\$ 50,000	0.40%
630	Courier/Shipping	\$ 273.48	\$ 190.93	\$ 238.20	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 193	\$ 807	\$ 1,000	0.03%	\$ -	\$ 1,000	-0.02%
	TOTAL	\$ 142,257.38	\$ 136,293.44	\$ 140,101.64	\$ 151,500.00	\$ 150,300.00	\$ 75,248	\$ 72,807	\$ 148,055	-1.49%	\$ 200	\$ 150,500	1.65%
	LEASE EXPENSE												
634	Building	\$ 303,708.00	\$ 300,508.74	\$ 310,941.75	\$ 311,000.00	\$ 303,000.00	\$ 169,505	\$ 130,000	\$ 299,505	-1.15%	\$ -	\$ 303,000	1.17%
636	Equipment	\$ 1,596.24	\$ 7,750.69	\$ 5,096.96	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,623	\$ 3,377	\$ 6,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 6,000	0.00%
638	Vehicle	\$ 453.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 2,500	0.00%
	TOTAL	\$ 305,757.78	\$ 308,259.43	\$ 316,038.71	\$ 319,500.00	\$ 311,500.00	\$ 172,128	\$ 135,877	\$ 308,005	-1.12%	\$ -	\$ 311,500	1.13%
	MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY & EQUIP.												
641	Custodial & Janitorial	\$ 191,438.90	\$ 207,731.07	\$ 208,585.74	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 212,000.00	\$ 105,078	\$ 106,000	\$ 211,078	-0.43%	\$ -	\$ 212,000	0.44%
643	Grounds/Lawn Maintenance	\$ 94,837.11	\$ 82,000.00	\$ 80,224.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 40,973	\$ 42,500	\$ 83,473	-1.80%	\$ -	\$ 85,000	1.83%
645	Maintenance supplies	\$ 6,284.41	\$ 6,978.24	\$ 8,973.74	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 5,328	\$ 3,700	\$ 9,028	0.31%	\$ -	\$ 9,000	-0.31%
652	Fuel and lube	\$ 13,412.21	\$ 23,295.56	\$ 39,891.89	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 12,995	\$ 24,000	\$ 36,995	-7.51%	\$ (3,000)	\$ 37,000	0.01%
654	Vehicle repairs	\$ 6,545.93	\$ 6,138.54	\$ 3,821.26	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,149	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,149	1.49%	\$ -	\$ 10,000	-1.46%
658	Small Tools & Supplies	\$ 2,442.04	\$ 2,895.48	\$ 2,958.04	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,562	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,062	2.08%	\$ -	\$ 3,000	-2.04%
660	Office machine and equip. repair	\$ 1,614.50	\$ 1,557.88	\$ 974.68	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 505	\$ 500	\$ 1,005	0.49%	\$ -	\$ 1,000	-0.49%
661	Network Utility Software	\$ 48,022.10	\$ 68,859.01	\$ 172,971.54	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 157,250.00	\$ 123,828	\$ 33,422	\$ 157,250	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 157,250	0.00%
662	Solinet (OCLC) Cost	\$ 26,765.00	\$ 28,249.86	\$ 28,026.94	\$ 28,500.00	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 567	\$ 28,933	\$ 29,500	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 29,500	0.00%
663	Polaris Maintenance	\$ 49,603.98	\$ 51,939.66	\$ 51,978.19	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 53,636	\$ -	\$ 53,636	-0.67%	\$ -	\$ 54,000	0.68%
664	P C Network maintenance and repair	\$ 6,804.10	\$ 7,865.00	\$ 6,778.22	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,875	\$ 3,125	\$ 8,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 8,000	0.00%
669	Hurricane Disaster Costs	\$ -	\$ 30,726.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	TOTAL	\$ 447,770.28	\$ 518,236.80	\$ 605,184.24	\$ 543,500.00	\$ 608,750.00	\$ 354,496	\$ 248,680	\$ 603,176	-0.92%	\$ (3,000)	\$ 605,750	0.43%
	MAINTENANCE SERVICES (Buildings)												
671	Physical Plant	\$ 99,512.86	\$ 114,819.68	\$ 147,981.76	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 80,170	\$ 75,000	\$ 155,170	3.45%	\$ -	\$ 150,000	-3.33%
672	Plumbing, Heating, & Air Conditioning	\$ 31,946.47	\$ 57,605.29	\$ 66,491.54	\$ 66,500.00	\$ 66,500.00	\$ 30,845	\$ 35,700	\$ 66,545	0.07%	\$ -	\$ 66,500	-0.07%
673	Electrical	\$ 11,824.37	\$ 5,973.18	\$ 7,798.31	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 7,956	\$ 5,044	\$ 13,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 13,000	0.00%
674	Sanitation	\$ 10,756.85	\$ 8,370.63	\$ 8,957.58	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 4,457	\$ 6,500	\$ 10,957	-0.39%	\$ (1,000)	\$ 10,000	-8.73%
675	Pest Control	\$ 6,031.00	\$ 6,698.00	\$ 6,140.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,350.00	\$ 3,875	\$ 3,675	\$ 7,550	2.72%	\$ 200	\$ 7,550	0.00%
676	Termite Contracts	\$ 1,313.00	\$ 3,228.00	\$ 8,009.00	\$ 4,555.00	\$ 4,555.00	\$ -	\$ 4,555	\$ 4,555	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 4,555	0.00%
678	Carpet Cleaning	\$ 5,045.00	\$ 4,870.00	\$ 14,998.98	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 1,050	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,050	0.29%	\$ -	\$ 17,000	-0.29%
	TOTAL	\$ 166,429.55	\$ 201,564.78	\$ 260,377.17	\$ 262,055.00	\$ 269,405.00	\$ 128,353	\$ 146,474	\$ 274,827	2.01%	\$ (800)	\$ 268,605	-2.26%
	Professional Services												
680	Payroll Service Fees	\$ 21,485.71	\$ 26,366.03	\$ 33,901.31	\$ 34,100.00	\$ 34,100.00	\$ 18,476	\$ 15,624	\$ 34,100	0.00%	\$ 1,500	\$ 35,600	4.40%
682	Legal	\$ 131.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	0.00%	\$ (15,000)	\$ -	-100.00%
683	Financial	\$ 39,052.16	\$ 36,384.06	\$ 39,023.87	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 27,174	\$ 12,826	\$ 40,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 40,000	0.00%
684	Architectural	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
685	Consultants	\$ 25,352.02	\$ 38,090.24	\$ 83,160.48	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 46,822	\$ 44,414	\$ 91,236	1.37%	\$ (40,000)	\$ 50,000	-45.20%

2024 Proposed Budget - St. Tammany Parish Library

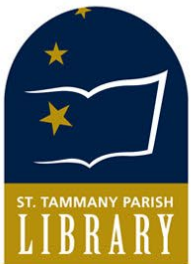
	7/28/2023	2020 Budget Actual	2021 Budget Actual	2022 Budget Actual	2023 Budget Original	2023 Budget Last adopted (Summer Amendment)	2023 Budget Actual YTD as of 6/30/23	2023 Budget Estimated Remaining Expenditures /Revenues for Year	2023 Budget Projected Actual Year End	% Change 2023 Last adopted vs. Projected Actual Result at Year End 2023	Amount Diff. between 2023 Proposed and 2022 Last Adopted Budget	2024 Budget Proposed	% Change 2023 Projected Actual Year End vs. 2024 Proposed Budget
		Previous Years			Current Year					Upcoming Year			
686	Security	\$ 25,010.96	\$ 6,843.77	\$ 7,570.82	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,893	\$ 6,226	\$ 11,119	11.19%	\$ 3,000	\$ 13,000	16.92%
687	Web Design Consultant	\$ 72,171.09	\$ 66,511.44	\$ 79,693.35	\$ 79,825.00	\$ 89,825.00	\$ 75,309	\$ 14,516	\$ 89,825	0.00%	\$ (4,000)	\$ 85,825	-4.45%
688	Movers	\$ 55,360.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 9,669	\$ 6,330	\$ 15,999	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 16,000	0.00%
	TOTAL	\$ 239,164.41	\$ 174,195.54	\$ 243,349.83	\$ 298,925.00	\$ 294,925.00	\$ 182,343	\$ 114,936	\$ 297,279	0.80%	\$ (54,500)	\$ 240,425	-19.12%
	INSURANCE & CLAIMS												
692	Library Property	\$ 127,177.12	\$ 135,438.08	\$ 132,637.21	\$ 135,500.00	\$ 145,500.00	\$ -	\$ 145,500	\$ 145,500	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 145,500	0.00%
694	Flood insurance	\$ 20,277.00	\$ 22,163.00	\$ 23,424.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 25,916	\$ -	\$ 25,916	-0.32%	\$ -	\$ 26,000	0.32%
696	Vehicle Insurance	\$ 40,860.00	\$ 36,450.00	\$ 42,860.00	\$ 42,950.00	\$ 32,950.00	\$ 32,538	\$ -	\$ 32,538	-1.25%	\$ -	\$ 32,950	1.27%
698	LBOC Liability	\$ 4,176.00	\$ 4,076.00	\$ 4,076.00	\$ 4,076.00	\$ 2,076.00	\$ 2,076	\$ -	\$ 2,076	0.00%	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,076	96.34%
699	Gen Liability	\$ 22,251.60	\$ 20,641.00	\$ 15,054.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 25,100.00	\$ 21,101	\$ 4,000	\$ 25,101	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 25,100	0.00%
	TOTAL	\$ 214,741.72	\$ 218,768.08	\$ 218,051.21	\$ 220,026.00	\$ 231,626.00	\$ 81,631	\$ 149,500	\$ 231,131	-0.21%	\$ 2,000	\$ 233,626	1.08%
	MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES												
	OPERATING SUPPLIES												
701	Office Supplies	\$ 29,028.19	\$ 18,984.26	\$ 31,300.98	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 16,495	\$ 16,500	\$ 32,995	-0.02%	\$ -	\$ 33,000	0.02%
702	Bank Service Charges	\$ 15,213.27	\$ 15,113.22	\$ 15,699.20	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 8,029	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,029	0.18%	\$ -	\$ 16,000	-0.18%
703	Book Preparation Supplies	\$ 27,704.60	\$ 36,803.34	\$ 41,739.05	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 21,036	\$ 26,000	\$ 47,036	0.08%	\$ (2,000)	\$ 45,000	-4.33%
704	Computer/Printer Supplies	\$ 58,589.23	\$ 61,301.07	\$ 61,918.90	\$ 61,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 43,370	\$ 37,500	\$ 80,870	7.83%	\$ 6,000	\$ 81,000	0.16%
705	Programming Supplies	\$ 3,197.28	\$ 6,672.31	\$ 7,887.23	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,785	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,785	9.82%	\$ 1,000	\$ 9,000	2.44%
	TOTAL	\$ 133,732.57	\$ 138,874.20	\$ 158,545.36	\$ 151,000.00	\$ 179,000.00	\$ 93,715	\$ 92,000	\$ 185,715	3.75%	\$ 5,000	\$ 184,000	-0.92%
	TRAVEL & CONTINUING EDUCATION												
710	Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 10,255.67	\$ 12,592.98	\$ 21,899.16	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 5,146	\$ 16,000	\$ 21,146	-3.88%	\$ -	\$ 22,000	4.04%
712	Library In-service Training	\$ 6,327.36	\$ 985.00	\$ 11,459.26	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 894	\$ 8,106	\$ 9,000	0.00%	\$ 3,000	\$ 12,000	33.33%
714	Conventions/Seminars	\$ 29,847.03	\$ 29,892.00	\$ 64,771.20	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 22,231	\$ 22,000	\$ 44,231	0.52%	\$ 16,000	\$ 60,000	35.65%
	TOTAL	\$ 46,430.06	\$ 43,469.98	\$ 98,129.62	\$ 84,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 28,271	\$ 46,106	\$ 74,377	-0.83%	\$ 19,000	\$ 94,000	26.38%
	PUBLIC RELATIONS/PROGRAMMING												
724	Summer Reading Program	\$ 23,980.96	\$ 26,687.81	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 25,102	\$ 19,898	\$ 45,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 45,000	0.00%
725	Summer Reading T-shirts	\$ 5,418.00	\$ 5,191.17	\$ 5,519.64	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,576	\$ -	\$ 6,576	-0.37%	\$ 600	\$ 7,200	9.50%
726	Adult Programming	\$ 21,533.84	\$ 24,673.99	\$ 35,924.44	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 19,548	\$ 16,450	\$ 35,998	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 36,000	0.00%
727	Young Adult Programming	\$ 9,733.62	\$ 11,434.10	\$ 21,189.10	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 8,986	\$ 6,251	\$ 15,237	1.58%	\$ -	\$ 15,000	-1.55%
728	Juvenile Programming	\$ 5,630.08	\$ 11,689.70	\$ 34,240.17	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,545	\$ 7,454	\$ 11,999	-0.01%	\$ -	\$ 12,000	0.01%
729	LEH Grant	\$ -	\$ 2,719.65	\$ 601.80	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,348	\$ -	\$ 1,348	-25.12%	\$ (1,800)	\$ -	-100.00%
	TOTAL	\$ 66,296.50	\$ 82,396.42	\$ 142,475.15	\$ 110,800.00	\$ 116,400.00	\$ 66,105	\$ 50,053	\$ 116,158	-0.21%	\$ (1,200)	\$ 115,200	-0.82%
	CAPITAL OUTLAY												
	NON-BOOK ACQUISITIONS												
805	Landscaping Additions	\$ 17,348.00	\$ 19,972.80	\$ 32,054.76	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 13,660	\$ 19,340	\$ 33,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 33,000	0.00%
810	Improvements to Physical Plant	\$ 27,566.73	\$ 56,136.00	\$ 141,084.05	\$ 132,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 18,300	\$ 71,700	\$ 90,000	0.00%	\$ 50,000	\$ 140,000	55.56%
815	Vehicles	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,841.26	\$ 68,758.00	\$ 63,758.00	\$ -	\$ 63,758	\$ 63,758	0.00%	\$ 6,242	\$ 70,000	9.79%
820	Office Equipment/Furniture & Shelving	\$ 49,955.50	\$ 104,778.31	\$ 124,035.77	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 35,554	\$ 42,445	\$ 77,999	0.00%	\$ 22,000	\$ 100,000	28.21%
831	Leasehold Improvements	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
833	ARPA Expense	\$ -	\$ 47,064.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
834	PC Network	\$ 111,448.37	\$ 130,157.31	\$ 155,919.15	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 156,000.00	\$ 132,794	\$ 23,206	\$ 156,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 156,000	0.00%
840	Integrated Library Automation Sys.	\$ 14,136.77	\$ 988.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ -	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	0.00%	\$ 500	\$ 12,000	4.35%

2024 Proposed Budget - St. Tammany Parish Library

	7/28/2023	2020 Budget Actual	2021 Budget Actual	2022 Budget Actual	2023 Budget Original	2023 Budget Last adopted (Summer Amendment)	2023 Budget Actual YTD as of 6/30/23	2023 Budget Estimated Remaining Expenditures /Revenues for Year	2023 Budget Projected Actual Year End	% Change 2023 Last adopted vs. Projected Actual Result at Year End 2023	Amount Diff. between 2023 Proposed and 2022 Last Adopted Budget	2024 Budget Proposed	% Change 2023 Projected Actual Year End vs. 2024 Proposed Budget
		Previous Years			Current Year						Upcoming Year		
842	Audio/Visual Equipment	\$ -	\$ 5,019.59	\$ 5,398.49	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
898	Cameras	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.00%	\$ (800)	\$ -	-100.00%
	TOTAL	\$ 232,455.37	\$ 364,116.49	\$ 486,333.48	\$ 440,758.00	\$ 433,058.00	\$ 200,308	\$ 232,749	\$ 433,057	0.00%	\$ 77,942	\$ 511,000	18.00%
	LIBRARY RESOURCE ACQUISITIONS												
851	Adult Books	\$ 159,245.57	\$ 192,514.49	\$ 214,115.48	\$ 205,000.00	\$ 205,000.00	\$ 84,259	\$ 120,741	\$ 205,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 205,000	0.00%
852	Lease/Purchase Books	\$ 18,363.24	\$ 18,363.24	\$ 18,363.24	\$ 18,400.00	\$ 18,400.00	\$ 18,204	\$ 18,204	\$ 18,204	-1.07%	\$ -	\$ 18,400	1.08%
853	Juvenile Books	\$ 106,822.69	\$ 102,219.33	\$ 103,646.73	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 27,904	\$ 77,095	\$ 104,999	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 105,000	0.00%
855	Young Adult	\$ 14,269.82	\$ 13,311.08	\$ 14,017.10	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 4,425	\$ 10,574	\$ 14,999	-0.01%	\$ -	\$ 15,000	0.01%
858	Music Recordings	\$ 7,899.96	\$ 3,483.84	\$ 4,051.12	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,177	\$ 1,622	\$ 2,799	-0.02%	\$ (200)	\$ 2,600	-7.12%
861	Adult Reference	\$ 77,359.72	\$ 96,698.32	\$ 101,940.22	\$ 111,000.00	\$ 111,000.00	\$ 35,040	\$ 75,960	\$ 111,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 111,000	0.00%
863	Juvenile Reference	\$ 32,312.83	\$ 37,993.45	\$ 42,066.11	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 2,366	\$ 42,633	\$ 44,999	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 45,000	0.00%
872	Periodicals	\$ 54,617.38	\$ 43,597.63	\$ 45,613.03	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 20,042	\$ 31,957	\$ 51,999	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 52,000	0.00%
883	Audio Recordings (Books)	\$ 25,791.42	\$ 18,729.03	\$ 12,542.97	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 10,100.00	\$ 5,037	\$ 5,050	\$ 10,087	-0.13%	\$ -	\$ 10,100	0.13%
885	Video Recordings	\$ 50,960.47	\$ 51,627.62	\$ 69,242.99	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 18,557	\$ 50,442	\$ 68,999	0.00%	\$ (4,000)	\$ 65,000	-5.80%
886	Genealogy	\$ 3,212.16	\$ 4,325.61	\$ 6,484.60	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,404	\$ 3,596	\$ 5,000	-0.01%	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,000	40.01%
887	Digital Microfilm	\$ 454,498.00	\$ 675,766.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,867	\$ 4,133	\$ 10,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 10,000	0.00%
891	Electronic /Downloadable Media	\$ 226,504.71	\$ 338,223.68	\$ 470,508.25	\$ 415,000.00	\$ 415,000.00	\$ 195,182	\$ 219,818	\$ 415,000	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 415,000	0.00%
892	CDROM/Software	\$ 95,639.46	\$ 100,851.45	\$ 83,859.06	\$ 92,500.00	\$ 75,500.00	\$ 49,703	\$ 25,796	\$ 75,499	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 75,500	0.00%
893	Internet Database Subscriptions	\$ 213,644.71	\$ 254,173.01	\$ 262,310.63	\$ 274,000.00	\$ 321,000.00	\$ 183,269	\$ 137,730	\$ 320,999	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 321,000	0.00%
	TOTAL	\$ 1,541,142.14	\$ 1,951,877.78	\$ 1,463,761.53	\$ 1,438,500.00	\$ 1,459,800.00	\$ 652,437	\$ 807,147	\$ 1,459,584	-0.01%	\$ (2,200)	\$ 1,457,600	-0.14%
	LONG-TERM CAPITAL EXPENDITURES												
895	Covington FF & E	\$ 284,963.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
896	Madisonville ART work	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	Total	\$ 284,963.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 10,704,450.52	\$ 11,524,486.96	\$ 11,445,704.56	\$ 11,976,811.00	\$ 12,220,374.00	\$ 5,952,239	\$ 6,167,763	\$ 12,120,003	-0.82%	\$ 217,302	\$ 12,437,676	2.62%
	SAVINGS / (EXCESS EXPENDITURES)	\$ 176,925.99	\$ 138,483.90	\$ 461,905.44	\$ 3,667.21	\$ 759.52		\$ 760	\$ 168,143		\$ 353	\$ 1,112	

Fund Balance and Dedications

	8/3/2023		
	Savings as of December 31st 2022	Difference	Savings Projected Year End 2023
Prior Years' Operating Revenue	\$ 5,759,521	\$ 168,143	\$ 5,927,664
Dedicated for Operational Reserves	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ 2,500,000
Dedicated for Disaster / Emergency Funds	\$ 1,475,000	\$ -	\$ 1,475,000
Reserved for salaries for last pay period of the year		\$ 212,188	\$ 212,188
Reserved for invoices to be moved from 2022 to 2021		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Reserved for 4th Quarter 2021 retirement		\$ 217,064	\$ 217,064
Dedicated for Causeway Furniture	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 65,000
Dedicated for Mandeville Furniture	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Dedicated for Slidell Furniture	\$ 650,000	\$ -	\$ 650,000
Total Dedicated or Reserved	\$ 4,890,000	\$ 439,253	\$ 5,329,253
Unassigned Savings	\$ 869,521		\$ 598,412



St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
FISCAL YEAR 2024 OPERATIONAL BUDGET ADOPTION RESOLUTION
August 21, 2023

A resolution adopting, finalizing, and implementing the St. Tammany Parish Library Operational Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2024.

WHEREAS, The St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control has been presented with the proposed Operational Budget for the 2024 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed budget was held on August 21, 2023, in accordance with the provisions of La R.S. 39 §1307, §1309; and

WHEREAS, notice of that public hearing was duly published in the St. Tammany Farmer newspaper on August 2th, 9th, and 16th, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the proposed budget was made available for public inspection at the Library on and after August 2th, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Control has considered the proposed budget, and has heard and considered the public input on the proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Control has determined that the proposed budget accurately represents the amount of money necessary for improving, maintaining, and operating the St. Tammany Parish Library for the ensuing year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Control of the St. Tammany Parish Library hereby approves and adopts the budget, as proposed, and attached hereto, and hereby declares the total amount of the budget as reported, to be necessary for the operation, support, improvement, and maintenance of the Library for fiscal year 2024.

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 21st DAY OF AUGUST 2023 AT A MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING PRESENT.

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

BUSH (985) 886-3588

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

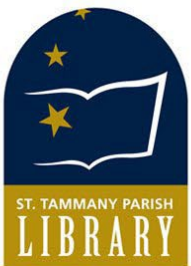
PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099

Surplus Property

Library Administration has two vehicles for official use. The Ford Explorer and the Ford Taurus were both purchased new in 2008. Both vehicles are in fair condition. Both vehicles are now 15 years old and are becoming unreliable. The Ford Explorer is in need of repairs that are estimated at over \$1,300.00. A resolution is required so the items can be sold at the Government Surplus auction on September 14th, 2023, at ServCorp Auctions in Slidell, Louisiana. 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.
August 21, 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:

2008 Ford Explorer VIN 1FMEU63E48UA88622
2008 Ford Taurus VIN 1FAHP24W18G166125

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 21st DAY OF AUGUST 2023, AT A MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING PRESENT.

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

Designations of Capital Funds – Technical Services/ Maintenance Building Elevator

The new annex building will need an elevator to ease IT and Public Relations equipment moving from the first to the second floor. This will also provide overall ADA accessibility for the building. The architect for the building renovation and the Parish Engineering Dept. was able to give us a cost estimate. We had originally designated funding (\$120,000) thinking that we could use the remaining dollars from the renovation of the technical services renovation to fund the total cost of the elevator and construction (\$166,000).

The original designation of \$120,000 was not presented to the Parish Council or included in our capital projects list after our October meeting last year. Rather than make an update to the old resolution, we would begin with a new resolution designating the total cost.

The Board will need to vote to include this in the capital projects list. The cost estimate from the Parish Engineering Office and a sample resolution for your consideration follow this page.

Department of Engineering Statement of Probable Cost

Project:	St. Tammany Parish Library Technical Services Elevator	Date:	10/12/2022
Project No:	TBD		
Project Manager:	Chris Dean		
Total New Construction:		sq. ft.	
Total Renovation:		sq. ft.	
Phase:	Preliminary		

Item No.	Item Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Cost
1	Concrete Ramp	1	ea	\$11,200.00	\$11,200.00
2	Structural Steel	1	ea	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
3	Wood Framing Elevator Shaft	1	ea	\$15,800.00	\$15,800.00
4	Wood Framing Stairs	1	ea	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
5	Commercial LU/LA Lift	1	ea	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
6	Elevator Pit Floor Drain	1	ea	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
7	Electrical	1	ea	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
8	Elevator Phone Line	1	ea	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
8	Contractor OH&P	15	%		\$17,940.00
	Sub-total				\$137,540.00
	Design Fee - 10%				\$13,754.00
	Contingency - 10%				\$13,754.00
	Total				\$165,048.00

Library Capital Projects for Renovation and Preservation

Facility	Type	Budget	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Causeway Branch	Carpet 9,000 SF.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Covington Branch	Exterior renovations	\$ 125,400.00	\$ 125,400.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Mandeville renovation	Recarpet, Cat6 wiring upgrade, update restrooms, front entrance/automatic doors	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
South Slidell Branch	Roof replacement	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technical Services/Maintenance/IT	Renovation	\$ 198,809.00	\$ 198,809.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technology upgrade	RFID, new security gates, self check, people counters	\$ 946,000.00	\$ 946,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technology upgrade	People counters	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Lacombe	Land for small branch replacement	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Lacombe	Small Branch Replacement - 6,000 SF	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,700,000.00			
Slidell Expansion/Renovation	Expand Library to Northeast -6,000 SF	\$ 2,960,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,960,000.00	\$ -			
Technical Services/Maintenance/IT	Elevator Installation for ADA compliance	\$ 166,000.00	\$ 166,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technical Services/Maintenance/IT	Purchase small office space & warehouse for new outreach service next door to Tech Services building	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 330,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Headquarters	Purchase replacement of rented space & renovation	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 1,000,000.00
Land for Causeway / Mandeville library	Land for consolidation/replacement of two branches	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000.00		
Pearl River Branch -2,000 sq. ft.	Addition for meeting space/parking	\$ 900,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900,000.00		
TOTAL		\$ 11,618,209.00	\$ 2,558,209.00	\$ 2,960,000.00	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00

Currently designated by the LBOC and Budgeted by Parish

Projects requiring millage renewal

Project being considered for designation tonight

Current funds
Projected interest
Projected expenditures
Projected cost allocation plan charges
Balance before annual transfer
Ad valorem transfer
Funds available

\$ 5,478,200.25	\$ 4,404,579.10	\$ 2,854,579.10	\$ 14,579.10	\$ (975,420.90)	\$ (2,475,420.90)
\$ 22,037.85	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
\$ (2,558,209.00)	\$ (2,960,000.00)	\$ (2,700,000.00)	\$ (900,000.00)	\$ (1,500,000.00)	\$ (1,000,000.00)
\$ (37,450.00)	\$ (150,000.00)	\$ (150,000.00)	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 2,904,579.10	\$ 1,304,579.10	\$ 14,579.10	\$ -	\$ (2,475,420.90)	\$ (3,475,420.90)
\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,550,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 4,404,579.10	\$ 2,854,579.10	\$ 14,579.10	\$ (975,420.90)	\$ (2,475,420.90)	\$ (3,475,420.90)



St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Designation of Capital Funds for Technical Services / Maintenance Building Elevator
August 21st, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control designates \$166,000 of capital funds for the construction and installation of an elevator to allow for the ability to move equipment safely between floors and to improve overall ADA accessibility to the building at 68361 Commercial Way S. Unit 3.

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Library has the capital funds to complete this project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Library Board of Control asks the Parish of St. Tammany to move forward with this project.

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 21st DAY OF AUGUST 2023, AT A MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING PRESENT.

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER
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FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

Designation of Capital Funds – Outreach Service Facility

One of the major directions to come out of our strategic planning process is the formation of an outreach service. In order to begin to offer this new service, space will be needed for specialty vehicles, a small collection, and staff.

The unit directly next to our technical services building has come up for sale. It has the combination of warehouse and office space needed to accommodate outreach services. The address is 68361 S. Commercial Way Unit 4, Mandeville, LA 70471. It is located in the Alamosa office/industrial park about a mile north of Koop Drive. This is a central location for our Parish with easy access to I-12. It is a unit of an office/warehouse condo. The owners all contribute to the outside maintenance and building insurance. It is exceptionally well maintained. The list price is \$315,000. We would be offering the list price contingent upon the appraisal.

We spent about 13,000 for appraisal, inspections, and closing costs two years ago to purchase our technical services facility. To ensure we have allocated the necessary funds to cover these costs, I suggest we add 15,000 to the budget. Should the Board decide to purchase the property, the total funds allocated would be \$330,000. The location is turn-key requiring no renovation in order to use the space. In speaking with our maintenance department, we can add additional air conditioning to the warehouse for less than 5,000 which could come from our operational budget. Included for your review is a layout of the unit and other relevant information about the unit. A sample resolution is also included for your consideration.

Library Capital Projects for Renovation and Preservation

Facility	Type	Budget	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Causeway Branch	Carpet 9,000 SF.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Covington Branch	Exterior renovations	\$ 125,400.00	\$ 125,400.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Mandeville renovation	Recarpet, Cat6 wiring upgrade, update restrooms, front entrance/automatic doors	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
South Slidell Branch	Roof replacement	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technical Services/Maintenance/IT	Renovation	\$ 198,809.00	\$ 198,809.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technology upgrade	RFID, new security gates, self check, people counters	\$ 946,000.00	\$ 946,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technology upgrade	People counters	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Lacombe	Land for small branch replacement	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Lacombe	Small Branch Replacement - 6,000 SF	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,700,000.00			
Slidell Expansion/Renovation	Expand Library to Northeast -6,000 SF	\$ 2,960,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,960,000.00	\$ -			
Technical Services/Maintenance/IT	Elevator Installation for ADA compliance	\$ 166,000.00	\$ 166,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Technical Services/Maintenance/IT	Purchase small office space & warehouse for new outreach service next door to Tech Services building	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 330,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Headquarters	Purchase replacement of rented space & renovation	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 1,000,000.00
Land for Causeway / Mandeville library	Land for consolidation/replacement of two branches	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000.00		
Pearl River Branch -2,000 sq. ft.	Addition for meeting space/parking	\$ 900,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900,000.00		
TOTAL		\$ 11,618,209.00	\$ 2,558,209.00	\$ 2,960,000.00	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00

Currently designated by the LBOC and Budgeted by Parish

Projects requiring millage renewal

Project being considered for designation tonight

Current funds
Projected interest
Projected expenditures
Projected cost allocation plan charges
Balance before annual transfer
Ad valorem transfer
Funds available

\$ 5,478,200.25	\$ 4,404,579.10	\$ 2,854,579.10	\$ 14,579.10	\$ (975,420.90)	\$ (2,475,420.90)
\$ 22,037.85	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
\$ (2,558,209.00)	\$ (2,960,000.00)	\$ (2,700,000.00)	\$ (900,000.00)	\$ (1,500,000.00)	\$ (1,000,000.00)
\$ (37,450.00)	\$ (150,000.00)	\$ (150,000.00)	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 2,904,579.10	\$ 1,304,579.10	\$ 14,579.10	\$ -	\$ (2,475,420.90)	\$ (3,475,420.90)
\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,550,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 4,404,579.10	\$ 2,854,579.10	\$ 14,579.10	\$ (975,420.90)	\$ (2,475,420.90)	\$ (3,475,420.90)

68361 S. Commercial Way #4

Mandeville, La 70471

2350 sf Warehouse/Office



865 sf Climate Controlled Warehouse

20' Ceiling & 16' Roll-up Door

32' Heavy Duty Metal Rack

Stacking System

Industrial Air Compressor

Reception Area + 2 Offices

2nd Floor 415sf Flex Space w/

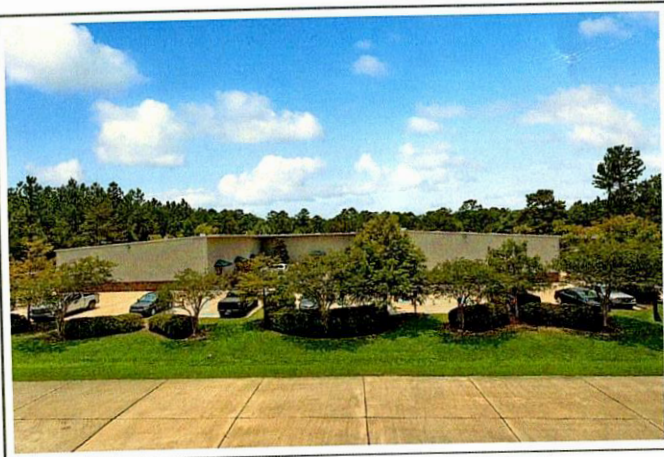
Full Bath

\$2120 Annual Association Fees

c. \$2500 Annual Insurance Premium

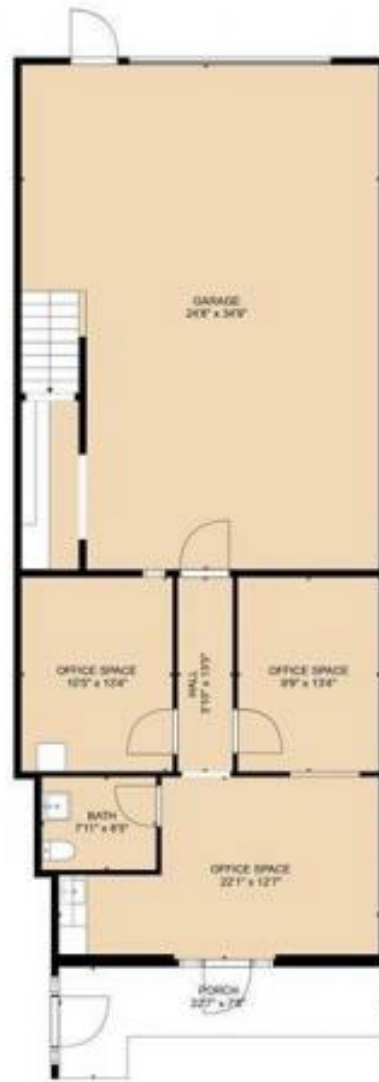
Zoned M2 Intermediate Industrial

Built in 2000





68361 S. COMMERCIAL WAY #4
ALAMOSA BUSINESS PARK

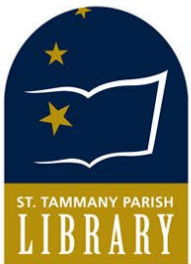


FLOOR 1



FLOOR 2

SIZES AND DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE, ACTUAL MAY VARY



St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control
Purchase of 68361 S. Commercial Way Unit 4
August 21, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control designates \$330,000 of capital funds for the purchase of 68361 S. Commercial Way Unit 4. The building will be used to house our new Outreach Service.

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Library has the capital funds to complete this project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Library Board of Control asks the Parish of St. Tammany to move forward with this project.

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 21st DAY OF AUGUST 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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FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

BUSH (985) 886-3588

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470