

St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
December 11, 2023
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.
Mandeville, LA 70471
6:30 P.M.

Public Comment: A three (3) minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the agenda. In the case of a Statement of Concern decision, the person who filed the Statement of Concern is given 5 minutes to speak. **Please note, all comments must pertain to the agenda item announced. There is no general public comment at the end of the meeting.** Any person wishing to comment on a topic not listed on the agenda may do so by e-mailing lboc@stpl.us by 4:00 PM on Monday, December 11th, 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 October 12th, 2023, October 23rd, 2023 and October 27th, 2023
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
2. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Financial Reports – October 2023
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
 - B. Director's Report
 - C. Alcohol Request – St. Tammany Library Foundation
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
 - D. Election of Officers
 - Discussion
 - Public Comment
 - Vote
 - E. Presentation of updated card system and Children's Catalog
 - F. Statement of Concern Decision – *Ana on the Edge*
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion
 - Vote

G. Statement of Concern Decision – *The Fighting Infantryman*

- Public Comment
- Discussion
- Vote

3. Adjournment

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Special Meeting
October 12, 2023
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.
Mandeville, LA 70471
1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

This special meeting was called due to a quorum of Library Board of Control (LBOC) members wishing to participate in the Rules and Regulations Committee 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, 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. Public comments were accepted by email (lboc@stpl.us) until 11:00 a.m. on the morning of the meeting.

1. New Business

A. Section 403 – Criteria for Selection

Discussion:

K. LaRocca stated that the Library Board of Control adopted the new card system to comply with LA R.S. 25:225 (formerly known as Act 436) at the last LBOC meeting. K. LaRocca reviewed *Chapter 4. Collection Development, Section 403. Criteria for Selection* in the Rules and Regulations of the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control. She highlighted additions that were suggested after studying and discussing the new law with legal counsel. The committee discussed the policy. Typos were noted and corrected. Sentences were edited for grammar and clarity. The committee discussed the phrasing of paragraphs and agreed to remove statements that are irrelevant to the Collection Development policy.

The committee discussed the part of the policy that states that materials cataloged in the Juvenile and Young Adult sections shall not contain sexually explicit material or sexual conduct

as defined by LA R.S. 25:225. K. LaRocca stated that if staff become aware of materials that contain the type of sexual conduct defined in LA R.S. 25:225, the items will be moved to the Adult section. It was clarified that this does not prohibit the library from acquiring such material, as long as the material is properly cataloged and shelved in the Adult section. B. McHugh emphasized this statement and stressed the importance of understanding that the library can purchase these materials, but they cannot be cataloged or shelved in the Juvenile or Young Adult sections.

There was discussion about whether or not to include the definition of sexual conduct, which was copied directly from LA R.S. 25:225. E. Couvillon noted that LA R.S. 25:225 states that, "The policy required by this Subsection may adopt the definitions in Subsection B of this Section by reference." E. Couvillon advised that if the exact definition is going to be removed, the Board needs to be more specific in the citation stated in the policy. The citation should be: LA R.S. 25:225B(3). J. Airey suggested adding "which is adopted herein by reference" after the citation. E. Couvillon agreed and suggested "or the most recent version of which is adopted herein by reference" after the citation.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

B. Section 407 – Statements of Concern About Library Resources

Discussion:

K. LaRocca reviewed *Section 407. Statements of Concern About Library Resources*. There were no changes made to part A. *General*. In accordance with LA R.S. 25:225, it is now specified in part B. *Process* that any person completing a Statement of Concern (SOC) must hold a St. Tammany Parish Library card and must reside in St. Tammany Parish.

J. Airey discussed the wording of the last sentence of part A. *General*. He stated that based on the law and in respect to certain age groups, the Board technically does have the right to judge what others read. It was decided to strike the sentence from the policy. B. McHugh suggested removing the words "the cost of" after the word "however" in the second sentence of the first paragraph under B. *Process*.

E. Couvillon noted that the library uses the term "Statement of Concern," but LA R.S. 25:225 uses the term "Request for Reconsideration." For clarity, she suggested adding that the SOC is also referred to as a Request for Reconsideration under LA R.S. 25:225.

K. LaRocca reviewed submission criteria. The final paragraph under B. *Process, Part 1* reads as follows: "Any Statement of Concern seeking to restrict access by a minor to a digital resource categorized as Adult and thus only available to Adult, Juvenile, and Juvenile Unrestricted cards, shall not be considered." K. LaRocca stated that if we were to receive a SOC that fits the above scenario, we would send the patron a letter stating that the resource is an adult digital resource and is only available to Adult, Juvenile, or Juvenile Unrestricted library cards. If a parent does

not want their child to access this digital resource, they have the option of choosing a restricted card that does not allow access to this material.

J. Airey asked if that statement can be retroactive for SOC's that were previously submitted. E. Couvillon stated that it can, but advised the Board to proceed with caution in doing so. She explained that those SOC's were submitted under the previous process and the complainant's due process rights for that challenge to be heard would be removed. It was decided to leave the statement as-is.

There was discussion about the internal staff committees and the review and recommendation processes. B. McHugh discussed the possibility of returning to the previous process of the committee making a decision with an option to appeal, rather than a committee recommendation with an automatic Board review and decision. He noted that an exception to this is that the Board is required to review material containing sexual conduct as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.

K. LaRocca clarified that the guidance received from Attorney General Jeff Landry's office confirms that the Board is required to make the decision if the accusation or concern is that the material contains sexual conduct as defined in LA R.S. 25:225. B. McHugh noted that the revised SOC form includes a question that asks if LA R.S. 25:225 is a reason for the patron's concern and gives a "yes" or "no" option for the patron to select. He stated that many people will select "yes" to force the Board to review the book. He stated that we are not required to include that question on the form and that if a patron wants to refer to the statute they can do so elsewhere on the form.

K. LaRocca noted that the sample form provided by Jeff Landry's office includes that question. J. Airey stated that it would be a mistake not to include the question if it is in the Attorney General's sample. B. McHugh stated that it is not in the statute and that the Attorney General's opinions are not binding. K. LaRocca noted that the question on our form is more detailed than what is on the sample form.

E. Couvillon stated that it was her suggestion to include the question on the form to save the librarians from having to make that determination on their own. B. McHugh asked if that puts the onus on the Board to make that determination. E. Couvillon confirmed that it does. She suggested asking the complainant to identify the sexual material by page number and to note where the item is housed in the library. E. Couvillon stated that the goal is to balance the accountability of the challenger, the committee's responsibility, and the decision of the Board.

There was further discussion about whether or not to return to the previous process of a staff committee making the decision with an option to appeal to the Board. B. McHugh noted that this would speed up the process and suggested implementing time limits on appeals. He stated that returning to a committee decision process puts the responsibility for the decisions in the

hands of professionals instead of amateurs. He explained that the board members are amateurs in terms of this subject matter.

J. Airey stated that in the absence of LA R.S. 25:225, he would agree, but he does not think it is possible based on the wording of the law. He noted that this is a statutorily created Board that oversees the policies of the library and anyone not up for the challenge should not be on the Board. He stated that while he understands that librarians are professionals, the Board is the public's input into the process.

K. LaRocca stated that the majority of the current SOCs will have to be reviewed by the Board, as most of them reference sexually explicit material as the concern. B. McHugh stated that returning to the previous process demonstrates that the Board trusts the librarians to make the decisions. He suggested that the Director could give a report of recent committee decisions at Board meetings to keep the Board and public informed. K. LaRocca stated that the current policy complies with LA R.S. 25:225. E. Couvillon stated that it actually exceeds what is required by LA R.S. 25:225.

A. Parr asked if the staff and librarians are safe and comfortable with making the decisions, given the recent climate. K. LaRocca explained that they are currently on record as making the recommendations and the only difference is that they would be deciding rather than recommending. K. LaRocca also noted that the staff committees are volunteers who have offered to participate on their own time.

K. LaRocca reminded the Board that the decision-making process was transferred to the Board in an effort to be transparent, as the complainants accused the library of having a bogus and unfair process. The majority of the complainants chose not to appeal to the Board.

The committee will draft two versions of the policy and present them to the Board at a future LBOC meeting. One version will state that the Board will review and decide on all challenges. The other version will state that a staff committee will review and decide on all challenges with an option for the complainant to appeal to the Board. An exception to this is that the Board is required to review material containing sexual conduct as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.

B. McHugh discussed the resolution that was adopted on December 13, 2022, that places challenged materials behind the circulation desk until they are reviewed and decided. He noted that this is not required under LA R.S. 25:225. He proposed that the Board consider rescinding the resolution. He noted that the vast majority of people commenting in person and via email are in favor of leaving the challenged materials on the shelves while the reviews are taking place.

A. Parr asked what the policy was prior to the resolution. K. LaRocca stated that there was not a specific policy and the items were left on the shelves during the review process. B. McHugh

spoke of the unfairness of one person having the power to banish a book to a restricted area because they made a complaint.

B. Taylor pointed out that question number five in Jeff Landry's guidance for libraries clarifies and defines that the library is not required to restrict a minor's access to library materials prior to checkout. B. McHugh asked for the policy to specifically state that the materials remain on the shelves while challenged.

There was discussion about the logistics of presenting the two versions of the decision-making process to the Board, as well as the option for the Board to rescind the December 13, 2022, resolution. K. LaRocca and E. Couvillon clarified that the two decisions could take place at the same board meeting under two different agenda items.

J. Airey spoke about the decision-making process and stated that he feels there should still be some Board discretion involved since there have been a couple of instances where it was decided to move a title to the Adult section. B. McHugh noted that would still allow one person to force the issue and place the books behind the desk.

E. Couvillon advised the committee to be careful with the phraseology in revising Section 407 to include rescinding the December 13, 2022, resolution. She explained that oftentimes the book is not available for checkout because the copies are being used by staff and the Board for review. T. DiMaggio stated she would follow up with E. Couvillon regarding the phrasing of statements in the policy. B. McHugh asked if they can circulate questions about wording and phrasing before drafting a copy of the policy for the agenda, so that the Board can provide feedback. E. Couvillon advised that staff cannot circulate questions with a quorum of the Board, as that violates open meetings law.

K. LaRocca reviewed changes to the SOC form. B. McHugh asked about the statement on page three that states, "This statement will be referred to the Library Board of Control." K. LaRocca clarified that it means that a copy of the SOC will be sent to the Board. B. McHugh stated that it implies that the Board will take an action, so he suggested changing the word "referred" to "forwarded." B. McHugh asked why the copies of SOC's are redacted. E. Couvillon explained that it is due to the privacy rights of individuals as required by the *Louisiana State Constitution, Article I. Declaration of Rights*. E. Couvillon stated that the individual's home address, email address, and phone number are redacted.

2. Adjournment

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

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
October 23, 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. 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**

B. Taylor recognized Dr. Argiro Morgan for her 24 years of service to the Library Board of Control from 1999 to 2023. Dr. Morgan served as Board President from 2007 to 2016. B. Taylor stated that Dr. Morgan was a guiding force during the planning and building of the Madisonville Branch Library. B. Taylor stated that Dr. Morgan came from the academic world and brought wisdom, intellect, and common sense to the Board. Dr. Morgan spoke of her love for libraries and reading. She recounted her childhood experiences of going to the library and learning to read with relish. She stated she is thankful for what libraries have done for her and hopes she gave something back in return.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the Library Board of Control that were held on July 13, 2023, August 21, 2023, and September 28, 2023.

B. McHugh asked for a correction to the minutes from August 21, 2023 on page 16, section H. In the fifth sentence, “technical services renovation” should be changed to “technical services building.”

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to approve the three sets of minutes with the stated correction. It was seconded by A. Parr. Four were in favor, one abstained, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Reports – August and September 2023

K. LaRocca reviewed both the August and September 2023 financial reports. All expected ad valorem revenue and state revenue sharing has been received, though a little more in ad valorem is expected towards the end of the year. The budget percentage for the end of August should be 66.64%. Revenues were at 66.27% and Expenditures were at 66.64%. The budget percentage for the end of September should be 75%. Revenues were at 74.52% and Expenditures were at 75.67%. Most lines that are out of balance are due to expending those lines early or late in the year and will be in balance by the end of the year. K. LaRocca gave explanations for noteworthy lines that were over or under budget. Health Trust is over budget, but reimbursements from the reinsurance carrier are expected. Publication of Legal Notices is over budget due to longer board meeting minutes that are published in the *St. Tammany Farmer*. The Financial line is over budget due to the increased cost of the audit, which now includes testing of all statewide agreed upon procedures. The Security line is over budget due to having security at more board meetings than anticipated this year.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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

B. Fall Budget Amendment

Discussion: K. LaRocca explained the differences in revenue and expenditure forecasts between the 2023 Summer Amendment and the 2023 Fall Amendment. Overall, there is an increase of \$163,762 in revenue. K. LaRocca noted that the 2023 Budget was produced in July of 2022. This

budget amendment is based on how the library ended the 2022 fiscal year and how the budget has performed over the first three quarters of 2023.

The Board was provided with the Budget Amendment and Savings spreadsheets along with the explanations. This information is also included in the board meeting packet posted on the website for the public to view. K. LaRocca reviewed adjustments to budget lines with explanations for each adjustment. The current unassigned savings is \$869,788, which keeps the library in a good position to continue working on goals identified during the strategic planning process.

The Budget Analysis shows a forecasted increase in revenue of \$160,136 due primarily to ad valorem taxes. The Fall Budget Amendment shows an increase in expenditures of \$164,225. The budget is balanced, leaving \$267 of revenue unbudgeted.

A. Parr asked when the furniture will be purchased for the Causeway, Mandeville, and Slidell branches. K. LaRocca stated that when those branches undergo renovations the furniture will be purchased. A. Parr asked about the Bookmobile conference. K. LaRocca stated that she will be meeting with the two staff members who attended the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services conference so they can share what they learned and offer feedback.

B. McHugh complimented K. LaRocca on her ability to compile and present these types of reports. He recalled that one of the Parish Council members told him that the library's financial reports were the best he has seen from any agency that the Council oversees.

J. Airey asked for clarification about the savings figures regarding what is dedicated to mandatory expenses and future projects, as compared to what is unassigned. K. LaRocca explained the process and timeline of how the library receives ad valorem taxes. Some of the savings is dedicated for operational reserves, which are needed to run the library until the first portion of ad valorem taxes are received. Ad valorem taxes are usually received in February, but have been received as late as March 31st. K. LaRocca explained that the \$2,500,000 figure for operational reserves is calculated by taking a 5-year average of expenditures from January 1st to March 31st. J. Airey clarified that the library does not have over \$5,700,000 of no use lying around. K. LaRocca confirmed that statement and noted that the library's millage will expire on December 31, 2024. The property tax bills due this December will fund the library through 2025. If there is no funding past 2025, the only money the library will have is its Savings reserves.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

K. LaRocca read the Fall Budget Amendment resolution aloud.

Vote: A motion and a second was inadvertently skipped. B. Taylor asked for a roll call vote.

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

C. Director's Report

K. LaRocca reported that the Lee Road Branch is currently being renovated. The card system that was implemented in November 2022 is still in place as staff are working to update the system adopted at the last board meeting.

Staff performed storytime at Kidz Klubhouse, St. Margaret Mary, the Community Health and Resources Fair, and the Boutique Spectacular at the Southern Hotel. Staff provided outreach services to COAST, Kiwanis Club, St. Tammany Parish School Board College and Career Fair, First Baptist Christian School, Folsom Jr. High, Madisonville Jr. High, Wooden Boat Festival, Monster Mash, Olde Towne Pumpkin Festival, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wild Things event, and Night Out on Crime in Pearl River. Staff promoted library events on The Lake and The Highway radio stations and Fox 8 News. Staff attended the annual All Staff Training Day at the Castine Center. Managers and supervisors attended a manager's workshop. Teen Services held the SELA Youth Services Librarian Meeting at the Madisonville Branch. Kelly LaRocca presented the 2024 budget to the Parish Council Finance Committee.

The Friends of the Slidell Library held concerts at the Lacombe, South Slidell, and Slidell Branches with performances by Redwine Jazz and T'Monde. Nearly 10,000 eclipse glasses were given out to residents of the Parish for the Annular Solar Eclipse that took place on October 14th.

K. LaRocca reviewed the September 2023 and year-to-date (YTD) statistics. The YTD total circulation was 805,442, computer usage was 70,447, door count was 441,837, wireless internet inside was 80,781, and wireless internet outside was 70,247. There have been 6,848 patrons registered for library cards so far this year.

D. Board Meeting dates 2024

Discussion:

B. Geiger presented the 2024 board meeting dates for Board approval. All board meetings will take place in the Parish Council Chambers at Koop Dr. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise scheduled. The fourth Monday in October 2024 is not available, so the Board will need to choose another date.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to approve Wednesday, October 30, 2024 as the meeting date. It was seconded by A. Parr. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

Public comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to approve the 2024 Board Meeting dates. It was seconded by A. Parr. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

E. Holiday Schedule 2024

Discussion:

B. Geiger presented the 2024 Holiday Schedule for Board approval. There are 15 paid holidays in accordance with the Employee Handbook and two system-wide closed days.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: A. Parr moved to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule. It was seconded by A. Shaw. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

F. Rules and Regulations Update – Section 403. Criteria for Selection

T. DiMaggio reviewed the policy draft for *Section 403. Criteria for Selection* and noted the changes that were made due to LA R.S. 25:225. The policy states that the library will use community standards when acquiring library material that would be accessible to a minor through donation or purchase. The metrics used to determine community standards are listed in the policy. The policy states that, “Materials cataloged in the children’s (Juvenile) and teen’s (Young Adult) collections shall not contain sexually explicit material, textual, visual, or audio, produced in any medium that depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined by LA R.S. 25:225B(3) or the most recent version which is adopted herein by reference.”

Public Comment:

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. Concerned about who is going to make the determination of what is considered sexually explicit. Concerned about restricting books from the shelves. K. LaRocca explained that sexual conduct is specifically defined in LA R.S. 25:225B(3). R. Newman asked who would determine the placement of the item if the content is considered a gray area. K. LaRocca stated that the Collection Development librarian would make that determination.

Ruth Terry Sipos – Abita Springs, LA. Stated that she has faith in library staff to be attuned to the entire community.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Stated that he has an issue with the last paragraph of the policy. Stated that the state law does not define where a book needs to live in the library and is only required to be restricted from checkout. Stated there are books for teens and young adults that contain sexual activity described in the law, but it is not porn. Stated the books need to be in the right section in the library. Asked for the Board to strike the language in the last paragraph.

Discussion:

J. Airey stated that this was discussed at the last meeting and agrees with the policy the way it is. He noted that the library is eight months ahead of the curve. A. Parr asked E. Couvillon to confirm whether or not this language follows the law. E. Couvillon confirmed that the language is actually more restrictive and goes beyond what is required by law. A. Parr asked if the card system meets the criteria required by law. E. Couvillon confirmed that the card system adopted at the last regular board meeting meets the criteria. She noted that LA R.S. 25:225 does not require physical restriction in the library. She also noted that this update is for the Collection Development policy. K. LaRocca briefly explained the difference between the library card system and the Collection Development policy.

A. Parr noted that the statute does not mention Teen or Young Adult (YA) content specifically and suggested that the Board adopt the policy without the Teen (Young Adult) portion included. J. Airey stated that the statute refers to minors and does not differentiate between teens and children. He reiterated that the library can purchase such material, but it would have to be cataloged in the Adult collection. B. McHugh stated that this was discussed at length at the last Rules and Regulations Committee Special Board meeting and the way it is written makes sense.

Vote: J. Airey moved to adopt *Section 403. Criteria for Selection* as written. It was seconded by B. McHugh. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

G. Rules and Regulations Update – Section 407. Statements of Concern About Library Resources

K. LaRocca explained that there are two options that have been drafted for *Section 407. Statements of Concern About Library Resources* and noted the changes that were made due to LA R.S. 25:225. One option is to continue with a staff committee recommendation and an automatic Board review and decision process. The second option is to return to the previous process of a staff committee making the decision with an option for the complainant to appeal that decision to the Library Board of Control (LBOC). The exception to this is that the Board is required to make the decision if the accusation or concern is that the material contains sexual conduct as defined in LA R.S. 25:225.

T. DiMaggio noted that in accordance with LA R.S. 25:225, it is now specified in part *B. Process* that any person completing a SOC must hold a St. Tammany Parish Library card and must reside in St. Tammany Parish. K. LaRocca reviewed the updated SOC form. K. LaRocca noted that the majority of the current SOCs cite the materials as being sexually explicit, therefore the Board will likely have to review most of them.

Public Comment:

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. Spoke highly of the eclipse glasses. Stated she is glad K. LaRocca mentioned doing background checks on staff, since so many people think that the library is run by pedophiles and pornographers. Supports the idea of staff making the decision with the option to appeal to the Board.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Covington, LA. Appreciates the efforts of the Board and staff for making policy decisions. Spoke of the library in the 1950s. Spoke of the small number of challenged titles in the 1980s. Spoke of those with an agenda and no knowledge of what is good for the library and community. Suggested requiring that the complainant speak to a librarian regarding a SOC they intend to submit.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Supports returning to the process of a staff committee making the decision. Stated per Jeff Landry's letter, "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." Suggested changing the collection policy to keep YA books in the YA section.

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. Supports returning to the process of a staff committee making the decision. Applauds the inclusion of the requirement that a complainant must hold a library card and must reside in the Parish. Thanked the library for providing the eclipse glasses.

Ruth Terry Sipos – Abita Springs, LA. Thanked the Board for trying to address issues that have come up and for taking pressure off the library staff. Supports returning to the process of a staff committee making the decision. Stated there is a future out there beyond this.

Terry Lewis Stevens – Covington, LA. Spoke of the two books on the agenda. Stated that in both cases, the complainant mentions Title 14 of the criminal law regarding obscenity. Stated that the District Attorney and Jeff Landry stated that there are no books in the library that rise to the level of obscenity. Suggested rejecting SOCs that clearly do not meet Title 14 criteria.

J. Airey spoke of streamlining the comments during LBOC meetings. He spoke of the Parish Council's brief time limits on public comments for appeals on multi-million-dollar subdivisions compared to hours being spent discussing one book at the LBOC meetings. Noted that he will not be on the Board much longer and suggested deferring to E. Couvillon for advice on how to streamline comments, while acting in accordance with LA R.S. 25:225. J. Airey stated that much like the library's budget reports that are presented to the Parish Council, the Board receives detailed reports from the review committees. He noted that the detailed reports will be helpful to the Board if any decisions are appealed. He acknowledged that most of the challenged materials will require automatic Board review due to LA R.S. 25:225, but agrees that returning to a committee decision with an option to appeal is appropriate in the long term.

A. Parr stated that returning to a process that functioned appropriately is ideal. B. McHugh responded to K. Marino's request to remove the question regarding LA R.S. 25:225 from the SOC form. B. McHugh stated that he argued to remove the question as well, but the reason it is included is because that question is on the recommended complaint form provided by the Attorney General. B. McHugh stated he is in favor of returning to a staff committee decision with the option to appeal, except for when the Board is required to review and decide in accordance with LA R.S. 25:225. He stated that librarians are professionals who know how to evaluate literature and returning to this process demonstrates support for the library staff.

The Board discussed time limits for submitting appeals under *Section C. Right to Appeal* and decided to amend the wording to include a time limit of 30 days to appeal a decision. E. Couvillon suggested the following wording change to amend Subsection C(1): "The complainant may appeal to the Library Board of Control by contacting the Assistant Director within 30 days of the mailing of the committee's decision and request to be placed on the agenda of the next available board meeting, except as provided by Subsection B(5) of this Section."

Vote: B. McHugh moved to approve the stated amendment to Subsection C(1). It was seconded by A. Parr. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

J. Airey suggested that the phrase "except as provided by Subsection B(5) of this Section" could be removed from Subsection C(1) if Subsection B(5) is amended to specifically reference "Subsection C(2-5)." E. Couvillon concurred that such a change would be sufficient, as the policy still references the exception that the Board is required to review SOCs of library materials that may include sexually explicit material in accordance with LA R.S. 25:225.

Vote: J. Airey moved to amend Subsection B(5) and Subsection C(1) with the suggested changes. It was seconded by A. Shaw. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to adopt the second version of *Section 407. Statements of Concern About Library Resources* with the amended changes. This option returns the decision-making process back to a staff committee with an option to appeal the decision to the LBOC, except for when the Board is required to review and decide on materials in accordance with LA R.S. 25:225. It was seconded by J. Airey. All were in favor, none were opposed, and one was absent. Motion carried.

H. Resolution to rescind December 13, 2022, Resolution regarding the temporary disposition of challenged materials

K. LaRocca read the resolution aloud. The resolution rescinds the December 13, 2022, resolution regarding the temporary disposition of challenged materials and directs library administration and staff to place challenged items back on the shelves with the rest of the library's collection. If adopted, the following text shall be added to *Section 407. Statements of Concern about Library Resources*: "An item that is under a Statement of Concern review shall remain classified and shelved in its current location until a decision is made concerning the item's disposition."

Public Comment:

Kim Turner – Mandeville, LA. Very happy with the Board's decisions and has been advocating for this for a year. Stated that she has never seen the main complainant attend a Board meeting. Referenced an incident of violence allegedly committed by the complainant against a library supporter. Stated that some books have saved children's lives.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Covington, LA. Spoke highly of the eclipse glasses, outreach events, and service statistics. Stated she is in favor of moving the books back to the shelves. Spoke of a few complainants having the right to control the shelving of a collection meant for all taxpayers.

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. Supports the resolution. Referenced a poster that he made showing the book covers of all the challenged materials. Thanked the Board for considering the resolution. Spoke highly of the eclipse glasses. Spoke of other Parish agencies emulating the library's budget presentation and stated that librarians make everything better.

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. Supports the resolution to return the books back to the shelves. Spoke of it being National Pro Bono week and how the library hosts the "Lawyers in Libraries" program where free legal services are available to the public. Noted that there are people who want to defund the library, but they should remember that the library is a great resource that helps so many people.

Ruth Terry Sipos – Abita Springs, LA. Supports returning the books back to the shelves. Stated that the Board was trying to appease a group that is not appeasable. Stated that privacy is her greatest concern and was happy to learn that what patrons read is confidential. Stated she wants kids to feel free to browse and not be shamed for what they are reading.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Asked if books with content that falls under the new law will return to their original location or where the law says they should be. Suggested that librarians review the books and move the ones that fall under the new law to the Adult section, and then Connie Phillips (the complainant) could potentially decide to rescind the challenges if she agrees with the decision. Recommended that people not attack Connie personally and stated

that is why she does not come to the meetings. Spoke about an incident that occurred outside of a Parish Council meeting and said that Connie was not at fault and that the other person was to blame. Asked if the card system is going to be the determining factor as to where the books go. Stated that the law references “access to minors” and he interpreted “access” as anywhere in the library and noted that minors are 17 and under.

K. LaRocca explained that there are 70 teen items, 11 children’s items, and 47 adult items in print that have been challenged. The 47 adult books would be returned to the Adult section. Stated that she has seen 10 out of the 11 children’s books and they do not contain sexual conduct as defined by LA R.S. 25:225, therefore they would return to the Children’s section.

K. LaRocca stated that she has not yet read all 70 teen (YA) items. She clarified that the card system does not state that there is no sexual material in the teen (YA) area and that YA books could potentially contain sexual conduct as defined by LA R.S. 25:225. The card system states that material in the YA collection does not contain material that has been deemed sexually explicit (as defined by LA R.S. 25:225) by the LBOC in an open public meeting. Stated that all of the items will still be reviewed by the Board so that they can determine whether or not they should be moved to the Adult section. She stated that the resolution places the books back on the YA shelves because they are YA books.

G. Lacoste asked if the books will go back to the YA shelves even if they fall under the new law.

E. Couvillon clarified that the law, as interpreted by Attorney General Jeff Landry, says that “access” refers to materials being checked out. She explained that the library has a card system in place that complies with and is more restrictive than LA R.S. 25:225. E. Couvillon reiterated that “access” does not mean physical location in the library. K. LaRocca reiterated that the items will be reviewed by library staff and the majority will be reviewed by the Board as well.

Terry Lewis Stevens – Covington, LA. Stated that Attorney General Jeff Landry, now Governor, issued a series of answers to questions that helped define and clarify the law. Stated this was not the Board’s decision; this was Jeff Landry’s decision to return the books to the shelves. Stated that parents have the option to restrict their minor children. Spoke highly of the eclipse glasses. In reference to the previous commenter, stated that she has C. Phillips’ behavior on video in slow motion and can share it.

J. Airey stated that prior to LA R.S. 25:225, he would have voted no to this. Stated that Attorney General Jeff Landry, now Governor-elect, has provided guidance on the statute. Stated that it is very clear from the language in the statute, the interpretation by legal counsel, and the guidance provided by the Attorney General, that “access” of the books does not mean physical “access” in the library. The State Legislature has directed us to do this. Stated he is in favor of the resolution.

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. Stated that Jeff Landry’s ruling on this was politically leaning. Stated that the books will go back to the shelves, but asked the Board not to forget how this

started. Stated that it began due to a group of bigoted religious zealots who decided they did not want to see a display in a library that featured LGBTQIA citizens. Stated they focused on books that contain gay, lesbian, and trans content. Spoke of the previously mentioned incident of physical violence. Stated that it did happen, it is on video, and it was done by the person who submitted the SOCs.

Discussion:

J. Airey noted that it was the current Governor, John Bel Edwards, who signed this into law.

B. McHugh stated that he has been advocating for this since he was appointed to the Board. Stated that the resolution of December 13, 2022, was adopted during a time of great uncertainty about the legal environment that the library was in because of book challenges, false claims of pornographic materials being in the library, and threats of arrests. Stated that the resolution led to more than 150 books being banished to a restricted area, consequently stigmatizing the books and the patrons who requested them. Stated this was largely due to the actions of one single person who restricted access to books from 87,000 patrons and 200,000+ citizens of St. Tammany Parish, just by filling out a SOC. Spoke of the opinion letter that Jeff Landry issued, which answered a number of questions that arose after the adoption of Act 436, now enacted into law as LA R.S. 25:225. B. McHugh read the question and answer from number five of that letter aloud: "Does La. R.S. 25:225 require that a library restrict a minor's access to library materials prior to check out? No." B. McHugh stated that public opinion is overwhelmingly in favor of leaving books in their original location on the shelves while challenges are being reviewed.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to adopt the resolution to rescind the December 13, 2022, resolution regarding the temporary disposition of challenged materials. It was seconded by A. Parr.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

I. Resolution to extend time to allow for procedural due process of pending statements of concern

K. LaRocca read aloud the resolution to extend the time limit to 120 days for responding to all pending SOCs and any SOCs that will be received until the next meeting of the LBOC scheduled for December 11, 2023.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Discussion: There was no discussion by the Board.

Vote: J. Airey moved to adopt the resolution to extend the time limit to 120 days to respond to pending SOCs. It was seconded by A. Parr.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

J. Statement of Concern Decision – *The Moon Within*

K. LaRocca presented the SOC for the book *The Moon Within* by Aida Salazar. The statement was submitted by Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

The recommended action by C. Phillips is: “Restrict access to minors as outlined in statute above. Require parent to check out for minor. The book should be shelved in a section where minors do not have access. A separate place in the library. A room or some section where minors do not have entry without parent and minors cannot check out. D.A. Warren Montgomery has instructed you to have a separate place where minors cannot go so shelve it in this section.”

Reason given: “Content violates the state obscenity statues [sic] 2021 Louisiana Laws - offensive to the average adult applying St. Tammany Parish community standards. Stop sexualization of our kids.”

K. LaRocca reviewed the book résumé which includes the publisher’s summary, number of print copies STPL owns (1), total circulation on all print copies (9), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *BookPage*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *School Library Journal*, *Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, *Booklist*, *Shelf Awareness*, and *Publisher’s Weekly*. Also noted are awards and lists featuring this title. A total of 997 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Juvenile Fiction section at STPL with J Sala 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 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 LA R.S. 14:91.11 must be true to be a violation of the statute. The committee did not find a violation of the statute.

Summary of Committee Report: The committee found no sexual conduct in the book. The book briefly describes genitals, but not in a lewd way. The book discusses puberty, body changes, and is meant for children who are approaching or who are going through puberty. The book addresses a gender-fluid child’s basic feelings about being accepted and does not go into details

about being transgender. The book has literary value as a story about friendship, acceptance, and support. The book is in verse and is a good introduction to the genre.

After the committee meeting, this title was also reviewed by Library Administration in light of Act 436, now enacted into law as LA R.S. 25:225. There is no sexual conduct in this book as described by the statute. Library Administration sees no conflicts with its original location and the new law.

Options for the Board: Return the book to the Juvenile Fiction section, move the book to Teen Fiction, move the book to Adult Fiction, keep the book permanently behind the circulation desk, or remove the book from the library.

Committee Recommendation: Book should remain in the collection and is appropriate in its original location in Juvenile Fiction. The main character is not yet a teen and there is no sex in the book.

Public comment:

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

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Stated the book does not have sexual conduct and does not fall under the new law. Stated that he does not hate anyone. Mentioned the displays and where this all started and stated that counselors agree that it is harmful to children if they are exposed to such things. Spoke of legality vs. morality. Reiterated his earlier comment that reviewing the material and having a conversation about it with the complainant could speed up the process.

Catalina Reyna – Mandeville, LA. Stated that she was born in Mexico and came to this country after a job offer due to her experience and degrees earned in Mexico and the United Kingdom. Stated that she pays taxes like any other hardworking immigrant. Stated that libraries are for everyone. Stated that it is absurd that the SOC indicates that the book violates the law. Stated that 9 out of the 10 paragraphs copied and pasted have the wrong page numbers. Stated that restricting the book demonizes women's menstruation. Asked for the library to purchase more copies and to return the book to the shelves. Read excerpts from the book aloud.

Rachel Rhodes – Mandeville, LA. Stated the book is a beautifully written and illustrated story about coming of age, menstruation, and gender identity. Stated that all challenges have been about LGBTQ topics, people of color, immigrants, and Jewish people. Stated it is dangerous rhetoric rooted in bigotry, hatred, and ignorance. Stated that there are 119 verses about a woman's period in the Bible. Stated there are verses about gender identity in the Torah and the

Talmud. Stated that the word “homosexual” was not in the Bible until 1946. Read excerpts from a children’s Bible aloud.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Covington, LA. Stated that it was a beautiful book. Stated that the story speaks to the 15,000 Hispanic and Latino residents in St. Tammany Parish. Stated it is important for girls, as puberty is beginning earlier now. Stated that the book gives a unique perspective on gender fluidity. Stated that the book fulfills the library’s mission statement.

Erin Kennedy – Folsom, LA. Spoke of Connie Phillips being the sole complainant of *The Moon Within*. Spoke of the character’s journey and story. Spoke of the moon ceremony that was meant to be a party to celebrate a milestone for Celi, the main character. Stated that the book allows a window to view different cultural milestones and identities. Stated that the book is appropriate for either the Juvenile or YA sections.

Terry Lewis Stevens – Covington, LA. Stated that the book is only in one branch, has been checked out nine times since 2020, and only one person has complained about the book. Stated that copies of challenged books have been stolen from library branches and suggested that cameras be installed. Stated that one of her sisters dressed like a boy while growing up. Her sister got married, had kids, and plays female sports. Stated that her sister is the definition of genderfluid and is a happy and loved adult.

Discussion:

B. Taylor stated that the book does not violate the statute. She is in favor of returning the book back to the shelves. A. Parr stated that it is a poignant coming-of-age story and celebrates Hispanic culture. B. McHugh stated that it is sad that it was only checked out nine times in three years. Stated the book provides a window into a culture not a lot of people in St. Tammany Parish are familiar with. Spoke of the theme of acceptance in the book.

Vote: A. Parr moved to affirm the committee’s recommendation to return *The Moon Within* to the Juvenile Fiction section. It was seconded by B. McHugh. J. Airey stated he did not read the book, so he abstained from voting. Roll call vote:

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

J. Airey exited the meeting. The meeting continued with a quorum of four board members.

K. Statement of Concern Decision – The Freedom Writer’s Diary

K. LaRocca presented the Statement of Concern for the book *The Freedom Writer’s Diary* by Freedom Writers. The statement was submitted by Connie Phillips, representing the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project. K. LaRocca read the statement aloud.

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

Reason given: “Content violates the state obscenity statues [sic], 2021 Louisiana Laws, Revised Statutes, Title 14 - Criminal Law, Summary of Concerns: This book contains sexual activities; sexual nudity; alternate sexualities; profanity and derogatory terms;[sic]”

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 (94), comparable library system statistics, reviews by *Library Journal*. A total of 2,701 public libraries across the nation own copies of the book. The title is shelved in the Adult Non-fiction section at STPL with 305.235 Fre 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 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 LA 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: While there are references to sexual acts and conduct, the book does not primarily consist of descriptions or depictions of sexual acts. The book is honest in its depiction and is not erotic. These scenes may be disturbing, harrowing, and shocking, but they are not gratuitous because it is always placed in a moral analysis. The scenes with sexual conduct and other violent situations are a testimony to the real events that the Freedom Writers experienced. The book’s primary audience is adults and has been shelved in the Adult Non-fiction section of the library.

After the committee meeting, this title was also reviewed by Library Administration in light of Act 436, now enacted into law as LA R.S. 25:225. Although there is sexual conduct described in the book, 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. Library Administration sees no conflicts with its original location and the new law.

Options for the Board: Return the book to the Adult Non-Fiction section, keep the book permanently behind the circulation desk, or remove the book from the library.

Committee Recommendation: Book should remain in the collection and is appropriate in its current location in Adult Non-Fiction.

Public comment:

Connie Phillips, the patron who submitted the Statement of Concern for *The Freedom Writer's Diary*, was offered five minutes for public comment. C. Phillips was not in attendance and did not appear for public comment.

Gary Lacoste – Abita Springs, LA. Stated he was not aware that the book was already originally shelved in the Adult section.

Rachel Rhodes – Mandeville, LA. Stated that the book moved her. Spoke of her experiences of being bullied in her childhood and teen years. Stated that many children and teachers in St. Tammany Parish can relate to this book. Spoke of her experiences being a teacher and being threatened by a gang leader in the school. Stated that she reached out to the gang leader with kindness instead of violence and they became friends. Stated that the book should be shelved in the YA section.

Bonnie Schmidt – Slidell, LA. Stated that the only good thing that has come out of this issue for her is that it has exposed her to books she did not know existed and would not have selected. Stated this is a wonderful book about second chances and how teenagers are able to change their lives for the better. Stated there is no sex in the book and that she thinks the Accountability Group does not understand the difference between sex and gender.

Joan Simon – Covington, LA. Stated that she concurs with the previous speaker. Stated she likes the idea of letting a mature teen read it. Thanked the Board for the work they are doing.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Covington, LA. Recommended both the book and the movie. Spoke of materials with people of color being selected purposefully to challenge. Spoke of the complainant not reading the book. Asked to keep the book in the Adult section or consider moving it to the YA section.

Ashlie Chatagnier – Folsom, LA. Stated she was surprised to learn that the book is already in the Adult non-fiction section. Stated she was under the impression it was YA. Stated it is about teens and their real-life experiences. Stated that while some stories might be difficult, teens go through terrible things each day. Asked about the reference collection of the challenged books at Covington and Slidell. K. LaRocca confirmed that the reference collection will continue to consist of books that are currently under challenge so that anyone can review them.

Terry Lewis Stevens – Covington, LA. Commended Keith Dennis, a candidate for Parish Council, for coming to observe how this Board deliberates. Stated that this issue was created by one person who had a problem with the books and it has now become a political problem and a campaign issue. Stated that the source of the list of books are unknown and that C. Phillips did not read any of them. Spoke of the amount of time spent managing an unmanageable issue.

Noted that no one has complained about this book before and it has been on the shelf since 2007.

Discussion:

A. Parr spoke from a retired teacher’s perspective and is in favor of returning the title back to the shelves. B. Taylor agreed and stated that it was a very enlightening book. B. McHugh stated that his review of the book is, “Wow!” He asked why anyone would want to restrict access to this book. He agreed that it should be returned to the shelves.

Vote: A. Parr moved to affirm the committee’s recommendation to return *The Freedom Writer’s Diary* to the Adult Non-fiction section. 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 A. Shaw and was seconded by A. Parr. All were in favor, none were opposed, and two were absent. Motion carried.

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Special Meeting
October 27, 2023
Causeway Branch Library
3457 US-190
Mandeville, LA 70471
11:00 AM**

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: Carmen Butler, Bill McHugh, Anthony Parr, Ann Shaw, Becky Taylor

Absent: Jake Airey

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

B. Taylor stated that this is a special board meeting for voting on the Fall Budget Amendment and the Board will only be discussing that one agenda item. B. Taylor explained that the Fall Budget Amendment was discussed on Monday, October 23, 2023, but a motion and a second was inadvertently skipped before the roll call vote.

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fall Budget Amendment

K. LaRocca provided copies of the Fall Budget Amendment and resolution that was previously distributed to each board member and was presented, discussed, and read aloud on Monday, October 23, 2023.

Discussion: B. Taylor complimented K. LaRocca on the format of the budget amendment presentations and stated they are very clear and understandable. There was no further discussion by the Board.

Public comment: There was no public comment.

Vote: B. McHugh moved to approve the Fall Budget Amendment resolution. It was seconded by A. Parr.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

2. Adjournment

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

Rebecca Taylor, Board President

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

2

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$	7,778,689.59
Cash - Health Claims		(22,943.45)
Due from Paylocity		0.00
Due from Employee		112.08
Returned Checks		0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2021		0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2022		0.00
Ad Valorem Receivable - 2023		9,661,666.70
Due from State of Louisiana		195,097.96
Prepaid Expenses		0.00

Total Current Assets **17,612,622.88**

Other Assets

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

Total Assets **\$ 17,614,603.88**

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$	16,135.00
Accrued Expenses		32,787.00
Accrued Salaries		189,735.09
Deferred Inflows - Ad Valorem		167,512.00
Elective Benefits Payable		(2,124.34)
Retirement Payable		68,040.69
Health Claims Payable		255,932.55
Due to Employee		219.82

Total Current Liabilities **728,237.81**

Fund Balance

Fund Balance		16,886,366.07
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Total Fund Balance **16,886,366.07**

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance **\$ 17,614,603.88**

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**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Ten Months Ending October 31, 2023**

	<u>Current Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Act</u> <u>to YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Revenues					
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,051,535.64	\$ 9,747,035.67	11,804,136.00	2,057,100.33	82.57
State Revenue Sharing	21,052.33	210,523.30	258,515.00	47,991.70	81.44
Fines/Fees	7,329.16	65,344.97	76,125.00	10,780.03	85.84
Interest Income	14,177.26	161,062.78	194,000.00	32,937.22	83.02
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations Received	7,819.60	23,164.61	50,000.00	26,835.39	46.33
Summer Reading Shirt Sales	0.00	2,118.98	2,119.00	0.02	100.00
Total Revenues	<u>1,101,913.99</u>	<u>10,209,250.31</u>	<u>12,384,895.00</u>	<u>2,175,644.69</u>	<u>82.43</u>
Expenditures					
Library Administration	410,193.54	4,453,570.06	5,499,450.00	1,045,879.94	80.98
Employee Benefits	153,389.38	1,944,786.04	2,220,415.00	275,628.96	87.59
Advertising,Dues & Subscriptio	4,689.32	38,550.48	54,000.00	15,449.52	71.39
Signage	0.00	447.62	1,000.00	552.38	44.76
Printing, Duplicating & Bindin	1,299.24	14,067.48	23,000.00	8,932.52	61.16
Promotional Production	2,461.05	10,121.43	15,350.00	5,228.57	65.94
Utilities	28,846.02	281,980.89	336,450.00	54,469.11	83.81
Communications	13,771.08	115,719.29	142,300.00	26,580.71	81.32
Leases	27,660.34	273,538.62	325,650.00	52,111.38	84.00
Maintenance of Property & Equi	42,936.52	523,669.75	601,050.00	77,380.25	87.13
Maintenance Services (Building	29,768.12	237,837.68	298,405.00	60,567.32	79.70
Professional Services	21,019.79	273,770.27	324,925.00	51,154.73	84.26
Insurance and Claims	0.00	230,646.86	231,626.00	979.14	99.58
Operating Supplies	18,553.86	154,635.67	183,750.00	29,114.33	84.16
Travel & Continuing Education	4,220.12	45,091.38	65,000.00	19,908.62	69.37
Public Relations/Programming	11,938.18	93,577.44	125,000.00	31,422.56	74.86
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq.	59,304.36	317,225.23	470,758.00	153,532.77	67.39
Capital Outlay-library Res. Ac	111,390.71	1,179,492.21	1,466,500.00	287,007.79	80.43
Total Expenditures	<u>941,441.63</u>	<u>10,188,728.40</u>	<u>12,384,629.00</u>	<u>2,195,900.60</u>	<u>82.27</u>
Excess of Revenues/(Expenditur	<u>\$ 160,472.36</u>	<u>\$ 20,521.91</u>	<u>266.00</u>	<u>(20,255.91)</u>	<u>7,715.00</u>

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

Beginning Fund Balance	\$	16,865,844.16
Net Income		20,521.91
Ending Fund Balance	\$	<u>16,886,366.07</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Ten Months Ending October 31, 2023

	<u>Current Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Library Administration					
Library Salaries	\$ 410,193.54	\$ 4,453,570.06	\$ 5,499,450.00	1,045,879.94	80.98
Total	\$ 410,193.54	\$ 4,453,570.06	\$ 5,499,450.00	1,045,879.94	80.98
Employee Benefits					
FICA/ Supplemental Retirement	\$ 9,272.66	\$ 101,181.05	\$ 120,415.00	19,233.95	84.03
Retirement Contributions	45,107.99	437,679.91	522,000.00	84,320.09	83.85
Health Insurance Expense	33,872.74	315,713.78	450,000.00	134,286.22	70.16
Health Trust	65,135.99	1,078,340.05	1,115,000.00	36,659.95	96.71
Worker's Compensation Expense	0.00	11,871.25	12,000.00	128.75	98.93
Employee Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 153,389.38	\$ 1,944,786.04	\$ 2,220,415.00	275,628.96	87.59
Advertising, Dues & Subscriptions					
Publication of Legal Notices	\$ 0.00	\$ 11,159.67	\$ 15,000.00	3,840.33	74.40
Membership Dues	(949.92)	1,040.08	7,500.00	6,459.92	13.87
Advertising	5,639.24	26,350.73	31,500.00	5,149.27	83.65
Total	\$ 4,689.32	\$ 38,550.48	\$ 54,000.00	15,449.52	71.39
Signage					
Signage	\$ 0.00	\$ 447.62	\$ 1,000.00	552.38	44.76
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 447.62	\$ 1,000.00	552.38	44.76
Printing, Duplicating & Binding					
Printing	\$ 1,299.24	\$ 10,988.43	\$ 15,000.00	4,011.57	73.26
Book Binding	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Patron Cards	0.00	3,079.05	5,000.00	1,920.95	61.58
Total	\$ 1,299.24	\$ 14,067.48	\$ 23,000.00	8,932.52	61.16
Promotional Production					
Promotional Production	\$ 2,461.05	\$ 10,121.43	\$ 15,350.00	5,228.57	65.94
Total	\$ 2,461.05	\$ 10,121.43	\$ 15,350.00	5,228.57	65.94

St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Ten Months Ending October 31, 2023

	<u>Current Period</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual to</u> <u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>
Utilities					
Electricity	\$ 24,413.20	\$ 240,384.69	\$ 286,840.00	46,455.31	83.80
Gas	94.00	2,059.18	2,850.00	790.82	72.25
Water	4,338.82	39,537.02	46,760.00	7,222.98	84.55
Total	\$ 28,846.02	\$ 281,980.89	\$ 336,450.00	54,469.11	83.81
Communications					
Postage	\$ 4,142.35	\$ 13,549.79	\$ 15,800.00	2,250.21	85.76
Voice Line	6,971.99	65,053.89	79,500.00	14,446.11	81.83
Data Lines (Internet)	2,586.67	36,600.26	46,000.00	9,399.74	79.57
Courier/Shipping	70.07	515.35	1,000.00	484.65	51.54
Total	\$ 13,771.08	\$ 115,719.29	\$ 142,300.00	26,580.71	81.32
Leases					
Building Lease Expense	\$ 25,263.08	\$ 268,247.48	\$ 318,150.00	49,902.52	84.31
Equipment Lease Expense	2,397.26	5,291.14	5,000.00	(291.14)	105.82
Vehicle Lease Expense	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Total	\$ 27,660.34	\$ 273,538.62	\$ 325,650.00	52,111.38	84.00
Maintenance of Property & Equipment					
Custodial and Janitorial	\$ 24,917.35	\$ 184,583.30	\$ 212,000.00	27,416.70	87.07
Grounds/Lawn Maintenance	2,140.00	65,012.00	85,000.00	19,988.00	76.48
Maintenance Supplies	333.86	8,301.60	10,000.00	1,698.40	83.02
Fuel & Lube	2,819.54	25,643.42	37,000.00	11,356.58	69.31
Vehicle Repairs	(868.49)	7,872.52	10,000.00	2,127.48	78.73
Small Tools	45.99	2,058.33	3,000.00	941.67	68.61
Office Machine & Equip Repair	0.00	504.92	1,000.00	495.08	50.49
Network Utility Software	12,731.33	140,533.96	152,250.00	11,716.04	92.30
Automation System Maintenance	816.94	30,649.09	30,800.00	150.91	99.51
Polaris Maintenance	0.00	53,635.61	54,000.00	364.39	99.33
PC Network Maintenance & Repai	0.00	4,875.00	6,000.00	1,125.00	81.25
Total	\$ 42,936.52	\$ 523,669.75	\$ 601,050.00	77,380.25	87.13
Maintenance of Services (Buildings)					
Physical Plant	\$ 27,246.63	\$ 160,205.16	\$ 177,000.00	16,794.84	90.51
Plumbing, Heating and AC	523.55	46,964.78	66,500.00	19,535.22	70.62
Electrical	223.93	12,628.66	17,000.00	4,371.34	74.29
Sanitation	879.01	8,249.08	10,000.00	1,750.92	82.49
Pest Control	475.00	5,825.00	7,350.00	1,525.00	79.25

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Ten Months Ending October 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	420.00	2,915.00	3,555.00	640.00	82.00
Carpet Cleaning	0.00	1,050.00	17,000.00	15,950.00	6.18
Total	\$ 29,768.12	\$ 237,837.68	\$ 298,405.00	60,567.32	79.70
Professional Services					
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 2,921.09	\$ 30,616.86	\$ 47,100.00	16,483.14	65.00
Legal	60.00	11,584.20	15,000.00	3,415.80	77.23
Financial	1,582.50	44,611.44	53,000.00	8,388.56	84.17
Consultants	14,600.82	81,319.22	90,000.00	8,680.78	90.35
Security	1,855.38	13,179.32	14,000.00	820.68	94.14
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
Total	\$ 21,019.79	\$ 273,770.27	\$ 324,925.00	51,154.73	84.26
Insurance and Claims					
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	0.00	1,940.00	2,076.00	136.00	93.45
General Liability	0.00	25,100.64	25,100.00	(0.64)	100.00
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 230,646.86	\$ 231,626.00	979.14	99.58
Operating Supplies					
Office Supplies	\$ 2,802.86	\$ 26,595.28	\$ 33,000.00	6,404.72	80.59
Bank Service Charges	1,168.19	12,999.89	16,000.00	3,000.11	81.25
Book Preparation Supplies	4,651.96	38,919.73	47,000.00	8,080.27	82.81
Computer/Printer Supplies	8,704.58	68,533.30	78,750.00	10,216.70	87.03
Programming Supplies	1,226.27	7,587.47	9,000.00	1,412.53	84.31
Total	\$ 18,553.86	\$ 154,635.67	\$ 183,750.00	29,114.33	84.16
Travel and Continuing Education					
Staff Travel - Local	\$ 2,284.14	\$ 11,493.11	\$ 22,000.00	10,506.89	52.24
Library In-service Training	1,205.00	3,785.93	9,000.00	5,214.07	42.07
Conventions & Seminars	730.98	29,812.34	34,000.00	4,187.66	87.68
Total	\$ 4,220.12	\$ 45,091.38	\$ 65,000.00	19,908.62	69.37

Public Relations/Programming

**St. Tammany Parish Library-General Fund
Schedule of Expenditures
For the Ten Months Ending October 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	\$ 0.00	\$ 26,712.02	\$ 45,000.00	18,287.98	59.36
Summer Reading T-shirts	0.00	6,575.59	6,600.00	24.41	99.63
Adult Programming	5,636.26	36,374.13	38,000.00	1,625.87	95.72
Young Adult Programming	2,541.00	13,839.26	15,000.00	1,160.74	92.26
Juvenile Programming	3,760.92	8,728.52	18,600.00	9,871.48	46.93
LEH Grant	0.00	1,347.92	1,800.00	452.08	74.88
Total	\$ 11,938.18	\$ 93,577.44	\$ 125,000.00	31,422.56	74.86
Capital Outlay-Non-Book Acq					
Landscape Additions	\$ 0.00	\$ 19,700.00	\$ 33,000.00	13,300.00	59.70
Imp Phys Plant	3,000.00	21,300.00	66,000.00	44,700.00	32.27
Vehicles	51,872.79	61,475.54	63,758.00	2,282.46	96.42
Office Equip, Furn & Shelving	2,683.04	49,889.63	93,500.00	43,610.37	53.36
PC Network	1,748.53	153,751.61	165,000.00	11,248.39	93.18
Integrated Lib Automation Sys	0.00	11,108.45	11,500.00	391.55	96.60
Audio/Visual Equipment	0.00	0.00	38,000.00	38,000.00	0.00
Total	\$ 59,304.36	\$ 317,225.23	\$ 470,758.00	153,532.77	67.39
Capital Outlay-Library Res. Acq.					
Adult Books	\$ 13,447.30	\$ 181,313.93	\$ 220,000.00	38,686.07	82.42
Lease/Purchase Books	0.00	18,203.89	18,400.00	196.11	98.93
Juvenile Books	22,585.72	65,181.98	105,000.00	39,818.02	62.08
Young Adults	990.31	10,481.37	15,000.00	4,518.63	69.88
Music Recordings	110.90	2,309.56	2,400.00	90.44	96.23
Adult Reference	4,881.34	68,484.26	111,000.00	42,515.74	61.70
Juvenile Reference	11,907.94	14,274.24	45,000.00	30,725.76	31.72
Periodicals	0.00	46,687.67	49,000.00	2,312.33	95.28
Audio Recordings	380.92	9,573.68	12,100.00	2,526.32	79.12
Video Recordings	4,232.63	47,340.29	63,000.00	15,659.71	75.14
Genealogy	1,095.29	3,115.13	5,000.00	1,884.87	62.30
Microfilm	0.00	5,867.00	6,000.00	133.00	97.78
Downloadable Media	40,829.64	398,131.38	425,000.00	26,868.62	93.68
CD/Software	0.00	58,572.65	62,500.00	3,927.35	93.72
Internet Database Subscription	10,928.72	249,955.18	327,100.00	77,144.82	76.42
Total	\$ 111,390.71	\$ 1,179,492.21	\$ 1,466,500.00	287,007.79	80.43
Capital Expenditures					
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0.00	0.00

Director's Report

December 11, 2023

FACILITIES

Painting of the exterior of the South Slidell Library will be completed within the next week to 10 days.

Painting of the exterior soffit and fascia at the Pearl River Library will be completed before the end of the year.

New storage cabinets and countertops were installed at Tech Services and installation was completed on December 8.

The Lee Road Library had interior wall repair, painting and a staff lounge remodel completed, including new cabinets and countertops at the end of October. Two damaged windows were also replaced.

The staff lounge remodel at the Abita Springs Library, including new cabinets and countertops will be completed by the end of the year.

A new picnic table that was donated by the Friends of the Slidell Library, was installed on December 6 in front of the South Slidell Library.

Maintenance purchased a new walk-behind forklift to use at the new Annex building to facilitate storage for the Friends of the Slidell Library and Friends of the Library of West St. Tammany's thrift books, other maintenance supplies, and general library storage.

A new transmission was installed in the book delivery van.

The exterior parking lot lights that are broken will be replaced at the Slidell Library before the end of the year.

CARD SYSTEM UPDATE

The card system that was rolled out in November of 2022 is still in place as we work to update the system that was adopted in September. We are currently training staff on the recent changes in the card system, with half of all training sessions completed last week and the other half being conducted this week. The new rollout date for the card system updates is January 2nd, 2023. Putting us six months ahead of the deadline. A specific presentation on the card system updates will be given later in this meeting.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Ramona Elder, Children's Librarian at Mandeville, held a StoryWalk® outreach at Marigny Elementary on November 1. She also performed story time at Kindhaus Montessori and Woodlake Elementary School in November and December.

Tanya DiMaggio, Assistant Director of Support Services, and Antoinette McGee, Covington ERC manager, performed outreach for the Trick or Treat Festival at Atkins Park in Covington on October 31.

Susan Badon, Madisonville Children's Librarian, performed story time at Kidz Klubhouse on October 30, November 13, and November 27.

Ethan Drott, Adult Programming Assistant, and Jackie Riecke, Public Relations and Community Coordinator, attended Family Fun Day on November 4.

Erika Dawson, Children's Librarian at South Slidell, performed story time at St. Margaret Mary on November 3.

Jillian Boudreaux, Adult Programming Coordinator, and Jackie Riecke went on the Lake and Highway radio stations on November 3 to promote NaNoWriMo and Library events.

Kellie Nelson, Reference Librarian for the Causeway Branch, Jenny Mayer, Children's Services Coordinator, Eugenie Brignac, Covington Children's Librarian, Erika Dawson, and Jillian Boudreaux, performed outreach at the Three Rivers Art Festival on November 11 and 12.

Alexis Davis, Slidell Children's Librarian, performed story time at Appletree on November 2 and Saint Margaret Mary on December 8. She also performed outreach at Bonne Ecole for the Books and Blankets Event on November 14.

Ramona Elder, Robert Barnes, Covington Reference Librarian, Erika Dawson, Ellen John, Reference Alexis Davis, Ethan Drott, Eugenie Brignac, and Jenny Mayer performed outreach at STEM Quest on November 20, 21 and 22.

Jillian Boudreaux and Jenny Mayer spoke on the Lake and Highway radio stations on December 1 to promote Library holiday events.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tanya DiMaggio, Brent Geiger, Assistant Director of Public Services, and Kelly LaRocca, Director, attended the State Library of Louisiana Administrators Conference on November 3.

Abby Mayfield, Teen Services East Librarian, attended the YALSA Young Adult Services Symposium from November 10 through November 12.

Byron Holdiman, Genealogy Librarian, presented at the Statewide Support for Local Genealogical Societies for the Illinois State Genealogical Society Conference in Bloomington, IL on October 28.

Jackie Riecke attended the Library Marketing and Communications Conference in Indianapolis, IN on November 6 and 7.

Sarah Aucoin, Slidell Reference Librarian, attended the 2023 Candid Community Train-the-Trainer Day on November 15.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The Kids Catalog, a standalone catalog made for children's materials, launched on December 11 on the library's website and on all children's area Open Public Access Catalog (OPAC) computers. The new catalog creates an isolated browsing experience for children and their parents as there are no backlinks to the larger catalog to prevent children from searching for books that are not available to them. The Kids Catalog can be accessed from our main website navigation menu and the Kids' Section page.

Santa and Mrs. Claus are visiting the libraries this month, each alternating between our small and large branches. At the events, families and their children are invited to enjoy fun activities, singing, a treat, a StoryWalk® as well as free photos with Santa or Mrs. Claus; however, guests are required to bring their own camera for photos. The full schedule of the visits can be found on our website at sttammanylibrary.org/santa.

Holiday Concerts were held at the South Slidell and Madisonville Libraries. On December 2, a "Celtic Holiday: Harp Concert" was performed by the Northshore Celtic Harp Ensemble at South Slidell. On December 9, a "Holiday Jam Session" was performed by the Northshore Traditional Music Society at the Madisonville Library.

In November, LinkedIn Learning was launched as a new service available to patrons. The service allows library cardholders access to over 16,000 business, creative, and technology-based online courses to enhance career skills. This service can be accessed via our website or through LinkedIn Learning's mobile apps for learning on the go. This service normally costs individuals \$39.99 if purchased monthly or close to \$240 if paid annually. Now this service is available for free with a library card.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Susan Badon, Madisonville Children's Librarian, was promoted to Madisonville Branch Manager.

CONTRACTS

New

- **LinkedIn learning** - \$3,330
Online courses on business, creative, and technology skills
- **Mango Languages** - \$12,412
Language instruction program
- **LittlePim** - \$4,125
Language instruction program for children

Renewals

- **Bibliocommons** - \$7,378.22 for renewal of Biblio Apps (library catalog and events app for patrons)
- **SHI International** - \$944.22 for renewal of KACE Systems maintenance
- **Scholastic** - \$11,432.00 for a renewal of BookFlix Database (online literacy resource for kids)
- **Gale** - \$1,698.90 for a renewal of National Geographic Kids Database (online literacy resource for kids)
- **Age of Learning** - \$9,705.02 for a renewal of ABC Mouse Database (online literacy resource for kids)
- **Infobase** - \$2,477.60 for a renewal of Access Video On Demand: Just for Kids Database (online literacy resource for kids)
- **Educate Station** - \$1,442.00 for a renewal of Educate Station Database (online literacy resource for homeschoolers, teachers, and parents)

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

We have received 26 public records requests since the beginning of November 2022. Five are currently outstanding. We have had 1 new request since our last meeting.

STATEMENTS OF CONCERN

To date, the library has received 220 statements of concern on 173 titles since August 2022. The most recent statement of concern was submitted on October 13th, 2023. We also had 4 titles rescinded by the challenger. The library board has made decisions on 22 titles and will be deciding on two titles this evening. We will then have 145 titles 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 met at the end of October and in November.

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

Goal 2. The St. Tammany Parish Library will proactively reduce barriers to participation and involvement by increasing accessibility to all community members in its physical facilities and its digital presence.

Goal 3. The St. Tammany Parish Library will be a thriving, energetic community commons by complementing traditional library services with innovative new services, technology and digital resources.

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

Goal 7. The St. Tammany Parish Library will ensure that its staff has the resources and professional development opportunities needed to underpin the library's goals for the future and maintain its reputation for excellence in customer service.

For goal number 1, we had a list of forms and policies translated into Spanish.

For goal number 2, we resurrected the neurodiversity task force to see what we could do to reduce barriers to library service. This committee is currently brainstorming.

For goal number 3, the library sent two staff members to the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services conference to research possible outreach vehicle options. Upon their return, the staff members gave the administration a full report of their findings.

For goal number 4, the library committee worked on contacting art instructors at public high schools so that we could showcase community art from local organizations and schools. We also determined that we needed to visit local maker spaces to work on a longer-term project for goal 4.

For goal number 7, the library sent out e-mails to the comparison libraries identified so that Gallagher could send out its salary survey.

October 2023 Service Statistics

Branch	Adult Books	CD	DVD	ILL	Juv Bks	Mag	Pbks	YA	Virtual	Total Circulation	Computer Usage	Door Count	Wireless Inside	Wireless Outside
Admin/Annex	270	50	92	32	222			13		679				
Abita	504	72	284	8	454			28		1,350	185	2,210	143	366
Bush	157	16	246	8	190	1		28		646	97	823	40	140
Causeway	1924	133	817	31	2269	17		134		5,325	552	5,949	1,241	1,478
Covington	3366	311	1782	43	3691	99	45	235		9,572	1,404	7,106	2,811	1,242
Folsom	432	26	289	14	432	72		27		1,292	296	1,510	143	201
Lacombe	257	18	364	8	378	3	9	31		1,068	274	3,249	143	177
Lee Road	268	46	65	3	285	9	4	9		689	53	749	56	208
Madisonville	1113	98	495	18	1851	6		95		3,676	416	4,500	1,022	611
Mandeville	2377	230	728	47	3483	32		198		7,095	963	6,406	886	656
Pearl River	410	13	187	15	453	11	82	27		1,198	191	2,153	118	226
Slidell	3312	264	1333	41	3661	232	214	310		9,367	1,948	11,158	1,608	2,719
South Slidell	650	61	764	23	1141	21	3	44		2,707	1,273	5,873	828	1,129
Virtual ¹									33,704	33,704				
Total	15,040	1,338	7,354	291	18,510	503	357	1,179	33,704	78,368	7,652	51,686	9,039	9,153

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: 609

November 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	216	48	131	38	97	8	8	12		558				
Abita	564	44	246	22	385	17		30		1,308	132	1,795	115	261
Bush	177	17	338	7	135	3		7		684	85	792	53	145
Causeway	1791	140	962	22	2167	36		136		5,254	469	5,131	1,150	1,335
Covington	2903	265	1605	33	3180	117	63	216		8,382	979	5,635	2,179	1,066
Folsom	387	21	305	9	310	102		38		1,172	263	1,028	120	164
Lacombe	181	7	284	6	221			19		718	204	2,871	113	180
Lee Road	283	33	124	3	351	7	12	6		819	66	608	54	210
Madisonville	1002	76	373	16	1231	12		101		2,811	305	2,979	831	503
Mandeville	2263	205	792	52	2889	42	2	226		6,471	766	5,152	800	584
Pearl River	344	19	237	14	404	6	32	27		1,083	130	1,350	89	201
Slidell	3118	275	1270	34	3454	253	151	272		8,827	1,475	8,749	1,257	2,267
South Slidell	572	87	626	15	966	4		36		2,306	1,204	4,809	741	1,028
Virtual ¹									32,323	32,323				
Total	13,801	1,237	7,162	271	15,790	607	268	1,126	32,323	72,716	6,078	40,899	7,502	7,944

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:

YTD Jan - Nov 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	3,022	738	1,422	455	4,737	23	8	296		10,701				
Abita	6,788	589	2,977	232	6,271	139		306		17,302	2,065	22,258	1,337	3,325
Bush	1,930	210	3,981	78	1,897	121		152		8,369	1,040	9,581	509	1,461
Causeway	24,524	1,634	10,200	457	25,331	446		1,960		64,552	6,326	61,857	14,252	17,264
Covington	39,273	3,326	18,713	411	44,327	1,255	766	2,494		110,565	13,400	72,617	30,616	13,831
Folsom	4,893	326	3,985	95	5,084	1,020		299		15,702	3,050	15,013	1,588	2,319
Lacombe	3,120	277	3,151	83	3,580	38	11	338		10,598	2,606	31,141	1,366	1,838
Lee Road	3,720	367	1,639	38	3,963	108	53	144		10,032	903	8,033	776	2,321
Madisonville	14,519	1,556	5,105	210	21,510	268		1,404		44,572	4,472	45,482	10,937	6,412
Mandeville	29,474	3,018	9,953	489	44,044	579	26	2,676		90,259	12,025	71,377	9,991	6,988
Pearl River	4,519	168	2,321	264	3,824	75	434	240		11,845	2,594	20,110	1,233	2,245
Slidell	40,594	3,642	15,373	443	44,029	2,067	2,729	3,971		112,848	21,260	120,581	16,646	17,835
South Slidell	7,323	767	6,419	221	10,368	113	72	759		26,042	14,436	56,372	8,071	11,505
Virtual ¹									359,907	359,907				
Total	183,699	16,618	83,817	3,476	218,965	6,252	4,099	15,039	359,907	893,294	84,177	534,422	97,322	87,344

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:

Library Foundation Alcohol Request

The St. Tammany Library Foundation will hold its annual membership meeting on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024, at Madisonville. It is requested that the Foundation be allowed to serve wine. The wine will be served along with food and available only in the meeting room at Madisonville.

Approval is required by the Board for any alcohol served at the library, as the Rules and Regulations do not allow for alcohol without approval. A motion and second will be required for approval.

Election of Officers

As is required in the Library Board of Control Rules and Regulations, all members were asked before the final meeting of the year to determine willingness to continue to serve or members wishing to serve in a new capacity.

The Slate:

- President – Rebecca Taylor
- Vice President - Ann Shaw
- Secretary - Anthony Parr

A motion and a second will be required to elect the slate of officers.



ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY CARD TYPES FOR MINORS AGES 5-17

Parents will choose a juvenile card level when creating a new card, or when prompted to update a card for any minor in their care.*

Juvenile Full Restriction Card

Cardholders **may only** check out materials in the Children's Collections. Cardholders **may NOT** check out any materials in the Young Adult Collections or any Adult Collections, including magazines in the Teen area.

NO DIGITAL ACCESS OPTION - MAY NOT ACCESS DIGITAL RESOURCES

Materials in the Children's Collections shall not contain sexually explicit material as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.

Juvenile Semi Restriction Card

Cardholders **may** check out materials in the Children's Collections. Cardholders **may also** check out books in the Young Adult Collections. Cardholders **may NOT** check out any materials in any Adult Collections, including Adult non-fiction items that have a YA sticker.

NO DIGITAL ACCESS OPTION - MAY NOT ACCESS DIGITAL RESOURCES

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.

Digital Resources

Digital Resources are any book, e-book, e-audiobook, video book, essay, newspaper, magazine, film, or any other library material that is provided in a digital format. 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.

Cardholders **may** check any DVDs except R-rated. Cardholders **may NOT** check out **R-rated DVDs**.

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 or 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.

Cardholders may check any DVDs including R-rated with parental permission.

*Parents and guardians of children ages 10-17 can also choose whether or not their child may use the internet in the library without supervision for all card types. All children 9 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times in St. Tammany Parish libraries and must be present when their child uses the internet.

Digital Access permission grants full access to all online databases and online resources. To review the full list scan this QR code.



Juvenile Full Restriction NDA and Juvenile Semi Restriction NDA

CLOUD LIBRARY	HOOPLA EBOOKS AND EAUDIOBOOKS ARE UNRATED.	HOOPLA MOVIES	HOOPLA TV	HOOPLA COMICS	LIBBY
NO ACCESS	NO ACCESS	NO ACCESS	NO ACCESS	NO ACCESS	NO ACCESS

Juvenile Full Restriction

CLOUD LIBRARY	HOOPLA EBOOKS AND EAUDIOBOOKS ARE UNRATED. PARENT MUST TURN ON KIDS MODE TO RESTRICT EAUDIOS & EBOOKS	HOOPLA MOVIES	HOOPLA TV	HOOPLA COMICS	LIBBY
NO ACCESS	FULL ACCESS	RATED G ONLY	RATED TVY & TVG ONLY	RATED E ONLY	JUV CONTENT ONLY

Juvenile Semi Restriction

CLOUD LIBRARY	HOOPLA EBOOKS AND EAUDIOBOOKS ARE UNRATED. PARENT MUST TURN ON KIDS MODE TO RESTRICT EAUDIOS & EBOOKS	HOOPLA MOVIES	HOOPLA TV	HOOPLA COMICS	LIBBY
NO ACCESS	FULL ACCESS	RATED G ONLY	RATED TVY & TVG ONLY	RATED E ONLY	JUV & YA CONTENT ONLY

Juvenile

CLOUD LIBRARY	HOOPLA EBOOKS AND EAUDIOBOOKS ARE UNRATED. PARENT MUST TURN ON KIDS MODE TO RESTRICT EAUDIOS & EBOOKS	HOOPLA MOVIES	HOOPLA TV	HOOPLA COMICS	LIBBY
FULL ACCESS	FULL ACCESS	RATED G ONLY	RATED TVY & TVG ONLY	RATED E ONLY	FULL ACCESS

Juvenile Unrestricted

CLOUD LIBRARY	HOOPLA EBOOKS AND EAUDIOBOOKS ARE UNRATED. PARENT MUST TURN ON KIDS MODE TO RESTRICT EAUDIOS & EBOOKS	HOOPLA MOVIES	HOOPLA TV	HOOPLA COMICS	LIBBY
FULL ACCESS	FULL ACCESS	FULL ACCESS	FULL ACCESS	FULL ACCESS	FULL ACCESS

Message Examples

When a patron tries to borrow an item and they have an NDA card type.

HOOPLA

While Hoopla allows a user to log in with a formerly registered email address updated to an NDA card type, all borrows are blocked, even in Kids Mode.

Home > Comics > Snoopy's Thanksgiving

Snoopy's Thanksgiving 2014

Fantagraphics Books English 64 Print Pages

by Charles M. Schulz
illustrated by Charles M. Schulz

Part of the Peanuts Seasonal Collection series

Sometimes getting together with friends and family for Thanksgiving isn't all that it's cracked up to be. Snoopy learns when his brother Spike invites him to spend Thanksgiving in the desert, and things don't quite go as planned. At least it's a change of pace for Snoopy, who spends most Thanksgivings with the old supply one lonely one at the malt shoppe as Joe Cool. It's also a tense time of year to be a bird who's afraid of being mistaken for a turkey and roasted, and Woodstock copes with his anxieties in various ways, including...

Comic

Rate This Title

★★★★★ (78)

Humorous Children's

BORROW

This title is available for 21 days after you borrow it. This title is available for streaming and downloading (mobile devices only).

Similar Artists

Barbara Hanau, Jeff Kinney, Jeffrey H. Schwartz, Robert L. Mey, Rosemary Greenholtz Thong, Suzanne Brennan

Our Community Our Content Our Communities Our Social

Our Story Audiobooks hoopla book club Facebook

Sorry, our lending policy does not allow you to borrow this title. For further assistance, please contact the library.

CloudLibrary & Libby

When a patron with an NDA card type tries to login, they will receive the following error messages:

CloudLibrary

Library Card Information

Library Card Id

Library Card Pin

By logging in, you have read and agree to the following:
[Terms of Use](#), [Privacy Policy](#), [End User License Agreement \(EULA\)](#)

Error authenticating your account. Please try again.

LOGIN

Libby

BACK

We could not verify your card. Your library said.

Invalid Library Card: 98523000025035. Not a valid St. Tammany Parish Library card.

If you continue to have difficulties, please [get in touch](#).

Try Again

Minor Library Card Application (ages 5-17 years)



- Please provide Parent or Guardian's Photo Identification (ID) with a current address.
- If your ID does not have your current address, provide a piece of mail, a checkbook, an electricity bill, or ask staff for assistance.
- Parent or Guardian must be present at time the card is issued.
- There is an annual Fee charged for Out-of-Parish Residents.

Minor's First Name (Preferred) _____

Minor's First Name (Full Name) _____

Minor's Middle Name _____

Minor's Last Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Library Card # _____

Mailing Address _____

Street/PO Box

Apt #

City

Zip Code

Residence Address _____

(If different from mailing address above)

Street

Apt #

City

Zip Code

Parent/Guardian's Telephone # _____ If this is a cell phone, Cell Phone Carrier _____

Phone (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Parent/Guardian's Email _____

Example: bgeg1012@yahoo.com

Select ONE method to receive account notifications: Phone Email Texts (Standard texting rates apply)

Minor's Birthdate _____ Library Account Password _____

(MM/DD/YYYY) **REQUIRED**

4-64 Characters (case sensitive/numbers, letters, spaces, and most special characters)

PLEASE TURN OVER THIS PAGE TO CHOOSE A CARD TYPE AND COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FOR YOUR MINOR CHILD

Staff Use Only: Barcode number 21756 _____ Staff Initials _____

Staff Use Only: Barcode number 98523 _____ Staff Initials _____

Please choose on option

Digital Resource Access for Full and Semi Restricted Cards

Digital Resources are any book, e-book, e-audiobook, video book, essay, newspaper, magazine, film, or any other library material that is provided in a digital format. Materials in the Digital Resources collection may contain material that could be considered sexually explicit as defined by LA R.S. 25:225.

Juvenile Full Restriction Card

- 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, J Fiction, J Non-Fiction, J Kits, J Audiobooks, J DVDs, J Music, and J 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.
- My child aged 5-17 may **NOT** have access to the Library's Digital Resources unsupervised.

Juvenile Semi Restriction Card

- Cardholders may check out materials allowed with a Full Restriction card and 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.
- My child aged 5-17 may **NOT** have access to the Library's Digital Resources unsupervised.

Juvenile Card- INCLUDES ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES

- 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 out any DVDs except R-rated. Cardholders may not check out R-rated DVDs.

Juvenile Unrestricted Card- INCLUDES ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES

- Same access as Juvenile Card except: Cardholders may check out any DVDs including R-rated with parental permission.

Internet Use

Children ages 5-9 may only use a computer or access the internet with direct parental supervision in the library.

Children ages 10-17 **may only** access the internet with parental permission.

- My child aged 10-17 may use the Internet unsupervised.

Parent/Guardian Agreement

As a parent or legal guardian of this borrower under the age of 18, I agree:

- To accept full responsibility for all materials checked out on this card.
- To pay all charges associated with its use, fines, and fees.
- To report the loss, theft, or abuse of this card immediately. I understand that I am responsible for all fines and fees and any items checked out prior to card being reported lost or stolen.
- To promptly report any changes in name, address, or phone number.
- That this is my child's only library card from the St. Tammany Parish Library System.
- I am responsible for my child's selection and use of library materials.

By signing this form, I am agreeing to the Library Rules and Regulations.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____



Statement of Concern about Library Resources

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

Date 12-23-2022

Name Connie Phillips



City Mandeville State LA Zip 70471



Representing (self) St. Tammany Parish LAP (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

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

2. Title Ana on the Edge

Author/Producer A.J. Sass

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:

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

Summary of Concerns: Book should be in adult section of the library
Twelve-year-old figure skater Ana strives to win her competitions while learning about gender identity--Ana's own and that of a new friend--and how to navigate the best path forward.--

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

Move to minor restricted area of the library. Where kids cannot have access without an adult checking out the material. This book should be shelved in the adult section of the library and identified as an Adult Book not a Young Adult or Juvenile Book.

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. Twelve-year-old figure skater Ana strives to win her competitions while learning about gender identity--Ana's own and that of a new friend--and how to

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”

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 establishment¹ which is open to persons under the age of eighteen years.”

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

(3) “Material harmful to minors” is defined as material “which exploits, is devoted to or principally consists of, descriptions or depictions of illicit sex or sexual immorality for commercial gain, and when the trier of fact determines that each of the following applies:”

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

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

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. Twelve-year-old figure skater Ana strives to win her competitions while learning about gender identity--Ana's own and that of a new friend--and how to navigate the best path forward.—

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

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La. R.S. 14:91.11 Guidelines

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

***ANA ON THE EDGE* by AJ Sass**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2020

PUBLISHER'S SUMMARY

Twelve-year-old Ana-Marie Jin, the reigning US Juvenile figure skating champion, is *not* a frilly dress kind of kid. So, when Ana learns that next season's program will be princess themed, doubt forms fast. Still, Ana tries to focus on training and putting together a stellar routine worthy of national success. Once Ana meets Hayden, a transgender boy new to the rink, thoughts about the princess program and gender identity begin to take center stage. And when Hayden mistakes Ana for a boy, Ana doesn't correct him and finds comfort in this boyish identity when he's around. As their friendship develops, Ana realizes that it's tricky juggling two different identities on one slippery sheet of ice. And with a major competition approaching, Ana must decide whether telling everyone the truth is worth risking years of hard work and sacrifice.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS

Ice skating

Families

Family life

Gender identity

Friendship

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: 8 to 12

HOLDINGS AND CIRCULATION

- 3 print copies at Covington, Madisonville, and Mandeville/ Shelves in Juvenile Fiction/
Call number J Sass

Purchased in November 2020. Available on shelf December 2020.

Total circulation on all print copies: 11

OTHER LIBRARY HOLDINGS

Held in 772 libraries.

Jefferson Parish Library – Juvenile Fiction

Calcasieu Parish Public Library – Juvenile Fiction

Lafayette Parish Public Library – Juvenile Fiction

PATRON REQUEST/SUGGEST A PURCHASE: N/A

REVIEWS

Publishers Weekly (09/14/2020):

Debut novelist Sass tackles the subject of gender identity in this #OwnVoices novel set in the world of competitive figure skating. Ana-Marie Jin, a biracial (Chinese/white) 12-year-old figure skater, faces new challenges after winning Juvenile Nationals. Moving up to the intermediate level means that, instead of skating in hometown San Francisco with best friend Tamar, Ana will

work with a coach and a famous choreographer in nearby Oakland. Never a fan of dresses or skirts, Ana balks when the choreographer assigns a princess-themed routine ("the graceful edges, the dainty arm movements"). What feels more comfortable is when transgender skater Hayden, whom Ana is teaching in exchange for free ice time, sees Ana as a boy. Ana's burgeoning understanding of gender within a traditionally binary sport, and fear that people won't accept or understand a different pronoun, offers a mirror and window for readers. Nonbinary figure skater Sass renders scenes on and off the ice with vivid descriptions, and writes nuanced, layered portrayals of characters including Ana's devoted working-class mother, inspirational coach, and friend Hayden, who knows exactly who he is. Ages 8-12. Agent: Jordan Hamessley, New Leaf Literary. (Oct.) Copyright 2020 Publishers Weekly, LLC Used with permission.

Booklist (09/01/2020):

Grades 4-7 *Starred Review* Twelve-year-old Ana Jin, U.S. figure skating champion, thinks it'll be a bite of bao to perform well enough to skip regionals and qualify for sectionals. It will save her mom money and buy Ana time to figure out why skating to a princess-themed program is causing her distress, and why she's so intrigued by her new transgender friend, Hayden, who mistakes her for a boy when they meet. Ana doesn't correct him, and soon she's going by A and using he/him pronouns with Hayden's family. As Ana struggles to be honest about herself with the people closest to her, including her mom, whose relationship with Ana is the star of this book, Sass masterfully balances Ana's passion for competitive figure skating with her journey to coming out. This is a sensitive and realistic portrayal of the barriers faced by nonbinary kids, such as encountering gendered language and educating loved ones, and Ana's story is made more effective by her diverse LGBTQ+ community, plus non-LGBTQ+ allies who make sure they're using the correct language for her. Ana ultimately decides on she/her pronouns, while acknowledging that she's still learning about herself, and as she skates her way to a program that feels just right for who she is, she realizes that being truly seen by the people you love most is as freeing as being on the ice. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

Bulletin of Ctr for Child Bks (10/01/2020):

At twelve, Ana is the reigning junior figure skate champion, but moving up to the next age level is proving difficult; she especially dislikes her new choreography, which is uncomfortably girly for very not-girly Ana. When she hears that Hayden, a new student at her rink, is a trans boy she's drawn to him and ends up in a friendship with him wherein she passes for a boy. Hayden's comments about gender and pronouns lead Ana to explore her own identity and determine that she's nonbinary-but how can she tell Hayden she's not who he thinks, and what does being nonbinary mean for her skating? Ana (who opts to use she/her pronouns even after coming out) is a sympathetic narrator, and the book treats her errors fairly as she drifts from her best friend and essentially uses Hayden, with appropriate hurt and pushback from both. Sass, himself a figure skater, fills the book with knowledgeable detail about skating, and the fact that it's an intensely gender performative sport (there's even passing reference to a routine wherein Ana's gay coach seemed credibly in love with his female partner) makes Ana's issues especially immediate. The book also helpfully gives Ana some room to breathe and think over her gender

identity rather than requiring certainty out of the gate, and readers will be glad to see her nearest and dearest treat her coming out with love and kindness. An author's note about gender identity (that names some resources but lacks direct links) is appended. DS

Kirkus Reviews:

A nonbinary ice-skating champion loses balance as insecurities about money push her to excel at the expense of being true to herself and honest with her mom. Rising off a first-place triumph at the U.S. Nationals, 12-year-old figure skater Ana Jin leaps into a new level of training for the next season. She gets to skate at a better rink, take off-ice classes, and work with a prestigious choreographer. Despite the thrill of achieving her dreams, high skating fees weigh on Ana's mind. Ana's White Jewish father left when she was small and is not part of her life; she lives with her Chinese American mom who converted to Judaism. Afraid to let anyone down and desperate to save her single mom money, Ana grapples in secret with her discomfort around her new princess-themed routine and her developing questions about her gender identity. This coming-out story departs from linear narratives about self-discovery and transitioning. Ana doesn't begin the story knowing the word nonbinary or even aware that transgender people exist; she awakens to new possibilities about her identity after meeting Hayden, a White transgender boy. Friendship conflict boils in the background as Ana's most present worries cause her to neglect her best friend. Family relationships and communication also play a significant role. The resolution leaves Ana's future open to future self-exploration within the comfort of a secure support system. Vulnerable and affirming. (author's note) (Fiction. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. (Online Review)

Hornbook Guide to Children (07/01/2020):

After winning the title of U.S. Juvenile Girls Champion in figure skating, twelve-year-old Ana-Marie Jin is ready to start a new season on the ice, competing at a higher level and commuting most days from San Francisco to a new rink in Oakland. It also means working with a new choreographer who is not only strict but requires all female skaters to wear skirts, even to practice. Ana starts to notice that "girly" things at which she had previously never blinked an eye, such as being referred to as "Miss Ana-Marie" and wearing a bedazzled costume for competitions, now make her cringe. With help from new friend Hayden, a transgender skate student she meets at the rink, Ana begins to see her gender in a new, fluid way: "Uncertainty feels like less of a burden and more of an opportunity." Ana's family (a single-parent Chinese American Jewish family) is not one frequently represented in middle-grade stories. For all of the protagonist's discomfort, the tone of the story remains hopeful as she works toward a new understanding of herself. She decides to continue using her given name and pronouns -- a helpful reminder that there is no one way to identify as nonbinary. The personal connection of the author, a figure skater who identifies as nonbinary, to the story is evident within its pages in both the nuances of figure skating and Ana's interrogation of gender, and is explained in a thoughtful note at the end. (Copyright 2020 by The Horn Book, Incorporated, Boston. All rights reserved.)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

A. J. Sass (he/they) is the author of *Ana on the Edge*, an ALA 2021 Rainbow Book List Top 10 title, and *Ellen Outside the Lines*. He grew up in the Midwest, came of age in the South, and now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his husband and two cats who act like dogs. He invites you to visit him online at sassinsf.com, or on Twitter, TikTok, and Instagram @matokah.

AWARDS & LISTS

Massachusetts Children's Book Award, Connecticut Nutmeg Children's Book Award, and Washington Sasquatch Award nominee (these are all state awards where children vote)

RESOURCES

Ingram Content Group, LLC

Books in Print 2.0

Worldcat

Individual library websites (for holdings info)



November 28th, 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips
[REDACTED]
Mandeville, LA 70471

Dear Ms. Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *Ana on the Edge* by A.J. Sass. 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1112 WEST 21ST AVENUE COVINGTON, LA 70433
PH: (985) 871-1219 FAX: (985) 871-1224

ABITA SPRINGS (985) 893-6285

BUSH (985) 886-3588

CAUSEWAY (985) 626-9779

COVINGTON (985) 893-6280

FOLSOM (985) 796-9728

LACOMBE (985) 882-7858

LEE RD (985) 893-6284

MADISONVILLE (985) 845-4819

MANDEVILLE (985) 626-4293

PEARL RIVER (985) 863-5518

SLIDELL (985) 646-6470

SOUTH SLIDELL (985) 781-0099



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 material does not primarily consist of or is it primarily devoted to the sexual conduct listed in La. R.S. 14:91.11. The book contains no sex acts or sexual conduct in text.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. The book contains no sex acts or sexual conduct in text.
3. The committee did not find the material to be offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors. The committee acknowledged that the subject of gender identity may not be in line with the values of some families in St. Tammany Parish or that some families may not appreciate a gay character. There are families in our parish that appreciate a book for middle grade readers with the subject. The treatment of gender identity is age appropriate and there is no mention of romance, sexual identity, or sexual activity.
4. The committee believes the material taken as a whole does not lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. The book is a well-crafted coming of age story as Ana learns about herself, how to be a friend, and about responsibility and empathy. Ana’s story models the importance of being honest with one’s self and with others, especially parents. The book also models a path to making amends when a person hurts their family and friends. The book is not persuasive concerning gender identity. It portrays the mother’s feelings and reactions honestly, acknowledging surprise and hurt by Ana’s actions and her revelation. The book is an exciting window into competitive ice skating, a subject that is not common.

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During the committee meeting, this title was also reviewed in light of LA RS 25:225. The library's policies designed to comply with this law state that there will be no sexual conduct in materials located in the children's area of the library. There is no sexual conduct in this book as described by La RS 25:225.

You asked that this book be shelved in a "upon request" section of the library. This book was located in the juvenile non-fiction collection. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate either 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 December 11th, 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 are unable to attend, you may submit a written statement to be included in the record of the meeting.

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

Respectfully,



Kelly LaRocca, Director

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Statement of Concern about Library Resources

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

Date _____

Name _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Representing _____ (self) _____ (organization)

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

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

2. Title _____

Author/Producer _____

3. What brought this title to your attention?

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

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

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

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

NOTE:

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

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

From your website confirming topic: "By the time she arrived in Belvidere, Illinois, and started working as a farmhand, Jennie had a new name and a new identity . . . Albert D. J. Cashier. In 1861, the winds of war blew through the United States. Jennie Hodggers, a young immigrant from Ireland, moved west to Illinois and soon had a new name and a new identity--Albert D. J. Cashier. Like many other young men, Albert joined the Union Army. Though the smallest soldier in his company, Albert served for nearly three years and fought in forty battles and skirmishes. When the war ended, Albert continued to live his life as a man. His identity fit him as snug as his suspenders. Decades later, a reporter caught wind of the news that an old man in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home was actually a woman. The news swept through the country. What would happen to Albert and his military pension? Would he be allowed to continue to live as he wished? How would his friends, fellow soldiers, and others in the community react?"

***THE FIGHTING INFANTRYMAN* by Rob Sanders**

Little Bee Books, 2020

PUBLISHER'S SUMMARY

"By the time she arrived in Belvidere, Illinois, and started working as a farmhand, Jennie had a new name and a new identity . . . Albert D. J. Cashier. In 1861, the winds of war blew through the United States. Jennie Hodggers, a young immigrant from Ireland, moved west to Illinois and soon had a new name and a new identity--Albert D. J. Cashier. Like many other young men, Albert joined the Union Army. Though the smallest soldier in his company, Albert served for nearly three years and fought in forty battles and skirmishes. When the war ended, Albert continued to live his life as a man. His identity fit him as snug as his suspenders. Decades later, a reporter caught wind of the news that an old man in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home was actually a woman. The news swept through the country. What would happen to Albert and his military pension? Would he be allowed to continue to live as he wished? How would his friends, fellow soldiers, and others in the community react? This book is published in partnership with GLAAD to accelerate LGBTQ inclusivity and acceptance."--

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS

United States

19th century

Irish Americans

Biographies

Cashier, Albert D. J.

History

Transgender people

Transgender veterans

Transgender military personnel

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: 7 to 10

HOLDINGS AND CIRCULATION

- 2 print copies at Covington and Slidell/ Shelved in Juvenile Non-fiction/ Call number J 306.768 San

Purchased in June 2020. Available on shelf September 2020.

Total circulation on all print copies: 5

OTHER LIBRARY HOLDINGS

Held in 191 libraries.

Jefferson Parish Library – Juvenile Non-fiction

East Baton Rouge Parish Library – Juvenile Biography

PATRON REQUEST/SUGGEST A PURCHASE: YES

REVIEWS

Kirkus Reviews (04/01/2020):

This illustrated, biographical narrative mixes fact and speculation about the life of a transgender Civil War veteran. Irish immigrant Albert D.J. Cashier enlisted in the Union army at the age of 19 and fought in the 95th Illinois Infantry. His sex assigned at birth remained private, even from his military comrades, until much later in life, when he moved into the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' home. Even though he asked for confidentiality, someone told a reporter, spreading the story nationwide and inciting a governmental investigation. Unfortunately, the language throughout the text undermines its mission, failing to respect the identity Cashier himself strove to protect and reinforcing a born-in-the-wrong-body narrative. Following a foreword by an academic in transgender studies that identifies Cashier as a trans man, Sanders opens the text with the birthname that Cashier left behind and she/her pronouns, both of which he repeats in the pages describing Cashier's early life. Three times, Sanders writes that Albert wasn't "born" a man. In the backmatter, the provided definition for the word "transgender" further reinforces stereotypes by explaining that a transgender person "looks like a boy or a girl" at birth but knows they are different on the inside. The same note lists terms for transgender people used in "Native American tribes, Hawaii, and other countries" without any cultural context. Illustrations with soft brushstrokes and an earthy palette depict Cashier (who is white) in a mostly white world, with the exception of one black comrade in arms. A disappointing, disrespectful perspective on the experiences of a transgender person. (author's note, further information, glossary, sources, timeline) (Picture book/biography. 7-11) COPYRIGHT (2020) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Bulletin of Ctr for Child Bks (06/01/2020):

Born Jennie Rodgers in nineteenth century Ireland, our subject favored boys' clothes even in early youth. After immigrating to America and moving to Illinois he became Albert D. J. Cashier, and that's how he enlisted in the Union Army in 1862. Passing the cursory physical exam proved easy, so he served and fought for the duration of the war; after the end of the war, he worked hard at various jobs and collected his military pension. When an injury landed him in the hospital, his female traits were discovered, which endangered the pension and veteran's status he had earned; his comrades from his battalion, however, fought successfully for his right to continue to collect and for his service to be honored, and when he died a few years later he received a full military funeral. This picture-book biography focuses on somebody usually treated as a historical oddity and puts him in significant contemporary context, and the emphasis on the respect and support of his comrades in arms makes the simply told account genuinely heart-warming. The digital art is less successful, veering between the cartoonish and the blurry, but scenes of Cashier's final days and funeral are gently moody. Notes explain the uncertainty about Cashier's life story, feature some of his comrades' comments on him, and provide information about his motivation and transgender people; a glossary is included as is a list of extensive sources and a couple of mutely resonant photographs. DS

Booklist (06/01/2020):

Grades 1-3 Born in Ireland in 1843, Jennie Rodgers wore boy's clothes when she tended sheep and again when she and her stepfather sailed to America and yet again when she went to work in an all-male shoe factory. However, it wasn't until she moved west to Illinois that she

assumed a new name and identity, beginning life as a man named Albert D. J. Cashier. In 1862, he enlisted in the Union army and served as an infantryman for three years without anyone learning that he had been born a girl. He continued to live as a man after the war, and it wasn't until 1911 that the truth was discovered. While these facts are incontrovertible, it's less certain, as the author acknowledges in an appended note, that Albert was actually transgender. Whether or not he was, his story is well served by Sanders' telling of it, written primarily in short, declarative, well-crafted sentences. Ali's soft-colored illustrations, in both full-page and vignette pictures, capture the spirit and tone of what is a remarkable story. (Reprinted with permission of Booklist, copyright 2020, American Library Association.)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Rob Sanders is a picture book author, a writing teacher, a sometimes blogger, and a dog lover. He worked for fifteen years in religious educational publishing as a writer, editor, editorial manager, and product designer. These days, he teaches elementary school kids about books and words and reading and writing, and writes books for those same kids.

Rob is the author of the nonfiction picture books *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*, *Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights*, and *Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution*. But he'll always write fiction too, including *Rodzilla*, *Outer Space Bedtime Race*, and *Ball & Balloon*. robsanderswrites.com

Nabi H. Ali is a Tamil-American illustrator who enjoys creating diverse works that showcase an array of cultures and peoples. His interest in illustrative works started when he realized he could help create representation in the arts and in media for minorities, and he is very passionate about working with characters that he would have liked to have seen in books when he was a kid. His hobbies include drawing (of course), doll collecting, reading, learning about South Asian mythology and folklore, and researching history.

AWARDS & LISTS

NCSS/CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People

RESOURCES

Ingram Content Group, LLC

Books in Print 2.0

Worldcat

Individual library websites (for holdings info)



November 28th, 2023

Ms. Connie Phillips
[REDACTED]
Mandeville, LA 70471

Dear Ms. Phillips,

Thank you for submitting your Statement of Concern regarding *The Fighting Infantryman* by Rob Sanders. 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 material does not primarily consist of or is it primarily devoted to the sexual conduct listed in La. R.S. 14:91.11. The book contains no sex acts or sexual conduct in text or illustrations.
2. The committee found that the text and images did not incite or appeal to the prurient interests of minors. People in the book are dressed modestly per the historical time period. There is no mention of the main character having a romantic partner. There is no discussion of sex or sexuality in the book.
3. The committee did not find the material to be offensive to the average adult applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable for minors. The book is not erotic. The committee acknowledged that the discussion of transgender in the book may not be in line with the values of some families in St. Tammany Parish. There are families in our parish that do not mind or welcome the discussion of gender identity in the book. This title was purchased in response to a patron request. Two copies of the book were received in September 2020. In the twenty-seven months that the book was on the shelf, the two copies circulated a total of 5 times. STPL’s placement is consistent with peer libraries.
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 historical value as it tells a unique story about a Civil War soldier. The book is well written at an upper elementary school level and the author shares primary resources, including historic photographs. It brings up historic opportunities for boys and girls in the mid-19th century. The themes of friendship and patriotism in the book are age appropriate. The book has artistic value in the illustrations. The palette of warm colors help to illustrate the time period. The illustrations are somewhat abstracted, which helps to make the subject of war less scary for a child audience.

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During the committee meeting, this title was also reviewed in light of LA RS 25:225. The library's policies designed to comply with this law state that there will be no sexual conduct in materials located in the children's area of the library. There is no sexual conduct in this book as described by La RS 25:225.

You asked that this book be shelved in a "upon request" section of the library. This book was located in the juvenile non-fiction collection. After reviewing the book and discussion, it was determined that, in the opinion of the committee members, the book does not violate either 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 December 11th, 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 are unable to attend, you may submit a written statement to be included in the record of the meeting.

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

Respectfully,



Kelly LaRocca, Director

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