

St. Tammany Parish Library  
Board of Control Meeting  
September 28, 2023  
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers  
21490 Koop Dr.,  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
10:00 A.M.

Public Comment: A three (3) minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the agenda. 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 8:00 AM on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

AGENDA

Call to order by President and Roll Call by Director

1. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the Library Board of Control that were held on July 13, 2023 and August 21, 2023
  - Discussion
  - Public Comment
  - Vote
2. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Act 436 – Card system update and adoption
    - Public Comment
    - Discussion
    - Vote
  - B. Financial Reports – August 2023
    - Discussion
    - Public Comment
    - Vote
  - C. Health Insurance Update and Reinsurance Contract for 2024– Leon Golemi
    - Discussion
    - Public Comment
    - Vote
  - D. Director’s Report
  - E. Statement of Concern Decision – *A Court of Thorns and Roses*
    - Public Comment
    - Discussion
    - Vote
  - F. Statement of Concern Decision –*Deep and Dark Blue*
    - Public Comment
    - Discussion
    - Vote
3. Adjournment

**St. Tammany Parish Library**  
**Board of Control Special Meeting**  
**July 13, 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:**

The committee discussed Section 407: Statements of Concern About Library Resources. Suggestions from the last Rules and Regulations meeting were added to the working document, which shows revised comments highlighted in yellow. K. LaRocca read part A. *General* aloud. The committee discussed the suggestion of adding a statement that STPL does not acquire any resources which violate La R.S. 14:91.11. There was discussion about whether or not the statement should be part of the challenged materials policy or the collection development policy.

A. Parr asked if content and appropriateness of the material is considered when purchasing items for the collection. K. LaRocca confirmed that is correct. B. McHugh stated that it is a collection policy topic and is not necessary in Section 407. K. LaRocca noted the topic will be revisited when the committee reviews the Collection Development policy.

K. LaRocca read part *B. Process* aloud. The committee discussed Act 436, formerly Senate Bill No. 7. The act defines a library patron as “a person residing in the parish in which the parish or municipal library is located who has reached the age of majority and who holds a library card from the library.” The phrase was added to part *B. Process*.

The committee discussed the phrasing of the cost associated with processing a Statement of Concern (SOC). K. LaRocca noted that \$400 is a conservative estimate. The committee agreed that it is important to convey that processing a SOC form entails significant costs and time commitments.

There was discussion about how confirming residency in St. Tammany Parish can help rule out fraudulent SOCs. E. Couvillon asked if it is a violation of privacy laws to cross-check the name and address on a SOC with a library card on file. K. LaRocca stated that we can cross-check to confirm if the person has a library card, but cannot check to see what materials the person has borrowed. B. McHugh noted that the law now requires that a complainant hold a library card. The wording implies that we would verify that they have a library card. K. LaRocca noted that there is a spot on the SOC form for the library card number. The committee agreed that the phrase “Statements of Concern that do not meet the submission criteria will not be considered” should be added to the policy.

The committee discussed and agreed to remove the phrase that states that a complainant may only submit five SOCs per year.

K. LaRocca reviewed the suggestion that, “Any SOC seeking to restrict access by a minor to a resource, solely available digitally and/or categorized as Adult, and thus only available to Adult, Juvenile, and Juvenile Unrestricted cards, shall not be considered.” K. LaRocca reviewed the tiered card system, which was included in the Board packet. There are four options for juveniles and a parent must choose what type of card their child receives.

There was discussion regarding how often parents have complained that their child pulled a book from the shelf that they did not agree with. K. LaRocca stated that it is an unusual occurrence and recalls approximately two or three occasions in the past. There was discussion about complainants asking for items to be restricted from the shelves when the item is only available as a digital resource and thus already restricted.

The committee discussed the suggestion to include the resolution from December 13, 2022, to the policy. The resolution places challenged materials under review behind the circulation desk. It was suggested that there should be a uniform location for challenged books behind the desk.

T. DiMaggio noted that the library is in the process of putting “dummy books” on the shelf so that patrons can have spontaneous discovery of the item along with a notification that the book is behind the desk. There have been requests from the public to provide copies of the challenged books for review at the Covington and Slidell branches. Two copies of the challenged books were purchased to implement that suggestion. Some titles were not available to purchase. The items will be non-circulating and can be reviewed in-house only. T. DiMaggio also noted that all of the redacted SOCs are available for viewing on the website, as requested by the public. K. LaRocca noted that the website has a list of the challenged books that link to the catalog so patrons can search for a circulating copy of the item for checkout.

There was also a suggestion to repeal the December 13, 2022, resolution and leave the challenged books on the shelves. A. Parr noted that the December 13, 2022, resolution is a contradiction to the following statement in the library’s policy: “An individual may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others to read, see, or hear.” A. Parr asked for clarification on why the resolution was adopted. K. LaRocca explained that there was a lot of upset at the time. Staff were being questioned about the materials and whether or not they were legal. There were issues with individuals going to the library and calling the police on staff members. K. LaRocca noted that December was a stressful time for both the staff and the Board and they were trying to make the best decisions for everyone.

A. Parr reiterated that the above-mentioned statement in the policy is not true since the December 13<sup>th</sup> resolution was adopted. J. Airey stated that he does not think it is correct, in terms of the law, that no one has the right to say what others read or hear, as that is the whole purpose of the Board. He suggested adding verbiage to clarify that the LBOC has the power and authority to review all materials in the library based on the processes established herein. B. McHugh reminded the Board of the letter from the Tulane University Law Clinic and a statement from the ACLU, which asserts that holding challenged books behind the circulation desk violates the Constitution.

K. LaRocca noted that the Board as a whole would have to make the decision whether or not to continue with the adopted resolution of December 13, 2022, but the committee has to know which one to put in the policy. E. Couvillon confirmed that the Board would have to make a motion to vacate the policy. In terms of moving forward to the policy revisions, she suggested writing alternative versions for the Board to consider. B. McHugh suggested discussing it at a full board meeting and then drafting a new resolution based on what the Board decides. He suggested another option of drafting two resolutions for the Board to vote on.

J. Airey stated that the Board would need its own legal counsel to weigh in on the issue. E. Couvillon stated that the District Attorney’s Office reviewed the December 13<sup>th</sup> resolution before it was adopted and felt that it comported with the law and noted that a temporary restriction has not been tested by the courts. A. Parr noted that the addition of the verbiage that J. Airey suggested still includes restriction of some type.

There was discussion about the suggestion to make an *in globo* decision on SOC's when the only complaint is that the book violates R.S. 14:91.11. The committee decided not to include this in the policy.

There was discussion about the committee review process, the possibility of returning to an internal committee and appeal process, and decisions vs. recommendations. K. LaRocca noted that the previous policy change happened in December 2022. The review process went from a staff committee decision to a recommendation and Board review for a final decision. The policy could be revised to return to a staff committee making the final decision with the option for the complainant to appeal that decision to the Board. The policy change would have to be voted on by the Board.

B. McHugh noted that Act 436 includes an extensive list of what is considered sexual conduct. Each library in Louisiana has to have a requirement that a request for reconsideration of a library material that may include sexually explicit material be reviewed by the LBOC. This will need to be included in the policy. In that case, staff would continue the committee review process, make a recommendation, and the Board would make the final decision.

J. Airey spoke of the Parish Council's process of conducting zoning appeals. The initial review and decision-making takes place in an open meeting. If appealed, both sides of the matter in question are given 10 minutes to address their issues to the Council. Oftentimes, two or three people take the lead and speak within the 10 minutes. J. Airey spoke of the amount of time it takes for 30 people to speak for three minutes on one book and how the 10-minute limit would streamline the process. E. Couvillon clarified that the LBOC implementing the 10-minute limit would leave one layer of due process missing, since the initial committee review is not in an open meeting. J. Airey acknowledged that it may not be workable. E. Couvillon stated that she is meeting with K. LaRocca and B. Taylor to review Act 436 to determine what changes need to be made to library policies in order to comply with the new law. The committee decided to defer this policy revision until Act 436 is reviewed.

Other revision suggestions on the list are contingent upon whether or not the library returns to an appeals process. Those suggestions are deferred until that is decided.

The committee spoke about the five-year period of time that decisions on a SOC about specific materials, programs, or displays will remain in effect. The committee agreed that five years is acceptable.

The committee reviewed the *Statement of Concern about Library Resources* form. K. LaRocca suggested providing the policy and form as one packet. T. DiMaggio suggested also including the Collection Development policy in the packet. The committee agreed. B. McHugh suggested adding a link to the policies on the form or on the same page where the form is located on the library's website. He also suggested adding a check box that must be selected stating that the

patron has read the policies in order to submit the form. Check boxes could also be added to the paper forms.

There was discussion about the number of digital copies of challenged materials being available to patrons. K. LaRocca explained how licensing for digital materials for libraries works. Overdrive allows our tiered card system restrictions, but does not allow multiple simultaneous checkouts for one item. Hoopla allows multiple simultaneous checkouts, but does not allow our tiered card system restrictions. All of the challenged digital materials are moved to Overdrive to allow the tiered card system restrictions. There are some metered copies of books available, which means that we pay a certain amount for 100 checkouts. The number of checkouts of that digital item is displayed in the catalog, not the number of available copies. The pricing and licensing that the publishers have arranged with Overdrive are out of our control.

K. LaRocca noted that J. Riecke put together a *Materials Under Review* list on our website that shows each challenged item in the catalog. Each item is linked to the catalog and shows how many copies are available. Patrons can place a hold on the item directly from that list. T. DiMaggio noted that physical copies of books that were only available in the digital collection were purchased for the non-circulating in-house review sections at the Covington and Slidell branches.

There was discussion about the language placement and phrasing on the *Statement of Concern about Library Resources* form. B. McHugh again suggested adding a link to the policies on the form or on the same page where the form is located on the website. The word “number” will be added after STPL Library Card. B. Taylor noted that the name and card number should match to the same person in the system. Question three asks where the patron encountered the material (which branch library or electronic resource). K. LaRocca explained that the review committees are populated based on where the challenged item is located.

B. McHugh thanked the staff for all the work they are doing.

**Public Comment:**

Cynthia Weatherly – Covington, LA. Stated that one private citizen should not have the power to restrict access to books for an entire community. Asked for reasonable limits on the amount of complaints that one person can submit, as one could easily submit enough complaints to sequester the entire library. Stated that the books should be returned to the shelves. Spoke of filing a lawsuit to test the legalities of restricting books. Asked the Board not to allow Ms. Miner to continue threats of drowning by a millstone or to harass teen volunteers in the library.

Patricia Farris – Covington, LA. Thanked the library for the additions to the website and for planning to have a copy of the books available for viewing. Requested that the LBOC meeting agendas be posted on the website sooner. Stated there is no agenda or packet posted yet for the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and she does not know which books will be reviewed. K. LaRocca explained that the board meeting packet has to be posted 24 hours in advance by law and there

is a lot of information that goes into the packet besides the upcoming books. Stated that the books scheduled for discussion will be posted ahead of time on the website under the list of board meetings. P. Farris asked the Board to follow their own February 28, 2023, resolution regarding graphic novels or implement Act 436. Asked about the cost of a book challenge being \$400 and whether or not it is a true cost or the value of staff time. K. LaRocca clarified that a portion of it is the value of staff time that would otherwise be spent providing services to the public. K. LaRocca clarified that anyone serving on the committees and reading the books are volunteering their time to do so, as there is not enough time in the workday to sit and read.

Terri Lewis Stevens – Covington, LA. Asked if the challenged books have to be read in their entirety. Asked about an enforcement policy regarding stolen books. Asked if filming patrons within the library is allowed, as she has seen this online and it is concerning. Spoke of the complainant not showing up to the meetings. Used an analogy of not liking a jacket and asking for it to be removed. Stated that one person should not have that power.

Ruth Terry Sipos – Suggested a wording change in section 1 under *B. Process*. Suggested removing “cost of” in the second sentence. Stated that the complainants should be encouraged to speak to a branch manager, not just any staff member. Asked if the dummy books include the book cover. T. DiMaggio confirmed that they do. Stated that placing books behind the counter is a privacy and shame issue. Noted that she was not aware of the level of privacy the library maintains regarding items people check out. Stated she appreciates the Board’s efforts.

Johanna Miner – Asked to be allowed to ask questions before her three minutes starts. Complained that the clock started. B. Taylor advised J. Miner that she has 30 seconds to state her questions. J. Miner asked what Act 436 is and asked for a copy. Asked how it is determined that a SOC is fraudulent. K. LaRocca stated that Act 436 was formerly Senate Bill No. 7 and was signed into law by the Governor on June 30, 2023. B. McHugh informed J. Miner that she can read about Act 436 on the Louisiana State Legislature website. To answer J. Miner’s second question, K. LaRocca explained that the library received SOC’s with names and addresses that were not legitimate. She gave an example of the name Mickey Mouse with the address of the Mandeville Library. B. McHugh noted that Act 436 requires that a complainant possess a library card, which will make it easier to confirm the legitimacy of the names and addresses on the SOC. J. Miner asked if that means that a person cannot submit a SOC if they do not have a library card. B. McHugh confirmed that is correct. J. Miner accused the library of sending her personal information to the American Library Association (ALA) after submitting a SOC in 2022. Stated that she saw it on Twitter and is considering a lawsuit. Stated that she is the “watchman on the wall.” Issued the Board a warning that their blood is on their own hands and when it happens it will be so swift and fast that they will not know what hit them. Stated that was not a threat and there is a higher power watching every move they make. Stated she does not know how they sleep at night knowing the filth in the library continues.

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. Stated that challenged books should not be removed from the shelves. Stated that the whole process is designed by religious anarchists to bankrupt the

library. Stated that the primary complainant is costing the library thousands of dollars. Referenced comments regarding public involvement and noted that LBOC members are the public, they live here, and are not elected. Noted that Mr. Airey is an elected member of the Parish Council who serves the public. Thanked the Board for their efforts. Spoke of possibly challenging the Bible.

Sonnet Ireland – Slidell, LA. Stated that shots have been fired and chaos is about to come. Stated that people are going to file SOC's with their real names and addresses and there will be thousands of books challenged. Stated that one side's goal is to defund the library and the other side will retaliate and break the system. Stated that books are restricted in other libraries for their own protection, not due to their content.

Kathy Wiley – Thanked the Board for hearing her concerns. Stated that she has worked for 16 years in public schools. Stated she is not concerned with adult content, as adults should have intelligence to discern for themselves. Stated she loves the library and children. Spoke of child development and critical thinking. Concerned about books with sexual content in words and pictures. Stated that ancient religions used children for sex and used the rainbow in June. Stated the library is indoctrinating children. Stated that strong moral principles are lost in this community.

J. Airey noted that if you send a document or email to a government agency, it becomes a public record. K. LaRocca stated that we have had public records requests for all SOC's and the complainant's personal information is redacted for privacy. The redacted SOC's are on the library's website. K. LaRocca stated that the library did not submit SOC's to the ALA. The ALA only asks for statistics, not names, and the library has not even sent them statistical data regarding SOC's. E. Couvillon suggested adding a note to the website or SOC informing patrons that information submitted to a public body may become public record pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Public Records Law, located at La R.S. 44:1, et seq.

## 2. Adjournment

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

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Rebecca Taylor, Board President



**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.**

**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

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. Comments must directly relate to the 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. 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 –  
Dr. Argiro Morgan**

Postponed until a later date.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the special meetings of the Library Board of Control that were held on June 27, 2023, and June 28, 2023, and the regular meeting held on July 24, 2023.**

**Discussion for June 27, 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 27, 2023, special meeting. It was seconded by A. Parr. Four were in favor, none were opposed, one abstained (A. Shaw), and one was absent. Motion carried.

**Discussion for June 28, 2023, minutes:** There were no suggested corrections to the minutes.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Vote:** A. Parr moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2023, special meeting. It was seconded by B. McHugh. Three were in favor, none were opposed, two abstained (J. Airey & A. Shaw), and one was absent. Motion carried.

**Discussion for July 24, 2023, minutes:** B. McHugh asked for a correction on page seven, paragraph seven, third sentence. Add “because we have not had to” to the sentence after “She clarified that we have not done that.”

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Vote:** A. Shaw moved to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2023, regular meeting with the stated correction. It was seconded by A. Parr. All were in favor, none were opposed, none abstained, and one was absent. Motion carried.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Financial Reports – July 2023**

**Discussion:**

K. LaRocca reported that the library has received a little more ad valorem revenue than expected for the year. All state revenue sharing has been received. The budget percentage for this point in the year is 58.31%. Revenues are at 57.99% and expenditures are at 57.18%.

K. LaRocca gave explanations for lines that were above and below budget. Most lines that are over budget are expended early in the year and lines that are under budget are expended later in the year. These lines should be in balance by the end of the year. The Health Trust line is at 64% due to bills from last year that were paid in 2023, but will be close to 100% by the end of the year. The Workers Compensation Expense line has been expended for the year.

The Printing line is at 77% due to printing the Strategic Plan brochures. The Water line is at 67% due to increasing the amount of water delivered to the branches, as it has been a hot summer. The Building Lease Expense line has been reduced due to no longer paying a lease for the old Annex building and will be in balance at the end of the year. The Legal line is at 76%, but will

not exceed the \$15,000 that was designated for outside legal counsel. The Financial line is at 106% because the audit now includes testing on all of the Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures. The Insurance and Claims lines are expended for the year, except for the LBOC Liability insurance, which was paid in August. Beginning next year, all of our insurances will run from January to December.

The costs of toner, paper, and other office supplies have increased and those lines will be amended later this year. The Programming Supplies line is at 66% due to increased library programming and events and the need for refreshments. The Capital Outlay Library Resource Acquisitions lines will be expended as collection items are purchased at the end of the year.

A. Parr asked if the Courier/Shipping line includes local shipping or out-of-district requests. K. LaRocca explained that it consists of UPS or FedEx charges, including Inter-Library Loan (ILL) shipping. Some libraries require us to ship items back to them via UPS. If that is not required, we use U.S. mail or the State Library courier service.

**Public Comment:**

Lisa Rustemeyer – Covington, LA. Stated that she trusts library staff to purchase materials and to spend the budget appropriately and judiciously. Stated that \$12,000,000 divided by 269,000 residents equals \$45 per resident and is an amazing value. Spoke of the political attacks on the library and hateful words directed to staff. Stated that staff has shown their professionalism and offers outstanding service. Spoke of others comparing the library millage to the Coroner's Office, District Attorney's Office, and Sheriff's Office millages.

Cynthia Weatherly – Covington, LA. Asked how the cost of book challenges are being accounted for in the budget. Stated that in a previous meeting, Iris Gallatin said that the internet is freely accessible and that libraries are not needed. Asked how much the library spends on computers and internet access for the community. Noted that 19% of Louisiana's population does not have internet access and relies on the library.

Ruth Terry Sipos – Abita Springs, LA. Spoke about the service statistics. Stated that it shows the number of people walking in the door, what types of materials are circulating, and internet usage both inside and outside. Noted that the internet usage outside is sometimes double the inside usage. Stated that it is a critical service that the library is providing. Spoke highly of the Abita Springs Branch and the vibrant, diverse, and welcoming community.

K. LaRocca addressed C. Weatherly's question about challenged materials expenditures. Stated that \$400 per challenge is a conservative estimate. Stated that the estimate includes the cost of purchasing the material, as the library does not usually own enough copies to provide to the staff committee, LBOC members, and the newly created reference collection at Covington and Slidell branches. It also includes staff time that is spent on tasks associated with the book

challenge during the workday. Additional costs incurred after the \$400 was estimated are supplies such as dummy books (\$2,500), which are put in place of the challenged books on the shelves, and book carts to house the two reference collections of challenged materials.

K. LaRocca addressed C. Weatherly's question about the cost of computer and internet access for the community. Stated that the library pays \$50,000 per year for internet and it is listed as Data Lines on the financial report. Software such as Microsoft Office is provided on all library computers. The computers are maintained by the I.T. staff and are on a five-year replacement cycle to ensure that patrons are provided with the newest reliable technology. The library also provides printing and scanning capabilities for patrons.

B. McHugh responded to L. Rustemeyer's mention of an erroneous comment made in a previous meeting that the Library millage is higher than the Sheriff's Office's millages. He referenced data from the assessor's website that documents all of the parish-wide millages and confirmed that the Library millage (5.78) is not higher than both of the Sheriff's Office's millages combined (11.14). B. McHugh noted that the Library millage is approximately 6% of the Parish-wide Millage Total (96.91).

Jeannine Meeds – Big Branch, LA. Spoke of thunderstorms in her area the previous week. A tree near her house was struck by lightning and the damage caused her to be without internet, phones, or TV for a week. Stated that the library is the only place she could go to access the internet. Stated that the library is a blessing and that she is very happy to spend tax money on excellence in the library.

A. Parr asked what we do with old computers. K. LaRocca explained that we recycle them to use as Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) computers for patrons to search the catalog within the library. They are used until they can no longer function and are discarded properly.

**Vote:** A. Shaw moved to approve the July 2023 Financial Reports. It was seconded by J. Airey. All were in favor, none were opposed, none abstained, and one was absent. Motion carried.

## **B. 2023 Summer Reading Wrap-Up**

The Board viewed a short video highlighting the Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) and events. This year's theme was "All Together Now." The Adult Programming Coordinator, spoke about the kickoff parties, community partners, and all of the adult programs offered this summer. There were 757 adults registered and 170 adult programs.

The Teen Services Coordinator, stated that the mission of the Teen Department is to instill a lifelong love of reading and community engagement. Most of the teen programs are Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math (STREAM) events. There were 540 teens

registered and a total of 124 programs. There were 61 teen volunteers ages 13-18 who completed 1139 ½ hours of volunteer service. Stated that it shows that parents love and trust the library, as more teens are coming in and are participating in programs and events.

The Children's Services Coordinator, stated that it was a very exciting and busy summer. There were 6,701 children registered, which is almost double last year's registrations. There were 433 programs with 19,038 attendees. Children also enjoyed the option of participating in BINGO this year. She spoke of the exciting kickoff parties with 842 attendees at the Madisonville branch and 996 attendees at the Slidell branch. Next summer's theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library."

### **C. Director's Report**

K. LaRocca reported that Library Administration met with the Parish's Engineering Department to discuss the Mandeville Library renovations. The Maintenance Department has been maintaining the air conditioning at each branch to ensure patrons and staff are comfortable. The Lee Road Branch will be closed from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 27<sup>th</sup> for minor wall repairs, painting, and the installation of new shelving.

Staff performed Storytime at the following schools: Kidz Klub House, Kinderhaus Montessori, and Little Academy. Outreach services were provided to the Children's Museum, Open Arms Camp, Kiwanis Club of Folsom, and Back to School Fair at Lacombe Middle School. Staff attended the following meetings to promote library services: St. Tammany Parish School Librarian Meeting and St. Tammany Commission on Families. Staff promoted the library's strategic plan on The Lake and The Highway radio stations. Staff promoted Library Card Sign-Up Month, Food for Fines, and the strategic plan on an episode of Check It Out on STPG-TV's public access channel. Library Card Sign-Up Month is in September and we will offer the Food for Fines promotion where one donated non-perishable food item equals \$1 in fines waived. Staff attended various webinars.

Jessica Aucoin was promoted to Causeway Branch Manager. Ramona Elder was promoted to Children's Librarian at the Mandeville Branch. She will receive her Master's degree in Library and Information Science in December.

Reference Librarians developed a new reference program titled "Navigating STPL Mobile" to promote and educate the public about the STPL mobile app. The program will be held in September at multiple branches.

New contracts: BiblioCommons (website platform). In a continued effort to provide parents with tools to help decide what their children can access, we are implementing a Kids Catalog. It will be a separate online catalog that will search only within materials in the children's section. This will take a few hours to install this Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the website will be down

from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contract renewals: IDrive, EBSCO: Learning Express and Novelist packages, ProQuest: Fold3 and Books in Print, and iWave.

K. LaRocca spoke of receiving four new public records requests since the last LBOC meeting. Three were completed prior to the board meeting. 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 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.

To date, the library has received 212 statements of concern on 169 titles since August 2022. The LBOC has made decisions on 16 titles and will be deciding on two titles this evening. We will then have 151 remaining.

K. LaRocca gave a Strategic Planning implementation update and reviewed the July 2023 and year-to-date statistics. A. Parr asked if the service statistics are available in the branches. K. LaRocca said they are in the board packets that are posted on the website for each board meeting. A. Parr commented that the numbers in the service statistics are wonderful.

#### **D. Statement of Concern Decision - *Two Boys Kissing***

There were two SOC's submitted for the book *Two Boys Kissing* by David Levithan by the following people: Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project, and Rosalind Murr. K. LaRocca read the SOC's 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] 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."

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."

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher's summary, number of copies STPL owns (One in print, one Overdrive E-book, and one Overdrive E-audiobook), total circulation on all copies (Print: 34, E-book: 19, E-audiobook: 18), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, *Bulletin*

of the *Center for Children's Books*, and *Hornbook Guide to Children*. Also noted are awards and lists featuring this title. A total of 1,911 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Young Adult Fiction section at STPL with YA Levi 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 C. Phillips cites the Louisiana Criminal Law Revised Statute 14:91.11, the book was evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the statute. R. Murr does not explicitly cite La R.S. 14:91.11. However, because the statute was implied in the complainant's recommendation, 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 violate La R.S. 14:91.11 because it does not primarily consist of or is devoted to the sexual acts described in 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. 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 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.

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

Committee Recommendation: The book is not obscene and is appropriate for older minors. Parents who are concerned about their child reading material in the teen section can use STPL's library card system and authorize a Fully Restricted card that will not allow the minor to check out the book. It should remain in the collection and is appropriate in its current location in Teen Fiction.

**Public Comment:**

Connie Phillips and Rosalind Murr, the patrons who submitted the SOCs for *Two Boys Kissing*, were offered five minutes for public comment. Neither were in attendance and neither appeared for public comment.

Rachel Rhodes – Mandeville, LA. Defended the book and stated that the public library is for all voices. She summarized the plot and stated that the kissing was not romantic and was just lips

touching while the characters participated in a kissing marathon. Stated that one of the dads beats his own son when he learns he is gay. Stated that what is happening with book challenges feels like *Fahrenheit 451* and is a dangerous movement. Stated that a woman was recently killed in California because she had a rainbow flag in her store. Asked for the book to remain in YA Fiction.

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. Stated that it is ironic that the challenges have caused the library to buy more copies of the books and for more people to read them. Stated that she loves hearing about how parents trust the library and bring their children and teens to SRC activities. Stated that the book is about how far gay youth have come in comparison to the travails of their forebearers. Asked for the book to remain in YA Fiction.

Cynthia Weatherly – Covington, LA. Noted that the book is considered controversial by some people based on their personal beliefs or cultural backgrounds. Spoke about homophobia and acceptance. Stated that restricting the book to adults-only can be harmful to teens who identify with the story. Stated the book provides a valuable opportunity for young readers to see their own experiences reflected in literature and can educate all teens about diversity, respect, and inclusivity.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Stated he read most of the book and noted that it is for ages 12 and up. Stated that there is homosexual sex-talk throughout the book. Spoke of the character Avery and how their parents thought Avery was a boy trapped in a girl's body. Noted that Avery received hormone therapy. Stated that is confusing for teens. Spoke of California legalizing pedophilia. Asked to put all the books in question in the Adult section.

Blake Adair – Covington, LA. Stated the book pulls at many heartstrings. Stated he is not here to tell anyone who they should love. Stated that the sexual acts depicted in the book are exclusively between children and minors. Stated that masturbation is a sexual act and 17-year-olds are minors. Stated if the book was about adults it would be compelling. Asked to restrict the book.

Rebecca Bohm – Mandeville, LA. Asked for the book to remain in the YA section. Stated it addresses LGBTQ issues some may relate to. Stated the complainants' concerns are not valid, as the tiered card system can prevent children from checking out the book. Stated that the library has gone above and beyond to protect children by letting parents approve their children's reading material. Stated that it is a shame that the fear mongering minority is attacking and harassing the LBOC, library staff, and the Parish Council.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Thanked the complainants for recommending the book. Stated it is a good book about tough topics that kids need to hear. Spoke about teens and problems with sexuality. Stated that the masturbation in the book is not graphic. Stated that the book



portrays real stories about how difficult it is to be a child in this world. Asked for the book to remain in the YA section.

Lawrence De Quay – Slidell, LA. Stated that he read the book and the complaints and has noticed a trend where the complainants cherry-pick the most shocking parts of the books. Stated that doing that does not tell you what the book is about or what it endorses. Stated that the book is based on true stories of teenagers that the author has met. Stated that everyone needs to know what these people are going through, especially those who are not in the LGBTQ community.

Terri Lewis Stevens – Covington, LA. Noted that the book has been on the shelf for eight years until a complaint came from Connie Phillips. Stated that 11% to 13% of the population identifies as LGBTQ+ and we must respect those people. Stated that the majority of the community are the ones who show up to the meetings each month to defend the books. Noted that masturbation is the safest sex teens will ever have. Asked for the book to remain in the YA section.

Rachel Harmayer – Abita Springs, LA. Noted that the minimum age to be legally married in Louisiana is 16 with parental consent. Stated that the themes in the book are appropriate for teens. Wondered if the book would have been challenged if it was about a boy and a girl. There was disruption from the audience. E. Couvillon advised the public to comply with the rules for public comment. Stated that she is angry because it is not right. Stated the complainants have hatred and fear of the LGBTQ community, who just want to be left alone and to be treated equally in the eyes of the law.

There were seven comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. They were not in favor of restrictions.

**Discussion:**

B. Taylor stated that the book does not violate the statute and should be kept in the YA section. Noted that R. Murr stated that the book is located in the children's section and that is not correct.

A. Shaw asked to confirm the age ranges for books in the teen section. K. LaRocca stated they are for ages 12 and up, but any book could be more appropriate for 14 and up.

B. McHugh stated that parents are responsible for what their children read, not the library or other members of the public who are not part of their family. Stated that these books belong on the shelves so they can be freely chosen and not stigmatized for being put in a special section or behind the circulation desk.

J. Airey stated that the book is about teenagers and speculated that it would be rated PG-13 if it were a movie, though he can understand the argument that it could be rated R. Stated it may be kind of weird to have it in the Adult section if it is about teens. Stated that it is clearly not obscenity or pornography. Realizes people could have a reasonable debate on whether it should be in the Teen or Adult section.

**Vote:** B. McHugh moved to affirm the committee's recommendation for *Two Boys Kissing* to remain in the YA Fiction section. It was seconded by J. Airey. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

### **E. Statement of Concern Decision - *What Are Your Words***

K. LaRocca presented the Statement of Concern for the book *What Are Your Words* by Katherine Locke. 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 page numbers, excerpts, and profanity from a different book.

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher's summary, number of print copies STPL owns (2), total circulation on all print copies (11), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *School Library Journal*. A total of 753 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Juvenile Picture Books section at STPL with E Loc 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 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. The changing use of pronouns is part of a national conversation and in St. Tammany Parish young children are hearing about it in school. The library purchased the

book to provide a resource to the community and to help parents and guardians have a conversation with their children. Another theme of the book is about respect for an individual's preference of what to be called. The book has artistic value in the bright colors of the illustrations and the portrayal of diverse representation of community members. 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. To further address the complainant's claims, STPL does not subscribe to the American Library Association's (ALA) Bill of Rights. The page numbers and quotes listed in the SOC are not in this book. There is no profanity in the book.

Options for the Board: Return the book to Children's Picture books, move the book to Juvenile Non-Fiction, move the book to Adult Non-fiction, keep the book behind the circulation desk, or remove the book from the library.

Committee Recommendation: The book should remain in the collection and is appropriate in its current location in Picture Books. The committee found that the book has more story than information and is a work of fiction.

**Public Comment:**

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

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. Stated that the book is a simple story about gender inclusive pronouns. Stated that the complainant's objections come from religious outrage, which is not relevant to this book. Noted that in the *Bible*, God stated, "Let us create Adam in our image." Stated that "Adam" means "mankind" in Aramaic/Arabic. Stated that "our" is inclusive of both male and female. Stated that the word homosexual did not originally appear in the *Bible* and noted that it first appeared in 1946. Spoke of homophobia, ruining lives, and robbing people of the freedom to read.

Kathleen Wiley – Mandeville, LA. Stated that she listened to the audiobook. Quoted an excerpt from Proverbs in the *Bible*. Stated that God is not an author of confusion, but peace. Stated that the books that the library is bringing in through the ALA are by authors of confusion. B. McHugh noted for the record that the statement is not correct regarding acquiring books through the ALA. K. Wiley stated that the main character in the book goes back and forth with pronoun usage. Noted that "A" is an article before a singular noun or pronoun. Spoke of the words, adjectives, and pronouns being improper grammatically. Stated that the literature would never pass the editing process. Stated that suicide rates are high when gender fluidity is encouraged.

Leeann Wiley – Mandeville, LA. Stated that she is a student at Southeastern Louisiana University and is an Early Childhood Education major and has taken psychology courses. Stated that she read the book and it left her confused and concerned with the changes in identity. Spoke of today's media and celebrities exposing children to this ideology. Stated that what children read helps develop their language. Concerned that this change in identity will lead to depression and confusion. Spoke of statistics from the Newport Academy website. Quoted verses from the *Bible*.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Covington, LA. Stated that the complainant is describing the wrong book on the SOC, and it is not worth the time being taken to review it. The complainant is using the same words over and over again in each book that is challenged and none of it is true. Stated that *What Are Your Words* is a sweet book, is appropriate for children, and there is no reason to restrict it.

Cynthia Weatherly – Covington, LA. Stated that this is a library, not a church. Asked when will the books be returned to the shelves. Stated she will sue the library and this is not fair that one person gets to decide what anyone else can read. Stated that Roland Gallatin requested anti-transgender books and the library was nice enough to purchase them. C. Weatherly submitted SOC's on each of the books R. Gallatin requested.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Agreed with the earlier comments about the grammar in the book being confusing. Stated that the book has links to websites related to transgender and identity. Stated that he does not judge anyone and just wants to protect the children. Spoke of the *Bible* stating that God created man, a woman came from man, and mankind is all of us in general. Stated that homosexuality is clearly a sin in scripture. Spoke of Act 436 restricting many of these books automatically.

Blake Adair – Covington, LA. Stated that every child struggles on what to call things and the early years are critical to learning. Spoke of the issue being a simple classification and does not understand why this is such a big deal. Stated that it is important to establish the basis that children were born male or female. Stated this has nothing to do with LGBTQ issues. Stated that if we teach our children to be confused about who and what they are, the consequences will be dire. Quoted a *Bible* verse.

Jean Wiggan – Abita Springs, LA. Stated that she trusts the librarians and trusts parents to make their own decisions. Asked for the Board to not waste any more time on SOC's about the wrong book. Asked for the book to remain in the Children's Picture Book section.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Noted that C. Phillips submitted the wrong information on the SOC, and he asked for it to be thrown out. Stated that gender and sexuality are two different subjects. Stated that gender is about he, she, and they. Stated that anyone would be offended

if they were “mis-pronounced” by someone. Explained that sexuality refers to one’s sexual orientation, such as homosexual, gay, lesbian, etc. Stated that people should live their own lives and parents can choose what their children read.

There were five comments from individuals who did not wish to speak. They were not in favor of restrictions.

A. Shaw asked about the age groups intended for juvenile books. K. LaRocca explained that the Juvenile collection serves ages 0 to 11 years old. Picture Books are meant for children who are not yet reading on their own and are to be read by a parent. They are shelved alphabetically by the author’s last name and located on easy-to-access shelving. Juvenile Non-fiction is meant for children up to 11 years old. They are shelved by the call number for a specific topic and are located on higher shelving. A. Shaw asked if there are restricted cards for Juvenile Non-fiction. K. LaRocca explained there is not a card level that restricts any particular item in the Juvenile collection.

B. McHugh stated that he sympathizes with the people who are questioning why we are considering this SOC since it is obviously based on an external source and not the submitter’s own experience. Noted that the Rules and Regulations Committee discussed sending back SOC’s that contain obvious, egregious errors with the opportunity for the submitter to correct the SOC. He stated that he wanted the public to know that they are discussing that at the committee meetings. Stated that he did not find any grammatical problems with the book and noted that the complaint was not about the grammar. Stated that no one is going to commit suicide over this book. Stated that it is a harmless, informative book and it is a parent’s choice to explain it to their children. Stated that it is neither the library’s nor the complainant’s choice.

J. Airey asked what topic would it be if it was moved to Juvenile Non-fiction. K. LaRocca stated that the committee discussed it being under basic topics such as parts of speech, pronouns, and adjectives. Another option is to put it under the Sociology call numbers (305-306) because it talks about gender. K. LaRocca noted that the committee felt that the book is more of a work of fiction rather than English learning. T. DiMaggio noted that the Library of Congress lists gender identity as the first subject heading, which is the method we usually follow when cataloging an item. Following that process would place the item under Sociology in the 300s. J. Airey stated that he did not see anything of concern in the pictures in the book. When he read the SOC he thought he was reading the wrong book because it referenced material and page numbers not in the book. He stated that if it were an item before a court, it would be rejected because the information is not correct. Stated that if there was a procedural rule for rejecting the book, he would be in favor of doing that. Acknowledged that he did not read the entire book.

A. Parr stated that it was a very enlightening exposure to pronouns and he learned something by reading it. Stated that the committee recommendation is appropriate.

**Vote:** A. Parr moved to affirm the committee’s recommendation for *What Are Your Words* to remain in the Picture Books section. It was seconded by B. McHugh.

Airey: Abstained Butler: Absent McHugh: Yes Parr: Yes Shaw: No Taylor: Yes  
Motion carried.

B. McHugh commented that the Rules and Regulations Committee has discussed the notion of leaving books on the shelves while they are being challenged and he wanted those who have advocated for that to be aware that it is under discussion.

## **F. 2024 Budget**

### **Public Hearing:**

B. McHugh moved to open the public hearing. It was seconded by A. Parr. All were in favor, none were opposed, none abstained, and one was absent. Motion carried. J. Airey asked if there would be a quorum if he left the meeting, as he has a prior engagement to attend. B. Taylor confirmed that there will still be a quorum. J. Airey exited the meeting.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

B. McHugh moved to close the public hearing. It was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, none abstained, and one was absent. Motion carried.

### **Discussion:**

K. LaRocca presented the 2024 budget. She referenced the 2024 budget explanation and spreadsheet. She noted a typo on one of the column headings that will be fixed. The first green column heading should read: “Amount Diff. between 2024 Proposed and 2023 Last Adopted Budget.” K. LaRocca reviewed each line of the budget and gave brief explanations for the budget amounts and changes.

K. LaRocca reported that the revenue is budgeted conservatively based on the estimated expected revenue numbers provided by the Assessor’s Office. In 2024, the St. Tammany Parish Library will operate on a revenue of \$12,438,788. The primary source of the library’s 2024 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 expect to receive a little over \$200,000 more in Ad Valorem Taxes. State Revenue Sharing reflects the amount we received in 2023.

K. LaRocca stated that the economy continues to affect the availability of supplies. The strategic planning process has entered the implementation phase. The Technical Services move was

completed in 2023, but we now have Mandeville and Causeway branch updates and renovations on the horizon. Many of the increases and decreases in the individual budget lines will be due to the implications of these conditions.

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 31, 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 the following specific purposes: Operational reserves are needed to run the library until we receive our first significant portion of our millage from the Parish, disaster and emergency funds cover our insurance deductibles and any repairs and clean-up that may be needed in the event of a disaster, invoices leftover from the previous year, salaries from the last pay period of the year, the retirement payment for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, and furniture purchases for the Causeway, Mandeville, and Slidell branches.

This leaves a current Unassigned Savings of \$598,412. An increase in revenue of \$217,655 is forecasted due to an increase in Ad Valorem Taxes as part of average growth. An increase in expenditures of \$217,302 is predicted 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. K. LaRocca presented a balanced operational budget for the 2024 year. Each library department was allocated the funds to enable their plans.

K. LaRocca noted that notice of the public hearing for the proposed 2024 budget was duly published in the St. Tammany Farmer newspaper on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A copy of the proposed budget was made available for public inspection at each library branch on and after August 2, 2023.

A. Shaw asked what is the amount left to pay for the consultants conducting the salary study. K. LaRocca explained that the study is expected to be completed by the end of 2023 and is not included in the 2024 budget. K. LaRocca clarified that the Consultants line has money in it for 2024 because it covers other services and expenses such as guest speakers for the Annual All Staff meeting, I.T. security consultants, and library consultants to help with the design and renovation of the Mandeville and Causeway branches. A. Shaw asked for clarification about the genealogy collection at the Slidell Branch and K. LaRocca clarified that it is being enhanced by our Genealogy Librarian. The library is planning to hire an additional Reference Librarian for the Slidell Branch who has Genealogy expertise.

K. LaRocca read the Fiscal Year 2024 Operational Budget Adoption Resolution aloud.

**Vote:** B. McHugh moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Operational Budget Adoption Resolution. It was seconded by A. Parr. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

### **G. Designation of Surplus Property**

T. DiMaggio explained that Library Administration has two vehicles for official use. The Ford Explorer and the Ford Taurus are now 15 years old and are becoming unreliable. The Ford Explorer needs 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 14, 2023, at ServCorp Auctions in Slidell, LA.

T. DiMaggio read the resolution aloud. A. Shaw asked how much money the auction will bring in and what percentage do we pay to the auction house. K. LaRocca stated that they do not provide an estimate, but last time we received approximately \$7,000 for a truck. A. Parr asked if the funds received will roll into the budget for the next vehicle. K. LaRocca explained that when the budget is amended in October, a revenue line for those funds will be included.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Discussion:** There was no further discussion.

**Vote:** A. Parr moved to approve the resolution to declare certain movable property surplus and authorize its disposition. It was seconded by A. Shaw. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

### **H. Designation of Capital Funds – Technical Services Elevator**

K. LaRocca referenced the Library Capital Projects for Renovation and Preservation spreadsheet. The new Annex building will need an elevator to ease I.T. 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 will begin with a new resolution designating the total cost. The Board will need



to vote to include this in the capital projects list. K. LaRocca referenced the cost estimate from the Parish Engineering Office and read the resolution aloud.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Discussion:** There was no further discussion.

**Vote:** A. Shaw moved to approve the resolution to Designate Capital Funds for the Technical Services/Maintenance Building Elevator. It was seconded by A. Parr. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

### **I. Designation of Capital Funds – Outreach Services Facility**

K. LaRocca referenced the Library Capital Projects for Renovation and Preservation spreadsheet and pictures and a floor plan of the facility.

K. LaRocca reported that one of the major directions to come out of the 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. The list price is \$315,000. We would be offering the list price contingent upon the appraisal. K. LaRocca noted that the library spent approximately \$13,000 for appraisal, inspections, and closing costs two years ago to purchase the Technical Services facility. To ensure we have allocated the necessary funds to cover these costs, she suggests 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. Our Maintenance Department can add additional air conditioning to the warehouse for less than \$5,000 which could come from our operational budget. A chair lift would also need to be installed.

K. LaRocca explained that over the years, the library has offered limited outreach services. During the strategic plan focus groups, many people requested that we bring resources to places we do not currently serve and to have physical library service brought out into the community. K. LaRocca spoke of reaching rural areas of the community that do not have library facilities nearby. K. LaRocca mentioned outreach options such as mail order, vending machines, a bookmobile, and book vans. K. LaRocca described outreach services as a branch on wheels.

K. LaRocca read the resolution aloud.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Discussion:**

A. Parr asked if there is an action plan being developed to make use of the space. K. LaRocca stated that there are committees that have been meeting to work on the goals of the strategic plan. Two staff members are going to the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services conference in October. Stated that an action committee or a task force will be formed just for that purpose. A. Parr asked if there is more information on the realtor and the promissory notice. K. LaRocca briefly explained the process from last time that included working with someone at the District Attorney's Office who drafted an intent to purchase type of document. She noted that it takes a significant amount of time to get from the point of designating funds to the act of sale. For example, money was designated in October 2021 and the sale was complete in March 2022.

B. McHugh stated that it is a unique opportunity, good timing, and the building is well-maintained. A. Parr stated that it is a good investment for the library.

**Vote:** A. Parr moved to approve the resolution to purchase 68361 S. Commercial Way Unit 4. It was seconded by A. Shaw. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

**4. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by B. McHugh and was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, none abstained, and two were absent. The motion carried.

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Rebecca Taylor, Board President

## **Section 209. Limits of Library Use**

*Effective Date: TK Revision Date: 10/24/2017, //2023*

Use of the library by all the citizens of St. Tammany Parish is assured and assumed; however, the following limits must be in place to guarantee the control of public property.

### **A. Borrowing, Circulation and Library Cards**

Any individual has access to library assets, devices, and programs on the premises. In order to have circulation privileges, be able to check out materials, a citizen shall register as a borrower and obtain a library card.

All items must be checked out on a library card in order to be used outside of the library buildings.

Parents have the right to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their minor children. Parents and guardians are required to choose a library card type for their minor child, ages 5-17 years old.

Minor library card types and levels of access:

#### Juvenile Full Restriction Card without Digital Resource Access

- Cardholders may only check out any book, audiobook, music CD, magazine, or DVD in the Children's Collections: Picture Books, Holiday Books, Board Books, Beginning Readers, Juvenile Fiction, Juvenile Non-Fiction, Juvenile Kits, Juvenile Audiobooks, Juvenile DVDs, Juvenile Music, and Juvenile Magazines.
- Cardholders may not check out any materials in the YA Fiction or YA Non-Fiction collections or any Adult collections, including magazines.
- Materials in the Children's Collections shall not contain sexually explicit material as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.
- Cardholders may not have access to digital resources available from the library.

#### Juvenile Full Restriction Card with Digital Resource Access

- Cardholder may have the same level of access as a Juvenile Full Restriction Card.
- Cardholder may have access to digital resources available from the library.
- Materials in the Digital Resources collection may contain material that could be considered sexually explicit as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.

#### Juvenile Semi Restriction Card without Digital Resource Access

- Cardholders may check out any book, audiobook, music CD, magazine, or DVD in the children's collections: Picture Books, Holiday Books, Board Books, Beginning Readers, Juvenile Fiction, Juvenile Non-Fiction, Juvenile Kits, Juvenile Audiobooks, Juvenile DVDs, Juvenile Music, and Juvenile Magazines.

- Cardholders may also check out books in the YA Fiction and YA Non-Fiction collections.
- Materials in the YA Fiction and YA Non-Fiction collections shall not contain material that has been deemed sexually explicit by the Library Board of Control as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.
- Cardholders may not check out any materials in any Adult collections, including Adult Fiction and Adult Non-fiction items that have a YA sticker or magazines in the Adult collection.
- Cardholders may not have access to digital resources available from the library.

#### Juvenile Semi Restriction Card with Digital Resource Access

- Cardholder may have the same level of access as a Juvenile Semi Restriction Card without access to digital resources available from the library.
- Cardholder may have access to digital resources available from the library.
- Materials in the Digital Resources collection may contain material that could be considered sexually explicit as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.

#### Juvenile Card

- Cardholders may check out any book, audiobook, music CD, or magazine in the library from the Children's, Young Adult, or Adult Collections.
- The Adult Collections may contain material that has been deemed sexually explicit by the Library Board of Control as defined by LA R.S. 25:225. The Adult Collections may contain material that could be considered sexually explicit as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.
- Cardholders may check any DVDs except R-rated. Cardholders may not check out R-rated DVDs.
- Cardholders may have access to digital resources available from the library. Materials in the Digital Resources collection may contain material that could be considered sexually explicit as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.

#### Juvenile Unrestricted Card

- Cardholders may check out any book, audiobook, music CD, or magazine in the library from the Children's, Young Adult, or Adult Collections.
- The Adult Collections may contain material that has been deemed sexually explicit by the Library Board of Control as defined by LA R.S. 25:225. The Adult Collections may contain material that could be considered sexually explicit as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.
- Cardholders may check any DVDs including R-rated with parental permission.

- Cardholders may have access to digital resources available from the library. Materials in the Digital Resources collection may contain material that could be considered sexually explicit as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.



Jeff Landry  
Attorney General

State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
P.O. BOX 94005  
BATONROUGE  
70804-9005

TO: Ms. Meg Placke, Assistant Secretary / State Librarian  
FROM: Jeff Landry, Attorney General  
DATE: September 13, 2023  
RE: Guidance for libraries implementing 2023 La. Acts No. 436

The following guidance on 2023 La. Acts No. 436, enacted as La. R.S. 25:225, is to assist parish and municipal libraries in the implementation of this law.

## IMPLEMENTATION

**1. By what date must a library adopt and implement the policy required by La. R.S. 25:225?**

Each library must adopt a compliant policy by January 1, 2024, and must implement the policy by June 1, 2024.

**2. Does La. R.S. 25:225 require that parent selections be in place by June 1, 2024?**

No. La. R.S. 25:225 requires that by June 1, 2024, the library must implement a system that allows a parent or guardian to decide whether their minor child may check out digital content and sexually explicit material physically available in the library. The parent or guardian is not required to make the selection by any certain date.

**3. What are the minimum policy requirements in La. R.S. 25:225?**

*Community Standards Requirement: La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(a)*

Community standards for the population served by the library must be part of the consideration when acquiring library material that will be accessible to a minor.

*Library Card System Requirement: La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b)*

A library card system that requires a minor's parent or guardian to select whether the minor is permitted to check out sexually explicit material physically available in the library.

There are two available options a library can use to satisfy this requirement.

Option 1: A library card system that allows for restriction of each library material that the board of control has determined meets the definition of sexually explicit material as set forth in La. R.S. 25:225 (B)(4). Under this option, the minor will have access to all material in a library collection, but will be restricted from individual library materials. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b)(ii)

Option 2: A library card system that allows for the restriction of a specific collection that contains sexually explicit material. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b)(i).

Each board of control should implement the library card system that best suits the needs, resources, and finances of their library while still maintaining access to age-appropriate materials that do not meet the definition of sexually explicit material.

*Digital Content Selection Requirement: La. R.S. 25:225 (C)(2)(c)*

The library must have a system in place that allows a parent or guardian to select whether their minor child may check out digital content. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(c). This is a separate selection from the selection of whether the minor may check out sexually explicit material physically available in the library, as required by La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b). Digital content means a book, e-book, audiobook, video book, essay, newspaper, magazine, film, or other library material provided in a digital format. La. R.S. 25:225(B)(1).

Additionally, the library must maintain, within its policy, a list of digital content sources that are accessible to minors and contain sexually explicit material for check out so that parents or guardians can make an informed decision about whether to permit their child to check out digital content. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(c).

*Request for Reconsideration Requirement: La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(d)*

The procedure must allow a library patron to request the reconsideration of whether a library material should be included in a library collection accessible to minors. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(d).

The library patron making the request for reconsideration must be notified in writing of the library's decision on the request for reconsideration. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(d)(i).

A general request for reconsideration should be reviewed in accordance with the library's policy and does not have to be determined by the board of control. However, the written determination should notify the library patron that the decision is appealable to the board of control. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(d)(i).

If the request for reconsideration involves an allegation that the library material meets the definition of sexually explicit material in La. R.S. 25:225(B)(4), then the determination of whether the library material meets the definition must be made by the board of control in an open meeting, *See* La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(d)(ii), La. R.S. 42:11, *et seq.* (Louisiana's Open Meetings Law).

4. **Does La. R.S. 25:225 require that a library use a specific form to indicate whether a minor is restricted from checking out digital material or sexually explicit material physically available in the library?**

No. There is no requirement that the library utilize a specific form.

**5. Does La. R.S. 25:225 require that a library restrict a minor's access to library materials prior to check out?**

No. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b).

**6. Does La. R.S. 25:225 require that a library prevent a minor with a non-restricted card from checking out library material for a minor with a restricted card?**

No.

**7. If a minor with a restricted card attempts to check out sexually explicit material, is the library required to do anything other than tell the minor that s/he cannot check out the material?**

No.

**8. How should the library handle an emancipated minor?**

The types of emancipation in Louisiana are judicial emancipation (full and limited), emancipation by marriage, and limited emancipation by authentic act. La. C.C. art. 365. Judicial emancipation may be either full or limited. La. C.C. art. 366.

Full judicial emancipation confers all the effects of majority on the person emancipated. La. C.C. art. 366. A minor with full judicial emancipation should be treated the same as an adult.

Limited judicial emancipation confers certain effects of majority which are specified in the judgment of emancipation. La. C.C. art. 366. Whether a minor with limited judicial emancipation should be treated the same as an adult for the purposes of La. R.S. 25:225 depends on the language of the judgment of emancipation.

A minor who is emancipated by marriage should be treated the same as an adult, even if the minor subsequently divorces their spouse. La. C.C. art. 367.

An authentic act of limited emancipation confers upon a minor age sixteen or older the capacity to make certain juridical acts. La. C.C. art. 368. Whether a minor with an authentic act of limited emancipation should be treated the same as an adult depends on the specified juridical acts contained in the limited emancipation document.

**9. Will a physical indicator that identifies a library material as sexually explicit to staff comply with La. R.S. 25:225 or is an automated rejection system required?**

La. R.S. 25:225 does not require an automated rejection system. A physical indicator can be used to identify the library material as sexually explicit.

**10. Will it be sufficient if the library puts a note on the minor's account evidencing the restriction, or is the library required to have separate cards?**

The library can implement the policy required by La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b) by putting a note on the minor's account. There is no requirement that the library issue a separate card.



**11. Can a minor with a student library card issued through the public school system check out digital content or sexually explicit material physically available in the library?**

A minor's parent or guardian is required to select whether the minor is permitted to check out digital content and sexually explicit material physically available in the library. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b) and (c).

If a library card is automatically issued through the school system without the consent of the parent, the conditions in La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b) and (c) have not been met and the library policy should not permit the minor to check out digital content or sexually explicit material physically available in the library unless and until the parent makes that selection.

**12. How should the library treat a minor whose parent or guardian is absent?**

If a parent or guardian is absent then the conditions in La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(b) and (c) have not been met, and the library policy should not permit the minor to check out digital content or sexually explicit material physically available in the library.

## DIGITAL LIBRARY

**13. Does La. R.S. 25:225 include electronic reference databases that do not offer material for check out?**

No, La. R.S. 25:225 does not regulate reference databases accessible to minors that do not contain material for check out.

## REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION

**14. Do all references to sexual conduct meet the statutory definition of sexually explicit material?**

No, the definition of "sexually explicit material" only applies to material that *depicts* or *describes* sexual conduct. A mere reference to sexual conduct or a statement that sexual conduct occurred does not meet the statutory definition of sexually explicit material. La. R.S. 25:225 (B)(4).

Statutory construction requires that the words of a law be given their generally prevailing meaning. La. C.C. art. 11. The meaning of the word *depict* is "to represent by or as if by a picture."<sup>1</sup> A *depiction* is "a representation in words or images of someone or something."<sup>2</sup> The meaning of the word *describe* is "to give an account in words."<sup>3</sup> A *description* is "discourse intended to give a mental image of something experienced."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Depict* MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/depict> (last visited August 30, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> *Depiction* MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/depiction> (last visited August 30, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> *Describe* MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/describe> (last visited August 30, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> *Description* MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/description> last visited August 30, 2023).

The library material must actually depict or describe sexual conduct to meet the definition of sexually explicit material in La. R.S. 25:225 (B)(4).

**15. If a library material depicts genitalia or breasts, does it automatically meet the definition of sexually explicit material?**

No. Sexually explicit material depicts or describes sexual conduct. La. R.S. 25:225 (B)(4). Sexual conduct includes the “lewd exhibition . . . of the genitals, pubic hair, anus, vulva, or female breast nipples.” La. R.S. 25:225(B)(3)(a).

A depiction of genitalia or female breasts in a library material (such as an encyclopedia or artwork) will not meet the definition of sexual conduct unless it rises to the level of being lewd. La. R.S. 25:225(B)(3)(a).

The word “lewd” means “lustful, indecent, lascivious, and signifies that form of immorality which has relation to sexual impurity or incontinence carried on in a wanton manner.” *State v. Holstead*, 354 So. 2d 493, 497 (La. 1977).

**16. Can the board of control adopt a request for reconsideration form that asks the library patron to identify the specific content believed to meet the definition of sexually explicit material?**

Yes, the library may ask the library patron to identify the content within the library material for faster processing.

**17. Does La. R.S. 25:225 require a library to conduct a review of all library materials?**

No, La. R.S. 25:225 only requires a board of control to consider library material after the library receives a request for reconsideration from a library patron. La. R.S. 25:225 (B)(2) and (C)(2)(d)(ii).

**18. Does La. R.S. 25:225 require a library to remove or relocate a library material under review by the board of control?**

No.

**19. Should library material be relocated to the Adult Collection if the board of control determines it meets the definition of sexually explicit material?**

La. R.S. 25:225 does not require a library to relocate any library materials. Whether a book is appropriate for a particular collection is controlled by the collection policy of the library. Before relocating a book to a different collection, the library should consider whether relocation is appropriate under the library’s collection policy.

**20. May the board of control review library material without a request for reconsideration?**

Nothing in La. R.S. 25:225 prohibits the board of control from reviewing on its own initiative whether a library material meets the definition of sexually explicit material.

**21. If the board of control has reviewed a library material and made a determination, is the board of control prohibited from reviewing the library material again?**

Nothing in La. R.S. 25:225 prohibits a subsequent review of the same library material. However, whether a library material is sexually explicit material should be determined by the definitions contained in La. R.S. 25:225(B) and not the personal, political, or ideological views of board members. *See Board of Educ. Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982).

**22. If a board of control previously determined whether a library material constitutes sexually explicit material, does La. R.S. 25:225 require the board of control to review the same material anew for subsequent requests for reconsideration?**

No, if a board of control has reviewed a book and held a vote pursuant to La. R.S. 25:225 (C)(2)(d)(ii) to determine whether the material is sexually explicit, La. R.S. 25:225 does not require the board of control to repeatedly vote on the same material for subsequent requests for reconsideration.

The library should maintain the written determination approving or denying requests for reconsideration in accordance with its record retention schedule. If desired, the board of control may use previous determinations to respond to subsequent identical requests. La. R.S. 25:225 (C)(2)(d)(i).

**23. Does La. R.S. 25:225 require the board of control to make separate determinations for different formats?**

No, La. R.S. 25:225 does not require a separate determination for different formats (i.e. e-book, audiobook, large print edition, etc.) if the substance is identical to the library material that is being considered in the request for reconsideration.

If the substance is not identical, such as in the case of an unabridged edition and an abridged edition, then a separate determination is necessary for each item.

**24. Is a decision by a board of control in one parish binding on a board of control in another parish?**

No.

**25. Is there an appeal from a decision by the board of control?**

No, the board of control makes the final decision on a request for reconsideration.

**26. Does La. R.S. 25:225 specify a period for finalizing the decision on a request for reconsideration?**

No, although libraries have the option to establish a period in their policy.

**27. Can a library limit the number of requests for reconsideration that a library patron can make?**

No. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(2)(d).

**28. Are requests for reconsideration exempt from production under the Louisiana Public Records Law?**

To the extent that a library collects information (i.e., name, library card number, address, etc.) to determine whether the requestor is a library patron and therefore eligible to utilize the request for reconsideration process, such information is not a public record. The request for reconsideration procedure is a library service only available to library patrons and is mandated by state law. La. R.S. 25:225(C)(d)(i)–(ii). Library records maintained for the purpose of determining eligibility for the use of a library service are not subject to public disclosure. La. R.S. 44:13(B).

Information collected, maintained, or used for the purpose of determining whether a requestor meets the definition of library patron should be redacted from the reconsideration requests before it is made available to the public.

## CONSEQUENCES

**29. What happens if a library does not adopt and implement the policy required by La. R.S. 25:225 by January 1, 2024, or does not implement the policy by June 1, 2024?**

The State Bond Commission will not approve the issuance of debt by a library if the library has not adopted and implemented the policy required by La. R.S. 25:225(C). This applies to new library millages and the renewal of library millages.

A library's local governing authority (e.g. a parish council in the case of a parish library) has the option to withhold the payments required by La. R.S. 25:220 if the library has not adopted and implemented the policy required by La. R.S. 25:225(C). Prior to withholding payment, the local governing authority must first give written notice to the library 60 days in advance of its intent to withhold payment. La. R.S. 25:225(E)(1). If the library comes into compliance during this 60-day period, then the governing authority may not withhold payments. Payments may only be withheld during the period of noncompliance.

**30. Can the consequences in La. R.S. 25:225(E) be imposed if the library has adopted and implemented the policy required by La. R.S. 25:225?**

No. If the library has adopted and implemented the policy required by La. R.S. 25:225(C), the recourse in La. R.S. 25:225(E) is not available and may not be utilized in other disputes.

SENATE BILL NO. 7

BY SENATOR CLOUD AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, EMERSON,  
GAROFALO, GEYMAN, CHARLES OWEN AND TARVER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 25:225, relative to libraries; to provide relative to the adoption of certain library policies; to provide relative to a minor's access to sexually explicit materials; to provide for immunity; to provide relative to payments of certain expenses by governing authorities and consideration of certain applications by the State Bond Commission; to provide for definitions, terms, conditions, and procedures; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 25:225 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§225. Library policy; definitions; minor's access to sexually explicit materials; immunity; penalties**

**A. The legislature recognizes the fundamental right of parents to make decisions as to the care, custody, and control of their children. This fundamental right includes the right to decide the upbringing and education of children under their control. Parents have the right to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their minor children. Many libraries lack adequate policies addressing the access of minors to sexually explicit materials. In furtherance of this fundamental right, it is the intent of the legislature to require libraries to adopt and implement policy language to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit materials.**

**B. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:**

**(1) "Digital content" means any book, e-book, audiobook, video book, essay, newspaper, magazine, film, or any other library material that is provided in a digital format.**

1           (2) "Library patron" means a person residing in the parish in which the  
2           parish or municipal library is located who has reached the age of majority and  
3           who holds a library card from the library.

4           (3) "Sexual conduct" means any of the following:

5           (a) Masturbation or lewd exhibition, actual, simulated, or animated, of  
6           the genitals, pubic hair, anus, vulva, or female breast nipples.

7           (b) Sadoomasochistic abuse, meaning actual, simulated, or animated,  
8           flagellation, or torture by or upon a person who is nude or clad in  
9           undergarments or in a costume that reveals the pubic hair, anus, vulva, genitals,  
10           or female breast nipples, or in the condition of being fettered, bound, or  
11           otherwise physically restrained, on the part of one so clothed.

12           (c) Actual, simulated, or animated touching, caressing, or fondling of, or  
13           other similar physical contact with a pubic area, anus, female breast nipple,  
14           covered or exposed, whether alone or between humans, animals, or a human  
15           and an animal, of the same or opposite sex, in an act of apparent sexual  
16           stimulation or gratification.

17           (d) Actual, simulated, or animated stimulation of a human genital organ  
18           by any device whether or not the device is designed, manufactured, or marketed  
19           for that purpose.

20           (e) Actual, simulated, or animated ultimate sexual acts, whether between  
21           human beings, animals, or a human being and an animal.

22           (4) "Sexually explicit material" means textual, visual, or audio material,  
23           produced in any medium, that depicts or describes sexual conduct.

24           C.(1) No later than January 1, 2024, each library established pursuant  
25           to the provisions of this Part or pursuant to the authority of a home rule charter  
26           as provided in Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana shall adopt  
27           a policy to limit the access of minors to sexually explicit material. No later than  
28           June 1, 2024, each library shall implement the adopted policy.

29           (2) The policy shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

30           (a) A requirement that community standards for the population served

1 by the library be considered when acquiring library material that would be  
2 accessible to a minor through donation or purchase. However, nothing in this  
3 Section shall limit the acquisition of material by a library that implements the  
4 system provided for in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph.

5 (b) A library card system that requires a minor's parent or guardian to  
6 select whether the minor is permitted to check out sexually explicit material  
7 physically available in the library. The provision of this Subparagraph shall be  
8 satisfied by either of the following:

9 (i) A library card that restricts a minor from checking out any library  
10 material in a collection that the library board of control has, through majority  
11 vote in an open meeting, identified as containing sexually explicit material  
12 pursuant to a request for reconsideration.

13 (ii) A library card that restricts a minor from checking out any library  
14 material that the library board of control has, through majority vote in an open  
15 meeting, identified as sexually explicit material pursuant to a request for  
16 reconsideration.

17 (c) A library card system that requires a minor's parent or guardian to  
18 select whether the minor is permitted to check out digital content. The library  
19 shall list in the library's policy each digital content source accessible by a minor  
20 that contains library material accessible for checkout that the library board of  
21 control has, through majority vote in an open meeting, identified as sexually  
22 explicit material pursuant to a request for reconsideration.

23 (d) A procedure that allows a library patron to request the  
24 reconsideration of whether a library material should be included in a library  
25 collection accessible to a minor. The procedure shall, at a minimum, include all  
26 of the following items:

27 (i) A process to review a reconsideration request made by a library  
28 patron. The review process shall include but is not limited to a written  
29 determination approving or denying the request, notification to the library  
30 patron making the request of the written determination, and the process to

1 appeal the determination to the library board of control.

2 (ii) A requirement that a request for reconsideration of a library  
3 material that may include sexually explicit material be reviewed by the library  
4 board of control. The library board of control shall determine whether the  
5 library material meets the definition of sexually explicit material by majority  
6 vote in an open meeting.

7 (3) The adoption of the policy required by this Subsection may be by  
8 amendment to an existing library policy. The policy required by this Subsection  
9 may adopt the definitions in Subsection B of this Section by reference.

10 D. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to impose liability on an  
11 employee or agent of a library or a member of the library board of control.

12 E. (1) The governing authority of a parish or municipality with a library  
13 that fails to adopt and implement a policy required by Subsection C of this  
14 Section may withhold, during the period of noncompliance, the payments  
15 required by R.S. 25:220. The governing authority shall provide the library  
16 board of control sixty days' written notice prior to withholding any payments  
17 pursuant to this Paragraph.

18 (2) The State Bond Commission shall not consider any application  
19 authorizing the incurrence of debt or any application authorizing the levy of  
20 any tax where the proceeds of the debt or tax directly benefit a library that fails  
21 to adopt and implement the policy required by Subsection C of this Section until  
22 the library adopts and implements the policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_





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

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

Cash	\$	9,741,365.01
Cash - Health Claims		(3,006.22)
Due from Paylocity		0.00
Due from Employee		56.04
Returned Checks		24.10
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2021		0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2022		17,600.86
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2020		7,729,333.36
Due from State of Louisiana		152,993.30
Prepaid Expenses		0.00

**Total Current Assets** **17,638,366.45**

**Other Assets**

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

**Total Assets** **\$ 17,640,347.45**

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

**Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	\$	1,028.24
Accrued Expenses		32,787.00
Accrued Salaries		189,735.09
Deferred Inflows - Ad Valorem		167,512.00
Elective Benefits Payable		(1,593.40)
Retirement Payable		174,492.28
Health Claims Payable		255,932.55
Due to Employee		219.82

**Total Current Liabilities** **820,113.58**

**Fund Balance**

Fund Balance		16,820,233.87
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**Total Fund Balance** **16,820,233.87**

**Total Liabilities & Fund Balance** **\$ 17,640,347.45**

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund  
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures  
For the Eight Months Ending August 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>
<b>Revenues</b>					
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 966,166.67	\$ 7,729,333.36	11,644,000.00	3,914,666.64	66.38
State Revenue Sharing	21,052.33	168,418.64	258,515.00	90,096.36	65.15
Fines/Fees	7,023.78	52,110.48	72,500.00	20,389.52	71.88
Interest Income	16,681.84	131,510.31	194,000.00	62,489.69	67.79
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations Received	388.72	14,945.56	50,000.00	35,054.44	29.89
Summer Reading Shirt Sales	0.00	2,118.98	2,118.00	(0.98)	100.05
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,011,313.34</b>	<b>8,098,437.33</b>	<b>12,221,133.00</b>	<b>4,122,695.67</b>	<b>66.27</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Library Administration	614,930.12	3,635,728.13	5,555,000.00	1,919,271.87	65.45
Employee Benefits	169,879.77	1,424,975.89	2,120,600.00	695,624.11	67.20
Advertising,Dues & Subscriptio	1,848.34	29,587.18	53,000.00	23,412.82	55.82
Signage	0.00	320.41	1,000.00	679.59	32.04
Printing, Duplicating & Bindin	357.00	12,718.24	22,000.00	9,281.76	57.81
Promotional Production	2,139.52	6,555.16	10,000.00	3,444.84	65.55
Utilities	31,507.64	224,365.81	329,010.00	104,644.19	68.19
Communications	9,660.86	94,023.49	150,300.00	56,276.51	62.56
Leases	24,489.08	221,375.20	311,500.00	90,124.80	71.07
Maintenance of Property & Equi	31,192.62	449,912.80	608,750.00	158,837.20	73.91
Maintenance Services (Building	20,196.03	174,061.43	269,405.00	95,343.57	64.61
Professional Services	19,077.58	229,306.14	294,925.00	65,618.86	77.75
Insurance and Claims	1,940.00	230,646.86	231,626.00	979.14	99.58
Operating Supplies	10,863.21	121,574.22	179,000.00	57,425.78	67.92
Travel & Continuing Education	2,647.69	36,442.68	75,000.00	38,557.32	48.59
Public Relations/Programming	3,009.71	75,281.98	116,400.00	41,118.02	64.68
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq.	36,419.51	251,202.19	432,258.00	181,055.81	58.11
Capital Outlay-library Res. Ac	175,923.63	925,969.81	1,459,800.00	533,830.19	63.43
Capital Expenditures - Cameras	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,156,082.31</b>	<b>8,144,047.62</b>	<b>12,220,374.00</b>	<b>4,076,326.38</b>	<b>66.64</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues/(Expenditur</b>	<b>\$ (144,768.97)</b>	<b>\$ (45,610.29)</b>	<b>759.00</b>	<b>46,369.29</b>	<b>(6,009.26)</b>

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**St. Tammany Parish Library  
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance  
For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2023**

Beginning Fund Balance	\$	16,865,844.16
Net Income		(45,610.29)
Ending Fund Balance	\$	<u>16,820,233.87</u>

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

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**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund  
Schedule of Expenditures  
For the Eight Months Ending August 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>
<b>Library Administration</b>					
Library Salaries	\$ 614,930.12	\$ 3,635,728.13	\$ 5,555,000.00	1,919,271.87	65.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 614,930.12</b>	<b>\$ 3,635,728.13</b>	<b>\$ 5,555,000.00</b>	<b>1,919,271.87</b>	<b>65.45</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>					
FICA/ Supplemental Retirement	\$ 14,221.94	\$ 82,706.18	\$ 113,600.00	30,893.82	72.80
Retirement Contributions	57,058.25	353,515.84	516,000.00	162,484.16	68.51
Health Insurance Expense	28,646.21	249,147.50	460,000.00	210,852.50	54.16
Health Trust	69,953.37	727,735.12	1,018,000.00	290,264.88	71.49
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 169,879.77</b>	<b>\$ 1,424,975.89</b>	<b>\$ 2,120,600.00</b>	<b>695,624.11</b>	<b>67.20</b>
<b>Advertising, Dues &amp; Subscriptions</b>					
Publication of Legal Notices	\$ 1,848.34	\$ 7,975.69	\$ 14,000.00	6,024.31	56.97
Membership Dues	0.00	1,850.00	7,500.00	5,650.00	24.67
Advertising	0.00	19,761.49	31,500.00	11,738.51	62.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,848.34</b>	<b>\$ 29,587.18</b>	<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>	<b>23,412.82</b>	<b>55.82</b>
<b>Signage</b>					
Signage	\$ 0.00	\$ 320.41	\$ 1,000.00	679.59	32.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 320.41</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>679.59</b>	<b>32.04</b>
<b>Printing, Duplicating &amp; Binding</b>					
Printing	\$ 357.00	\$ 9,639.19	\$ 12,000.00	2,360.81	80.33
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 357.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,718.24</b>	<b>\$ 22,000.00</b>	<b>9,281.76</b>	<b>57.81</b>
<b>Promotional Production</b>					
Promotional Production	\$ 2,139.52	\$ 6,555.16	\$ 10,000.00	3,444.84	65.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,139.52</b>	<b>\$ 6,555.16</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>3,444.84</b>	<b>65.55</b>

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**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Schedule of Expenditures**  
**For the Eight Months Ending August 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>
<b>Utilities</b>					
Electricity	\$ 28,106.53	\$ 191,100.51	\$ 284,000.00	92,899.49	67.29
Gas	93.60	1,872.42	3,250.00	1,377.58	57.61
Water	3,307.51	31,392.88	41,760.00	10,367.12	75.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,507.64</b>	<b>\$ 224,365.81</b>	<b>\$ 329,010.00</b>	<b>104,644.19</b>	<b>68.19</b>
<b>Communications</b>					
Postage	\$ 0.00	\$ 9,397.79	\$ 15,800.00	6,402.21	59.48
Voice Line	7,074.22	52,626.44	83,500.00	30,873.56	63.03
Data Lines (Internet)	2,445.00	31,568.59	50,000.00	18,431.41	63.14
Courier/Shipping	141.64	430.67	1,000.00	569.33	43.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,660.86</b>	<b>\$ 94,023.49</b>	<b>\$ 150,300.00</b>	<b>56,276.51</b>	<b>62.56</b>
<b>Leases</b>					
Building Lease Expense	\$ 24,489.08	\$ 218,481.32	\$ 303,000.00	84,518.68	72.11
Equipment Lease Expense	0.00	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,489.08</b>	<b>\$ 221,375.20</b>	<b>\$ 311,500.00</b>	<b>90,124.80</b>	<b>71.07</b>
<b>Maintenance of Property &amp; Equipment</b>					
Custodial and Janitorial	\$ 18,089.80	\$ 141,906.17	\$ 212,000.00	70,093.83	66.94
Grounds/Lawn Maintenance	6,873.00	56,049.00	85,000.00	28,951.00	65.94
Maintenance Supplies	370.49	7,468.25	9,000.00	1,531.75	82.98
Fuel & Lube	3,510.57	22,799.98	40,000.00	17,200.02	57.00
Vehicle Repairs	2,204.24	7,352.80	10,000.00	2,647.20	73.53
Small Tools	0.00	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	124,076.58	157,250.00	33,173.42	78.90
Automation System Maintenance	20.26	29,232.15	29,500.00	267.85	99.09
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,192.62</b>	<b>\$ 449,912.80</b>	<b>\$ 608,750.00</b>	<b>158,837.20</b>	<b>73.91</b>
<b>Maintenance of Services (Buildings)</b>					
Physical Plant	\$ 12,647.82	\$ 105,857.71	\$ 150,000.00	44,142.29	70.57
Plumbing, Heating and AC	2,057.72	43,822.86	66,500.00	22,677.14	65.90
Electrical	1,520.34	9,663.99	13,000.00	3,336.01	74.34
Sanitation	1,170.15	6,481.87	11,000.00	4,518.13	58.93
Pest Control	530.00	4,915.00	7,350.00	2,435.00	66.87

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Schedule of Expenditures**  
**For the Eight Months Ending August 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	2,270.00	2,270.00	4,555.00	2,285.00	49.84
Carpet Cleaning	0.00	1,050.00	17,000.00	15,950.00	6.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,196.03</b>	<b>\$ 174,061.43</b>	<b>\$ 269,405.00</b>	<b>95,343.57</b>	<b>64.61</b>
<b>Professional Services</b>					
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 3,048.91	\$ 24,738.16	\$ 34,100.00	9,361.84	72.55
Legal	0.00	11,524.20	15,000.00	3,475.80	76.83
Financial	0.00	42,438.94	40,000.00	(2,438.94)	106.10
Consultants	14,971.87	50,660.07	90,000.00	39,339.93	56.29
Security	1,056.80	7,485.54	10,000.00	2,514.46	74.86
Web Design Consultant	0.00	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 19,077.58</b>	<b>\$ 229,306.14</b>	<b>\$ 294,925.00</b>	<b>65,618.86</b>	<b>77.75</b>
<b>Insurance and Claims</b>					
Library Property Insurance	\$ 0.00	\$ 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	1,940.00	1,940.00	2,076.00	136.00	93.45
General Liability	0.00	25,100.64	25,100.00	(0.64)	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,940.00</b>	<b>\$ 230,646.86</b>	<b>\$ 231,626.00</b>	<b>979.14</b>	<b>99.58</b>
<b>Operating Supplies</b>					
Office Supplies	\$ 2,101.68	\$ 21,343.59	\$ 33,000.00	11,656.41	64.68
Bank Service Charges	1,246.07	10,502.28	16,000.00	5,497.72	65.64
Book Preparation Supplies	4,388.05	29,203.86	47,000.00	17,796.14	62.14
Computer/Printer Supplies	2,227.89	54,274.96	75,000.00	20,725.04	72.37
Programming Supplies	899.52	6,249.53	8,000.00	1,750.47	78.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,863.21</b>	<b>\$ 121,574.22</b>	<b>\$ 179,000.00</b>	<b>57,425.78</b>	<b>67.92</b>
<b>Travel and Continuing Education</b>					
Staff Travel - Local	\$ 748.11	\$ 8,780.03	\$ 22,000.00	13,219.97	39.91
Library In-service Training	600.00	1,493.93	9,000.00	7,506.07	16.60
Conventions & Seminars	1,299.58	26,168.72	44,000.00	17,831.28	59.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,647.69</b>	<b>\$ 36,442.68</b>	<b>\$ 75,000.00</b>	<b>38,557.32</b>	<b>48.59</b>
<b>Public Relations/Programming</b>					



**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund**  
**Schedule of Expenditures**  
**For the Eight Months Ending August 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	\$ 59.62	\$ 26,223.37	\$ 45,000.00	18,776.63	58.27
Summer Reading T-shirts	0.00	6,575.59	6,600.00	24.41	99.63
Adult Programming	2,783.27	26,479.55	36,000.00	9,520.45	73.55
Young Adult Programming	166.82	10,110.32	15,000.00	4,889.68	67.40
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,009.71</b>	<b>\$ 75,281.98</b>	<b>\$ 116,400.00</b>	<b>41,118.02</b>	<b>64.68</b>
<b>Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq</b>					
Landscape Additions	\$ 3,480.00	\$ 17,140.00	\$ 33,000.00	15,860.00	51.94
Imp Phys Plant	0.00	18,300.00	90,000.00	71,700.00	20.33
Vehicles	0.00	9,602.75	63,758.00	54,155.25	15.06
Office Equip, Furn & Shelving	5,423.00	44,001.75	78,000.00	33,998.25	56.41
PC Network	16,408.06	151,049.24	156,000.00	4,950.76	96.83
Integrated Lib Automation Sys	11,108.45	11,108.45	11,500.00	391.55	96.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,419.51</b>	<b>\$ 251,202.19</b>	<b>\$ 432,258.00</b>	<b>181,055.81</b>	<b>58.11</b>
<b>Capital Outlay-Library Res. Acq.</b>					
Adult Books	\$ 46,102.19	\$ 133,453.92	\$ 205,000.00	71,546.08	65.10
Lease/Purchase Books	0.00	18,203.89	18,400.00	196.11	98.93
Juvenile Books	4,717.02	33,196.48	105,000.00	71,803.52	31.62
Young Adults	3,444.01	7,905.07	15,000.00	7,094.93	52.70
Music Recordings	255.14	1,505.53	2,800.00	1,294.47	53.77
Adult Reference	13,732.10	52,235.37	111,000.00	58,764.63	47.06
Juvenile Reference	0.00	2,366.30	45,000.00	42,633.70	5.26
Periodicals	0.00	46,663.78	52,000.00	5,336.22	89.74
Audio Recordings	2,329.44	7,791.10	10,100.00	2,308.90	77.14
Video Recordings	8,174.37	29,628.46	69,000.00	39,371.54	42.94
Genealogy	8.26	1,411.84	5,000.00	3,588.16	28.24
Microfilm	0.00	5,867.00	10,000.00	4,133.00	58.67
Downloadable Media	60,997.10	300,005.61	415,000.00	114,994.39	72.29
CD/Software	2,895.00	58,432.70	75,500.00	17,067.30	77.39
Internet Database Subscription	33,269.00	227,302.76	321,000.00	93,697.24	70.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 175,923.63</b>	<b>\$ 925,969.81</b>	<b>\$ 1,459,800.00</b>	<b>533,830.19</b>	<b>63.43</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>					
Capital Expenditures - Cameras	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 800.00	800.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 800.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>



A UnitedHealthcare Company

## St Tammany Parish Library

### 2023-2024 Medical Benefit Summary

Summary of Benefits	Ochsner	UHC Network
<b>Calendar Year Deductible</b>	<b>\$500</b> Individual <b>\$1000</b> Family	<b>\$500</b> Individual <b>\$1000</b> Family
<b>Out of Pocket Annual Maximum</b> <i>(Includes Deductible and Coinsurance)</i>	<b>\$3000</b> Individual <b>\$6000</b> Family	<b>\$3000</b> Individual <b>\$6000</b> Family
<b>Physician Office Visit</b>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>	<b>85 %</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Chiropractic Services</b>	<b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>	<b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Preventative Care</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office Visit</li> <li>• Lab &amp; X-Ray performed as part of annual physical by a network provider.</li> <li>• Includes: Routine adult physical exam &amp; immunizations, Well woman exam, Mammogram, Well child exam, Certain diagnostic procedures</li> </ul>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>(deductible waived)</i>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>(deductible waived)</i>
<b>Urgent Care Visit</b>	<b>\$75</b> Co-pay then <b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>(deductible waived)</i>	<b>\$75</b> Co-pay then <b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>(deductible waived)</i>
<b>Emergency Room Facility Charge</b>	<b>\$150</b> Co-pay then <b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>(deductible waived)</i>	<b>\$150</b> Copay then <b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>(deductible waived)</i>
<b>Inpatient Hospital Charges</b>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>	<b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Durable Medical Equipment</b>	<b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>	<b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Mental Health Benefits</b>	Plan Pays <b>100 %</b> <i>after Deductible</i>	<b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Home Health Care</b>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Outpatient Hospital Lab &amp; X-Ray</b>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>	<b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Outpatient Hospital Surgery</b>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	<b>85%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>	<b>85%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>



A UnitedHealthcare Company

## St Tammany Parish Library 2023-2024 Medical Benefit Summary

Summary of Benefits	Ochsner	UHC Network
<b>Teladoc Services</b> (General Medicine & Behavioral Health)	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>(deductible waived)</i>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>(deductible waived)</i>
<b>Physical and other Therapies</b> (Basic Benefit = 25 Visits)	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>after Deductible</i>	<b>85%</b> Coinsurance <i>after Deductible</i>
<b>Vaccines &amp; Immunizations</b>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>(deductible waived)</i>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>(deductible waived)</i>
<b>Vision Benefits</b> (1 per Cal Year; Max Benefit: Exam- <b>\$75</b> ; Lenses- <b>\$60</b> ; Frames- <b>\$50</b> ; Contacts- <b>\$120</b> )	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>(deductible waived)</i>	Plan Pays <b>100%</b> <i>(deductible waived)</i>

**Notes:** 1. **Out-of-Network Charges: Deductible-\$1500/\$3000; Coinsurance-50%;  
Out-of-Pocket Maximum-\$8000/\$16,000**

2. **Not All Outpatient Surgical Centers or Facilities are covered by your Plan. Please check with UMR before scheduling any surgery.**

## 2023-24 Pharmacy Benefit Summary

Three Tier Prescription Drug Plan	In-Network Magellan Rx	Out-of-Network
<b>Generic</b>	<b>\$15</b> Co-pay	<b>50%</b> Coinsurance
<b>Preferred Brand Name</b>	<b>\$35</b> Co-pay	<b>50%</b> Coinsurance
<b>Non-preferred Brand Name</b>	<b>\$70</b> Co-pay	<b>50%</b> Coinsurance
<b>Specialty Medications</b>	<b>20%</b> Co-Ins*	Not Covered

\*Co-insurance applies until annual Out of Pocket Maximum is reached

**Note:** Specialty Medications will be dispensed through the **Magellan Rx Value Max** facility program.

Products distributed by Magellan Rx, as well as products covered by a plan member's prescription or medical benefit plan, may change from time to time. Call **800-424-0472** for specific medications available through Magellan Rx.

# St. Tammany Parish Library

Effective January 1st, 2024



Group Health Plan	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 - Renewal	2024 - Option 1
	American National UMR United Healthcare	American National UMR United Healthcare	American National UMR United Healthcare	Companion Life UMR United Healthcare	Companion Life UMR United Healthcare	Zurich UMR United Healthcare
Reinsurance Carrier	American National	American National	American National	Companion Life	Companion Life	Zurich
TPA	UMR	UMR	UMR	UMR	UMR	UMR
Network	United Healthcare	United Healthcare	United Healthcare	United Healthcare	United Healthcare	United Healthcare
Specific Contract Basis	12/15 Medical & Rx	12/15 Medical & Rx	12/15 Medical & Rx	12/15 Medical & Rx	12/15 Medical & Rx	12/15 Medical & Rx
Aggregate Contract Basis	12/12 Medical & Rx	12/12 Medical & Rx	12/12 Medical & Rx	12/12 Medical & Rx	12/12 Medical & Rx	12/12 Medical & Rx
<b>Specific Stop Loss Deductible</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
Unlimited Benefit						
<b>Employee Number*</b>						
Single	85	85	85	90	90	90
Family	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL EE's	106	106	106	111	111	111
<b>Specific Premium</b>						
Single	\$ 272.09	\$ 268.45	\$ 263.45	\$ 217.53	\$ 189.59	\$ 196.39
Family	\$ 734.06	\$ 745.48	\$ 740.48	\$ 637.50	\$ 569.83	\$ 578.60
<b>Aggregate Premium PEPM</b>	\$ 11.66	\$ 11.68	\$ 11.68	\$ 7.06	\$ 8.98	\$ 9.26
<b>Administration Fee PEPM - UMR</b>	\$ 54.16	\$ 54.76	\$ 55.06	\$ 57.69	\$ 57.69	\$ 57.69
<b>Annual Fixed Costs</b>	<b>\$ 546,240.00</b>	<b>\$ 546,192.00</b>	<b>\$ 540,213.00</b>	<b>\$ 473,402.00</b>	<b>\$ 430,320.00</b>	<b>\$ 440,142.00</b>
Compared to Current (2023)					Less \$43.1k	Less \$33.3k
<b>Aggregate Factors (Claims Exposure)</b>						
Single	\$ 633.39	\$ 614.61	\$ 629.89	\$ 674.32	\$ 706.46	\$ 601.66
Family	\$ 1,588.94	\$ 1,586.17	\$ 1,645.65	\$ 1,771.12	\$ 1,880.55	\$ 1,631.34
<b>Annual Aggregate Exposure</b>	<b>\$ 1,046,471.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,026,617.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,057,192.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,153,335.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,214,309.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,041,315.00</b>
Compared to Current (2023)					Plus \$61k	Less \$112k
<b>Lasers:</b>	Member "A" + \$35k	Member "A" + \$50k	Member "A" + \$25k	Member "A" + \$20k	Member "A" + \$35k	No Lasers
Aggregate Premium includes Terminal Liability		Member "B" + \$40k	Member "B" + \$15k	Member "B" + \$15k	Member "B" + \$25k	No Lasers

\* Assumes 8/21/23 enrollment

# St Tammany Parish Library

## Group Health Plan

### PLAN MECHANICS

**Third Party Administrator-TPA** (UMR) will administer The Plan, pay all claims and handle Customer Service. Cost Containment programs and a PPO Network (UHC) will be utilized for Healthcare Management and Provider Discounts. A Pharmacy Benefit Manager-PBM (Magellan) will provide prescription drug card benefits, negotiate pricing and oversee Specialty Drug cost programs.

**Benefit Consultants and Administrators, Inc.** will assist in establishing a Plan Document, author enrollment material and benefit communications, conduct employee meetings, oversee Plan management and compliance. BCA, will negotiate and co-manage the reinsurance agreement, TPA, PPO Network and PBM.

**Claims** are paid from a claims account which you will establish. This claim loss fund is not a pre-paid monthly cost, but used only when medical claims are actually received and processed for payment. However, a predetermined monthly contribution can be arranged to fund for fixed costs and expected claims.

**Specific Stop-Loss** coverage will lend stability to the Plan by assuring that large claims will not have a serious impact on the loss fund. After benefit payments reach your pre-selected specific deductible for each covered person, reinsurance will pay 100% of all claims, on that person, for the remainder of the Plan year.

**Aggregate Stop-Loss** coverage will determine your maximum exposure for each Plan year. Should claims exceed the sum of the monthly increments at any given point in the Plan year; Aggregate reinsurance will reimburse the Plan for those claims. Additionally, the total claims paid by the Plan for the entire Plan year will not exceed the annual Aggregate attachment point established by the reinsurance carrier.



# Director's Report

## September 28, 2023

### FACILITIES

Facilities met for a Prebid meeting with the Friends of the Slidell Library for Landscape Architects about the upcoming project at the Slidell branch.

The Parish did not receive any responses from contractors regarding the advertisement for the landscape work proposed for the Covington branch. They will be going out for bids again for proposals.

Maintenance is scheduled to finish Interior repairs and install new shelving for the children's section at the Lee Road branch on October 21-28.

This is the schedule for the work to be performed at Lee Road:

- Saturday 10/21/23 --Quality Group will remove and cart all discussed shelved items.
- Monday 10/23/23 -- Library closes through 10/30/23.
- Monday 10/23/23-- Maintenance begins removing shelving to access walls to be repaired and painted.
- Monday 10/23/23-- All around painting to begin; wallpaper removal, damage repair texturing and repainting will start as well.
- Tuesday forward -- Maintenance will reinstall the shelving that was removed for repair work. All around painting to continue until complete.
- Thursday 10/23/23 -- Library Interiors will be installed, including new shelving in the Children's section.
- Saturday 10/28/23 -- Quality group to replace items on shelves.
- Monday 10/30/23-- Library reopens.

The new outreach facility appraisal came in at \$290,000. The seller has agreed to a reduction in price to match the appraisal.

### MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Jennifer Rifino, Teen Services Coordinator, attended the St. Tammany Commission on Families monthly meeting on September 12.

Erika Dawson, Children's Librarian at the South Slidell Branch, performed storytime for two classes on August 25 at St. Margaret Mary with a total of 25 children and 4 adults.

Susan Badon, Children's Librarian at the Madisonville Branch performed Storytime at Kidz Klubhouse on September 1 and 15.

Jackie Riecke, Public Relations and Community Coordinator, went on the Lake and Highway radio stations with Friends of the Slidell Library to promote the Friend's Fall Concert Series, Library Card Sign Up Month and Food for Fines.

Barret Reich, Reference Librarian, for the Mandeville Branch performed outreach at STEM Fest on August 26.

Amy Strain Folsom Branch Manager performed outreach at the Kiwanis meeting at Folsom Town Hall on September 21.

Jackie Riecke, Ellen John, Reference Coordinator, Jillian Boudreaux, Adult Programming Coordinator, and 3 other employees provided outreach at the Explore Northshore Expo on September 21.

Alexis Davis, Children's Slidell Librarian, performed storytime for Saint Margaret Mary School on August 31 and September 1. She also performed storytime at Appletree Preschool on September 14.

Jackie Riecke attended the Northshore Roundup Community Engagement Roundtable event on September 20 in Covington.

Byron Holdiman, Genealogy Librarian, met with the Lion's Club in Slidell on September 14.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Amanda Soileau, IT System Administrator, is currently attending classes for Supervision and Management. Classes are every Wednesday from August 23 to November 8.

Barret Reich attended a LinkedIn Learning Demo presentation on August 30.

Kellie Nelson, Reference Librarian, for the Causeway Branch attended training for Business Reference through the State Library on August 31 and training offered by PLA called "Super Searchers for Library Workers" on September 19.

Jennifer Rifino attended the Southeast Louisiana Youth Services Meeting on August 23.

All Staff Day, our all-staff training day will be on October 9. All library branches will be closed.

## **PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS**

Friends of the Slidell Library Fall Concert Series kicked off at Pearl River Branch on Wednesday, September 13 with Gal Holiday and the Honky Tonk Revue. 62 people attended.

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month as well as Hunger Action Month. In celebration and community partnership, the Library accepted nonperishable food donations to waive all current fines a patron has outstanding on their accounts. One item waives \$1 worth of

fees. This year's theme is "Get Your Ticket to Experience the Library" emphasizing all the events and resources that are available at the Library. In 2022, over 2,100 events and classes were provided at no cost to patrons across all 12 branches. Dozens of online courses are available for all Library card holders, including the newest service, Creativebug. Creativebug provides unlimited access to thousands of online art and crafting classes. This service is greatly welcomed since most of the Library's crafting events fill up immediately after registration opens, leaving many on a waitlist.

## **CONTRACTS**

**Transformyx/Lockstep:** \$4800.00

Tech Support Analyst - Migrate Domain Controllers to New Servers

**AbleCards:** \$1,877.75

New NDA Access Cards/ACT 436

**Innovative Interfaces:** \$600

Tech Support Analyst - Migrate to the new Polaris Server

**Creativebug:** \$9,000, Contract Duration: Sept. 15, 2023-Sept. 15, 2024

Provides unlimited access to thousands of on-demand and live award-winning art and craft video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists

## **PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS**

We have received 24 public records requests since the beginning of November 2022. 10 are currently outstanding. We have had 1 new request since our last meeting. This new request has over 40 search terms for e-mail, text messages, and documents. The District Attorney's office estimates it will take 3 months to answer this request. The remaining outstanding requests also 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 219 statements of concern on 172 titles since August 2022. The most recent statement of concern was submitted on September 14, 2023. The library board has made decisions on 18 titles and will be deciding on two titles this evening. We will then have 152 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 September 11.

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

Staff narrowed down short, medium, and longer-term objectives for each of these goals. For Goal number 1 staff have begun collecting forms and policies that will be translated into Spanish, medium-term objectives are to hire Spanish-speaking staff members, and potentially offer some programming in Spanish. For Goal number 4 the library will purchase wire display panels so that we can showcase community art from local organizations and schools, we will also work on reviving handicraft times at branches. Longer-term objectives such as outreach service and maker spaces (objectives that cross over several goals) will have separate working groups. The library has also completed the staff census data required for Gallagher's salary study and worked with them to come up with comparable libraries for the salary study survey.

## August 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	321	43	114	29	597			93		1,197				
Abita	754	45	274	12	513	20		43		1,661	184	2,089	140	321
Bush	145	12	347	5	157	21		12		699	108	885	42	127
Causeway	2374	200	1017	45	1936	33		145		5,750	631	6,754	1,405	1,641
Covington	3907	376	2090	50	4232	112	44	238		11,049	1,438	7,750	2,714	1,290
Folsom	499	26	302	7	493	81		37		1,445	378	1,371	162	216
Lacombe	270	25	281	15	282	2		56		931	215	2,948	122	158
Lee Road	351	18	138	6	364	26	4	11		918	110	665	59	230
Madisonville	1392	94	568	20	2263	33		140		4,510	443	4,497	911	547
Mandeville	2886	312	1103	52	4303	49	4	279		8,988	1,352	7,113	928	674
Pearl River	426	26	309	25	435	9	13	34		1,277	210	2,098	117	217
Slidell	4056	379	1473	37	4780	96	199	342		11,362	2,148	12,165	1,551	2,904
South Slidell	806	65	608	20	971	7	3	80		2,560	1,611	5,411	801	1,079
Virtual <sup>1</sup>									32,908	32,908				
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,187</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>8,510</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>21,326</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>32,908</b>	<b>85,255</b>	<b>8,828</b>	<b>53,746</b>	<b>8,952</b>	<b>9,404</b>

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:            863**

YTD Jan.-Aug 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	2,216	506	1,051	339	3,390	15	35			7,552				
Abita	5114	409	2167	180	4930	118	6			12,924	1,597	16,458	946	2,371
Bush	1400	162	3083	46	1259	96	8			6,054	764	7,156	373	1,049
Causeway	18384	1214	7348	358	18587	342	36			46,269	4,496	45,174	10,541	12,812
Covington	29142	2405	13386	288	33332	934	101	577		80,165	9,886	53,045	22,633	10,265
Folsom	3639	259	3063	61	3799	709	3			11,533	2,183	11,081	1,195	1,752
Lacombe	2345	218	2224	60	2564	31	5			7,447	1,900	22,278	968	1,305
Lee Road	2779	243	1289	28	3003	87	1	36		7,466	675	5,895	579	1,657
Madisonville	10952	1196	3756	151	16499	202	57			32,813	3,346	37,598	8,104	4,711
Mandeville	21916	2257	7431	324	34084	481	57	19		66,569	9,229	53,767	7,294	5,059
Pearl River	3286	120	1563	206	2576	58	3	248		8,060	2,072	14,956	877	1,571
Slidell	30289	2759	11270	328	32492	1496	172	2165		80,971	15,932	90,369	12,188	10,124
South Slidell	5399	553	4405	145	7144	78	37	65		17,826	10,517	40,037	5,584	8,215
Virtual <sup>1</sup>									249,716	249,716				
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,861</b>	<b>12,301</b>	<b>60,985</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>163,659</b>	<b>4,647</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>249,716</b>	<b>635,365</b>	<b>62,597</b>	<b>397,814</b>	<b>71,282</b>	<b>60,891</b>

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: 6,170**



## 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 A Court of Thorns and Roses

Author/Producer Sarah J Maas

3. What brought this title to your attention?

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

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

yes

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

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

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

Violates Content violates the state obscenity statues

2021 Louisiana Laws

Revised Statutes

Title 14 - Criminal Law

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains graphic violence;  
explicit sexual nudity; obscene sexual  
activities; and mild profanity

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.

A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES Young Adult Summary of Concerns: This book contains graphic violence; explicit sexual nudity; obscene sexual activities; and Page Content

172 His lips were smooth against my skin, his breath warm, and my knees buckled as he lifted my other hand to his mouth and kissed it, too. Kissed it carefully- in a way that made heat begin pounding in my core, between my legs.

197 His bite lightened, and his tongue caressed the places his teeth had been. He didn't move- he just remained in that spot, kissing my neck. Intently, territorially, lazily. Heat pounded between my legs, and as he ground his body against me, against every aching spot, a moan slipped past my lips. ...More- I wanted the hardness of his body crushing against mine; I wanted his mouth and teeth and tongue on my bare skin, on my breasts, between my legs. Everywhere- I wanted him everywhere.

229 His lips brushed mine- testing, soft and warm. He pulled back a little. He was still staring at me, and I stared right back as he kissed me again, harder, but nothing like the way he'd kissed my neck. He withdrew more fully this time and watched me. "That's it?" I demanded, and he laughed and kissed me fiercely. My hands went around his neck, pulling him closer, crushing myself against him. His hands roved my back, playing in my hair, grasping my waist, as if he couldn't touch enough of me at one. 232 He could have me right there, on top of that table. I wanted his broad hands running over my bare skin, wanted his teeth scraping against my neck, wanted his mouth all over me.

239 "She has the most delicious thoughts about you, Tamlin" he said. "She's wondered about the feeling of your fingers on her thighs- between them, too." He chuckled. Even as he said my most private thoughts, even as I burned with outrage and shame, I trembled at the grip still on my mind. Rhysand turned to the High Lord. "I'm curious: Why did she wonder if it would feel good to have you bite her breast the way you bit her neck?"

245 He pulled me onto his lap, holding me tightly against him as his lips parted mine. I became aware of every pore in my body when his tongue entered my mouth. ...I pushed Tamlin onto the bed, straddling him, pinning him as if it would somehow keep me from leaving, as if it would make time stop entirely. His hands rested on my hips, and their heat singed me through the thin silk of my nightgown. My hair fell around our faces like a curtain. I couldn't kiss him fast enough, hard enough to express the rushing need within me. He growled softly and deftly flipped us over, spreading me beneath him as he wrenched his lips from my mouth and made a trail of kisses down my neck. ...My back arched as he reached the spot he'd once bitten, and I dragged my hands through his hair, savoring the silken smoothness. He traced the arc of my hipbones, lingering at the edge of my undergarments. My nightgown had become hitched around my waist, but I didn't care. I hooked my bare legs around his, running my feet down the hard muscles of his calves. He breathed my name onto my chest, one of his hands exploring the plane of my torso, rising up to the slope of my breast. I trembled, anticipating the feel of his hand there, and his mouth found mine again as his fingers stopped just below. His kissing was slower this time- gentler. The fingertips of his other hand slipped Page Content beneath the waist of my undergarment, and I sucked in a breath. He hesitated at the sound, pulling back slightly. But I bit his lip in a silent command that had him growling into my mouth. With one long claw, he shredded through silk and lace, and my undergarment fell away in pieces. The claw retracted, and his kisses deepened as his fingers slid between my legs, coaxing and teasing. I ground against his hand, yielding completely to the writhing wildness that had roared alive inside me, and breathed his name onto his skin. He paused again- his fingers retracting- but I grabbed him, pulling him further on top of me. I wanted him now- I

wanted the barriers of our clothing to vanish, I wanted to taste his sweat, wanted to become full of him. "Don't stop," I gasped out. "I-" he said thickly, resting his brow between my breasts as he shuddered. "If we keep going, I won't be able to stop at all." I sat up and he watched me, hardly breathing. But I kept my eyes on his, my own breathing becoming steady as I raised my nightgown over my head and tossed it to the floor. Utterly naked before him, I watched his gaze travel to my bare breasts, peaked against the chill night, to my abdomen, to between my thighs. A ravenous, unyielding sort of hunger passed over his face. I bent a leg and slid it to the side, a silent invitation. He let out a low growl- and slowly, with predatory intent, raised his gaze to mine again. The full force of that wild, unrelenting High Lord's power focused solely on me and I felt the storm contained beneath his skin, so capable of sweeping away everything I was, even in it's lessened state. But I could trust him, trust myself to weather that mighty power. I could throw all that I was at him he wouldn't balk. "Give me everything," I breathed. He lunged, a beast freed of its tether. We were a tangle of limbs and teeth, I tore at his clothes until they were on the floor, then tore at his skin until I marked him down his back, his arms. His claws were out, but devastatingly gentle on my hips as he slid down between my thighs and feasted on me, stopping only after I shuddered and fractured. I was moaning his name when he sheathed himself inside m in a powerful, slow thrust that had me splintering around him. We moved together, unending and wild and burning, an when I went over the edge the next time, he roared and went with me.

247 ...and when I awoke a few hours later, we made love again, lazily and intently, a slow-burning smolder to the wildfire of earlier. Once we were both spent, panting and sweat-slicked, we lay in silence for a time...

346 ...they stripped me naked, bathed me thoroughly, and then- to my horror- began to paint my body. ...Things only worsened when they painted more intimate parts of me...

348 ...my face burned as I silently bemoaned the too-shear fabric of my dress. Beneath it, my breasts were visible to everyone, the paint hardly leaving anything to the imagination...

375 The music was Tamlin's fingers strumming my body...

378 I couldn't kiss him deeply enough, couldn't hold him tightly enough, couldn't touch enough of him. Page Content ...I tore at his shirt, needing to feel the skin beneath one last time, and I had to stifle the moan that rose up in me as he grasped my breast. I didn't want him to be gentle- because what I felt for him wasn't at all like that. What I felt was wild and hard and burning, and so he was with me. He tore his lips from mine and bit my neck- ...I had to grind my teeth to keep myself from moaning and giving us away. ...My fingers grappled with his belt buckle, and his mouth found mine again. Our tongues danced- ...I wanted him- here. I hooked a leg around his middle, needing to be closer, and he ground his hips harder against me, crushing me into the icy wall. I pried the belt buckle loose, whipping the leather free, and Tamlin growled his desire in my ear-... ...I tossed away his belt and started fumbling for his pants. ...But the air became a cold kiss upon my skin- upon my exposed breasts.

379 Rhysand chuckled. "If you're that desperate for release, you should have asked me."

380 ...and then his lips were crushing mine. His tongue pried my mouth open, forcing himself into me, into the space where I could still taste Tamlin. I pushed and thrashed, but he held firm, his tongue sweeping over the roof of my mouth, against my teeth, claiming my mouth, claiming me

411 His ragged breath was the only sound- and his hands soon began roaming across my back and sides, caressing and teasing and baring me to him. When my traveling fingers reached his mouth, he bit down on one, sucking it into his mouth. It didn't hurt, but the bite was hard enough for me to meet his eyes again. To realize that he was done waiting- and so was I. He eased me onto the bed, murmuring my name against my neck, the shell of my ear, the tips of my fingers. I urged him- faster, harder. His mouth explored the curve of my breast, the inside of my thigh. A kiss for each day we'd spent apart, a kiss for every wound and terror, a kiss for the ink etched into my flesh, and for all the days we would be together after this. Days, perhaps, that I no longer deserved. But I gave myself again to that fire, threw myself into it, into him, and let myself burn.

Profanity Count Ass 1 Bitch 1 Piss 1 Prick 1 Shit 3 mild profanity.



***A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES*** by Sarah Maas  
Bloomsbury U.S.A. Children's Books, 2015

**PUBLISHER'S SUMMARY**

When nineteen-year-old huntress Feyre kills a wolf in the woods, a beast-like creature arrives to demand retribution for it. Dragged to a treacherous magical land she only knows about from legends, Feyre discovers that her captor is not an animal, but Tamlin--one of the lethal, immortal faeries who once ruled their world. As she dwells on his estate, her feelings for Tamlin transform from icy hostility into a fiery passion that burns through every lie and warning she's been told about the beautiful, dangerous world of the Fae. But an ancient, wicked shadow over the faerie lands is growing, and Feyre must find a way to stop it . . . or doom Tamlin--and his world--forever.

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Fairies  
Love  
Fantasy fiction  
Blessing and cursing  
Fantasy  
Romance fiction

**RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP:** 17 and up

**HOLDINGS AND CIRCULATION**

- 4 print copies at Causeway, Mandeville, Slidell, and South Slidell/ Shelved in Adult Fiction/Call number Fic Maas
- Overdrive and Cloud Library E-books
- Overdrive and Hoopla E-audiobooks

Purchased in May 2015. Available on shelf May 2015.

Total circulation on all print copies: 212

Total circulation on E-book: 375

Total circulation on E-audiobook: 523

**OTHER LIBRARY HOLDINGS**

Held at 3011 libraries  
Hancock County – Young Adult Fiction  
Washington Parish Library – Adult Fiction  
Calcasieu Parish Public Library – Adult Fiction

**PATRON REQUEST/SUGGEST A PURCHASE:** N/A

**REVIEWS**

*Publishers Weekly* (03/23/2015):

When 19-year-old Feyre kills a wolf in the borderland forest between the human world and the faerie kingdom of Prythian, she unknowingly breaks a wary truce and must repay the murder with her life. Tamlin, the shapeshifting Fae who comes to collect, offers Feyre a way out: spend the rest of her days on his lands in Prythian. She reluctantly agrees, leaving her starving family behind for the deceptive luxury of the faerie world. As Feyre begins to accept and even enjoy her new surroundings, not to mention the attentions of her host, she learns that the faerie world is crumbling under a blight that robs people like Tamlin of their magic and lets monsters roam free. Maas (the Throne of Glass series) draws themes and plot points from several fairy tales, fueling a well-developed world and complex relationships. The gruesome politics and magical might of the Fae may seem to leave Feyre hopelessly outmatched, but her grit and boundless loyalty demand that her foes--and readers--sit up and pay attention. Ages 14-up. Agent: Tamar Rydzinski, Laura Dail Literary Agency. (May) Copyright 2015 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

***Kirkus Reviews*** (04/01/2015):

A wild new take on "Beauty and the Beast" in a world where humans and the faeries who once enslaved them live separated by a wall erected under Treaty. Feyre keeps her once-great, now-impooverished family fed-but just barely-by hunting. On a desperate trip, she kills a large wolf that's actually a fae, which she learns when a large beast tears into their cottage demanding the murderer. For retribution, he brings her to the faerie lands she grew up hating and fearing-with reason, as many dangerous faeries love tormenting humans. She learns truths and lies about faeries, who have been afflicted by a mysterious, magical blight. When not in beast form, Tamlin is beautiful, powerful, and one of the seven High Lords of faerie. Their romantic courtship sizzles with sexual tension before reaching a consensual consummation conveyed in appropriately brutish language (Tamlin is a shape-shifter, after all). Feyre knows the fae are keeping dangerous secrets from her, but by the time she finds out the truth it might be too late. In the end, it's Feyre who must face nigh-impossible trials and cruel court games to save Tamlin. The plot is not without its occasional weak moments, most notably a late exposition dump and a too-easy final riddle. Nevertheless, the sexual tension and deadly action are well-supported by Maas' expertly drawn, multidimensional characters and their nuanced interpersonal dynamics. A satisfying conclusion to the storyline leaves the door open for future books. Sexy and romantic. (Fantasy. 14 & up)

***School Library Journal*** (05/01/2015):

Gr 9 Up--When 19-year-old Feyre kills a wolf in the barren woods near her home in Prythian, she thinks it might be enough to help her family survive another long winter. Instead, a monstrous creature soon comes to the cottage, accusing Feyre of murder and demanding she return with him to the Fae realm as payment for the life she took. Feyre finds herself held on a lavish estate belonging to an elite Fae creature known as Tamlin. Over the course of her captivity, Feyre soon learns that life in the Fae realm can be as much of an opportunity as a punishment. When her feelings for Tamlin shift from loathing to lust, Feyre also realizes little will be able to keep them apart--not even the threat of evil lurking on the borders of the estate. Something that has cursed Tamlin for centuries may destroy him and his realm if Feyre can't find a way to stop it. Maas follows up her "Throne of Glass" novels (Bloomsbury) with this series

opener. Readers will find the author's trademark blend of action, romance, and witty banter as well as a sexier, edgier tone. This retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" and "Tam Lin" (with elements from ancient Greek mythology thrown in) has a strong focus on Feyre's physical attraction to Tamlin, but characters lacking in dimension detract from Feyre's strengths as a capable but rash heroine. Uneven pacing includes a slow start followed by a game-changing information dump, and then a more action- and less romance-filled second half. VERDICT A weak fantasy with strong romance elements. Good for fans of Maas's previous books looking for a more mature read.--Emma Carbone, Brooklyn Public Library  
Copyright 2015 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

***Booklist*** (05/01/2015):

Grades 10-11 \*Starred Review\* Faeries and humans live apart, separated by a wall and generations-old hostility, and resourceful Feyre struggles to keep her poor family alive. She kills a wolf one winter day, and a monstrous creature arrives at her home, demanding her life as punishment. What follows is a Beauty and the Beast-style retelling as Feyre is spirited away to the grand lands of this creature, who turns out to be Tamlin, High Fae, under a mysterious curse. Feyre's feelings for him and his world morph slowly from an angry combativeness into a strange affection, but a mysterious disease is ravaging his home, and at risk of losing everything she has begun to hold dear, Feyre begins a journey that takes her Under the Mountain, the dangerous home of the faerie queen. The ensemble is exquisitely developed, as is the sultry romance between Feyre and Tamlin. The end result is a story that, despite its hefty page count and ambitious scope, simply dazzles. Refreshingly, there are no cliff-hangers here, but enough open-endings ensure that the clamor for a sequel will be deafening. HIGH-DEMAND  
BACKSTORY: Maas' Throne of Glass series has been a smash hit, and with a six-figure marketing campaign, this new series is primed to follow. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2015, American Library Association.)

***Bulletin of Ctr for Child Bks*** (07/01/2015):

After her father's risky investments left the family destitute, Feyre has been responsible for providing for her two sisters and their now-disabled father by hunting in the dangerous but bountiful woods that separate the mortal world and the faerie realm of Prythian. Her killing of a wolf in those woods breaks a treaty between the two races, and a beastly creature shows up at her door to collect Feyre, forcing her to return with him to Prythian to make amends. The gorgeous estate she arrives at, however, and the transformation of the beast into Tamlin, a beautiful and rather hospitable faerie, are at total odds with the stories of the bloodthirsty, violent Fae she's heard all her life. After a bit of push and pull, she and Tamlin fall headlong into a fiery romance, but their relationship is threatened by a wicked force that has cursed Tamlin and may potentially destroy both their worlds. Events are occasionally driven more by plot convenience than logic, but readers are unlikely to notice; they will be dazzled by the steamy and sensuous romance between Feyre and Tamlin, and they'll be invested when he is taken from her and she must fight some pretty nasty faeries to get him back. Elements from "Beauty and the Beast," "East o' the Sun, West o' the Moon," the myth of Persephone, and the legend of Tamlin are seamlessly interwoven with clever allusions, while the faerie world is resplendent in its initial beauty and then horrific in the brutality Feyre later encounters. The book's latter half

is as much adventure as it is romance, and while readers will delight in the lovers' eventual reunion, they'll likely be even more pleased about the promise of further action to come in this proposed series. KQG

***Hornbook Guide to Children* (07/01/2015):**

An evil fairy queen has controlled the seven fairy courts for forty-nine years. Nineteen-year-old human Feyre finds herself among the fairies, and she must outsmart the queen to save herself; the fairies; and her true love, Tamlin. Maas weaves folk- and fairy tales from multiple origins, fairy lore, adventure, and romance into an exciting new YA fantasy series. (Copyright 2015 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

**Review Citations:**

- *Publishers Weekly* 03/23/2015 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover)
- *Romantic Times* 05/01/2015 pg. 54 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover)
- *Kirkus Reviews* 04/01/2015 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover)
- *School Library Journal* 05/01/2015 pg. 121 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover)
- *Booklist* 05/01/2015 pg. 90 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover) - \*Starred Review
- *Kirkus Reviews* 05/15/2015 pg. 66 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover)
- *Bulletin of Ctr for Child Bks* 07/01/2015 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover)
- *Hornbook Guide to Children* 07/01/2015 pg. 130 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover)
- *Wilson Senior High Catalog* 04/11/2019 (EAN 9781619634442, Hardcover)

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

**Sarah J. Maas** is the #1 *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author of the Throne of Glass, Court of Thorns and Roses, and Crescent City series. Her books have sold more than nine million copies and are published in thirty-seven languages. A New York native, Sarah lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, son, and dog.

**AWARDS & LISTS**

New York Times Best Seller

2015 Goodreads Choice Awards – Best Young Adult Fantasy and Science Fiction (nominee)

2015 Bustle -The 25 Best YA Books of 2015

2015 BuzzFeed – The 32 Best Fantasy Books of 2015

2021 Business Insider – The 21 Best Young Adult Romance Books to Read in 2021

2015 PopSugar – The Best YA Books of 2015

2021 Wired – 36 of the Best Fantasy Books Everyone Should Read

**RESOURCES**

Ingram Content Group, LLC

Books in Print 2.0

Worldcat

Individual library websites (for holdings info)



September 15, 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips  
[REDACTED]  
Mandeville, LA 70471

Dear Ms. Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah Mass. 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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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
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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, while containing descriptions of sexual conduct, 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. The sexual conduct is a small part of the story and mirrors the emotional connection between the characters. Sexual conduct is referred to in a few points of the book but not described. The ultimate sexual act occurs in the second half of the book. This is a romance novel so it is not unexpected that the sexual conduct consummates their “true love”.
2. The committee found that the text does not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. The language used to describe sexual conduct is not explicit. Euphemisms are used and the language is more flowery than erotic. The book contains mild profanity, but it is not used in the context of sexual conduct. While this title and the others in the series are very popular among teen girls ages 16-17, the book is in the adult fiction section. The book was purchased by the Teen Department because the author had to that point mainly written teen fiction. However, when it was received it was assigned to adult fiction because of the age of the characters and the sexual conduct.
3. There have been no complaints about the book until this Statement of Concern in the past eight years that the book has been on the shelf. Other peer libraries shelve the book in the teen section (Hancock County), while some shelve it in adult fiction (Calcaieu.) In our library system the book has been wildly popular circulating 1,110 times across all formats. The book received positive reviews in Kirkus Review, Publisher’s Weekly, Booklist, and School Library Journal. The book appears on several

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recommended lists including a nomination for the 2015 Goodreads Choice Awards – Best Young Adult Fantasy and Science Fiction and the Business Insider – The 21 Best Young Adult Romance Books to Read in 2021 list.

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 literary merit as a classic example of the fantasy-romance genre.

You asked that this book be shelved in a section where minors do not have access. This book was located in the adult fiction collection. Although there is sexual conduct described in the book, because the item was originally located in the adult section of the library, the library's card system allows parents to choose whether their minor child would be able to check out this book. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate the statute, and the book was shelved in the appropriate section of the library.

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

The committee's report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 25th 2023, where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes. If you do not wish to speak you may provide a written statement to the Board.

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

Respectfully,

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

Kelly LaRocca, Director

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## ***Statement of Concern about Library Resources***

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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?

ALA Grooming Agenda - Gender Identity - 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 establishment<sup>1</sup> 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 establishments<sup>2</sup> “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: Targeted grooming: "After a terrible political coup usurps their noble house, Hawke and Grayson flee to stay alive and assume new identities, Hanna and Grayce. Desperation and chance lead them to the Communion of Blue, an order of magical women who spin the threads of reality to their will. As the twins learn more about the Communion, and themselves, they begin to hatch a plan to avenge their family and retake their royal home. While Hawke wants to return to his old life, Grayce struggles to keep the threads of her new life from unraveling, and realizes she wants to stay in the one place that will allow her to finally live as a girl.

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 standard.

This is a typical book from the ALA grooming agenda causing 12 year old children to question their gender. "After a terrible political coup usurps their noble house, Hawke and Grayson flee to stay alive and assume new identities, Hanna and Grayce. Desperation and chance lead them to the Communion of Blue, an order of magical women who spin the threads of reality to their will. As the twins learn more about the Communion, and themselves, they begin to hatch a plan to avenge their family and retake their royal home. While Hawke wants to return to his old life, Grayce struggles to keep the threads of her new life from unraveling, and realizes she wants to stay in the one place that will allow her to finally live as a girl.

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:

- "[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"
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- "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 establishments<sup>2</sup> "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

## ***THE DEEP AND DARK BLUE* by Niki Smith**

Anne Schwartz Books, 2020

### **PUBLISHER'S SUMMARY**

After a terrible political coup usurps their noble house, Hawke and Grayson flee to stay alive and assume new identities, Hanna and Grayce. Desperation and chance lead them to the Communion of Blue, an order of magical women who spin the threads of reality to their will. As the twins learn more about the Communion, and themselves, they begin to hatch a plan to avenge their family and retake their royal home. While Hawke wants to return to his old life, Grayce struggles to keep the threads of her new life from unraveling, and realizes she wants to stay in the one place that will allow her to finally live as a girl.

### **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Nobility

Twins

Gender identity

Fantasy comics

Magic

Brothers and sisters

Graphic novels

### **HOLDINGS AND CIRCULATION**

- 2 print copies at Causeway and Covington/ Shelved in Juvenile Graphic Novels/ Call number J GN Smit

Purchased in March 2021. Available on shelf March 2021.

Total circulation on all print copies: 17

### **OTHER LIBRARY HOLDINGS**

Held in 733 libraries.

Jefferson Parish Library – Juvenile Graphic Novels

East Baton Rouge Parish Library – Young Adult Graphic Novels

### **PATRON REQUEST/SUGGEST A PURCHASE: YES**

### **REVIEWS**

**Booklist** (11/15/2019):

Grades 4-7 Twins Hawke and Grayson have been groomed to be noblemen since they were born, but when a coup led by a distant cousin threatens their very lives, the two think fast and go into hiding, disguising themselves as girls and joining the Communion of Blue, a temple and school for your priestesses. While Hawke yearns for revenge, Grayson embraces the change, eventually coming out as trans while finding ways to build a more suitable life for herself, perhaps a life filled with the contemplative art found in the Communion. Throughout the book, the twins' disguises are treated with respect and Grayson's growth in particular is sensitively

treated. Smith offers action, intrigue, and magic along with a pair of dynamic characters who handle their circumstances in compellingly different ways, which should hold appeal for a wide range of readers. Smith's artwork, recalling classic manga, delivers clearly choreographed action and intense facial expressions, which capably communicate poignant emotion during the many bittersweet scenes. A rich tapestry of a story, with action and character development in equal measure.(Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2019, American Library Association.)

**School Library Journal (11/22/2019):**

**Gr 4-7**--Identical twins Grayson and Hawke belong to one of their city-state's ruling families. When they lose their entire family in a bloody coup, the brothers disguise themselves as girls named Grayce and Hanna and hide out in the Communion of Blue, a religious order of magical women who weave using a mysterious deep blue dye that allows them to spin the threads of reality and manipulate elements such as fire and water. Obsessed with thwarting the traitors and getting his old life back, Hawke begrudges every moment he spends as a girl. His twin also wants justice, but identifying as a girl and belonging to the sisterhood feel like home, and she's anxious to remain true to herself, perhaps for the first time in her life. Smith vividly depicts siblings who couldn't be more different yet grow together. When confronted with Grayce's true identity, Hawke accepts that she is the same twin he has always loved, and they remain two halves of an unbroken whole. Manga-esque art advances the action smoothly, and speech bubbles are expressive and well placed. The palette is integral to the story: dynamic backgrounds rely on beautifully saturated hues, including royal purples, and blue-tinged scenes portraying the order's use of magic are mesmerizing. **VERDICT** Children figuring out where they fit in will appreciate this stunning work that does double duty as an absorbing adventure and a gentle musing on gender identity, family, and acceptance.--Kelley Gile, Cheshire Public Library, CT Copyright 2019 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

**Bulletin of Ctr for Child Bks (01/01/2020):**

In this graphic novel, identical twins Grayson and Hawke lead a charmed life in their grandfather's noble manor until their grandfather and his heir, cousin Reyden, are assassinated by their other cousin, Mirelle, and they must flee to avoid being murdered in the coup. The twins disguise themselves as girls and become initiates in the Communion of Blue, hoping the holy order can keep them safe. When they hear that Mirelle is due to be crowned as Lord in a matter of days. Hawke is more than eager to break out of the convent and expose Mirelle as a fraud, but his twin is less ready to leave their new home. Living with the Communion has brought about a profound revelation: she actually is Grayce, not Grayson, and the thought of returning to her old life where she is expected to be a boy is heartbreaking. This story offers a refreshing spin on the crossdressing-for-noble-reasons trope, with Grayce's discovery of her true gender transforming the twins' escape plan into something greater than a convenient plot device. Smith's art allows the reader to slowly discover Grayce's comfort with feminine attire and the responsibilities of her new life in the Sisterhood. This is especially prevalent when played off Hawke's fidgetiness and inability to assimilate into his role. Subtle differences in the twins' character design can make readers unsure of which twin is which, especially in the early pages of the book, but Smith's quick pacing and world building make this a page-turner for lovers of adventure and magic. KP

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

**Niki Smith** is a cartoonist based out of Munich. She is a Lambda Literary Award-nomindated author for *Crossplay*, has been digitally published by DC Comics and The Nib, and has contributed to the Lambda Literary Award-winning *Beyond* anthology. This is her debut middle grade novel.

## **AWARDS & LISTS**

Lambda Literary Award (finalist)

## **RESOURCES**

Ingram Content Group, LLC

EBSCO Core Collections Database

Books in Print 2.0

Worldcat

Individual library websites (for holdings info)



September 15, 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips

██████████  
Mandeville, LA 70471

Dear Ms. Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *Deep and Dark Blue* by Niki Smith. 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 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 in text or illustrations. There is no discussion of sex or sexuality in the book.
2. 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 ending of 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 who do not mind the gender identity theme of the book. This title was purchased in response to a patron request. Two copies of the book were purchased in September 2021. In the twenty-one months that the book was on the shelf, the two copies circulated a total of 17 times. Gender identification is only one part of the story and is part of one character’s arc of development. The treatment of gender identity is age appropriate and there is no mention of romance, sexual identity, or sexual activity.
3. The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. The committee believes the book has literary value as a good treatment of the fantasy genre for middle grade readers. The book deals, in an age appropriate way, with loss of family and displacement. As a fantasy novel the book has an unusually good amount of detail in the world building for middle grade fiction with magical elements and societal systems.

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4. The book has artistic value as an excellent example of a graphic novel for middle grade readers. The art shows movement and action and has a good use of color. The characters are drawn as individuals and with a variety of facial expressions. There is diverse representation in characters. The author/illustrator is an award winning artist.

You asked that this book be shelved in a “minor restricted area of the library”. This book was located in the juvenile graphic novel collection. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate the statute, and the book was shelved in the appropriate section of the library.

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

The committee’s report and recommendation will be made available to the St. Tammany Library Control Board, which shall make the ultimate determination based thereupon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 25th, 2023 where it will be on the agenda. At that meeting, you will have an opportunity to address the Board for 5 minutes. If you do not wish to speak you may give a written statement to the Board.

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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