

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Materials submitted by members of the public. Content was not solicited, vetted, or approved by the Board of Trustees.

Meeting Date 11/28



## Board of Trustees Public Comment Request Form

Anyone wishing to address the Board must arrive early and sign up with library staff at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting. Please note that forms must be submitted in person at the Board of Trustees meeting. Comments will be heard in the order in which requests are received.

\*Name Elizabeth Dudash-Buskeirk

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Books

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card Yes

*\*Required Information*



Meeting Date 11/28



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\*Name Mecia Ahaut

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Books

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

*\*Required Information*



## Concerns about book restrictions 11/28/23

Good evening. My name is Alecia Ahart and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

I have been coming to library board meetings for the last several months mostly as an observer to hear the concerns of those who want to restrict access to books or have them removed from our local library. I have also read many of their blogs along with local, regional, state and national mainstream and non-mainstream sources to try to understand a variety of points of view.

Recently I did a Freedom of Information Request to the Christian County Library re several points I would like to discuss now. I've provided you with a copy of the response I received as well. I also looked at the library website to bring together the statistics below. In 2020, 0 books were challenged; 2021 3 were challenged, 2022 15 books were challenged and at the date of my request in 2023 23 books were challenged.

Of the 2022/23 challenges which totaled 39—there were two challenges for the same book—only 12 patrons made these challenges.

The library has 20,766 active cardholders—meaning people have used the library to check out books or use computer access although they have just over 54,000 card holders out of around 91,000 people living in the county.

Therefore, out of just the active patrons only 0.058% of users have challenged a book in 2022/2023. Yet each time I come here I hear how this is what the community wants, and this reflects the values of the community. These numbers do not seem to reflect that or even come close to that. It appears that you have a loud vocal group who are well organized with an agenda who are likely taking

advantage of a groups of well-meaning people within our community and misrepresenting what the library has within its collection.

I have also included today an excellent response from the library director from another library who has been under attack for months. He points out several important messages about the importance of public libraries to the community-so please read this since one of your own is willing to take down the library to get her own way. But I'd specifically like to address and read his final paragraph because it parrots the same language, I have heard here time and time again.

"A common refrain is that the materials in question don't reflect the values of the residents of St Charles County. Yet, cumulatively they have been checked out hundreds of times by those very residents. Do they not count as true St Charles County residents? Are their tax dollars somehow worth less? The answer, of course, is obvious if you're approaching it from an apolitical, unbiased point of view as we always do."

And I will add—as you should do as the trustees of this library. Thank you.

Hello Alecia,

It took just under an hour to gather everything, so there is no charge for these records.

Please see my answers below and corresponding attachments.

**Total library cardholders:** contained in the attached 2021 and 2022 annual reports

2022: 20,766 active cardholders (active=used for checkout or computer activity in the last years, a standard industry measure)

total accounts: 54,173 (these include active, inactive, expired, delinquent, etc.)

**How many books [physical and digital items] checked out:** contained in the attached 2021 and 2022 annual reports

2022: 316,186

2021: 298,038

**How many books challenged 2018-2023:** attached spreadsheet with number, titles, and location

2023 (to-date): 23 titles, 24 requests

2022: 15

2021: 3

2020: 0

2018-2019: not readily available, can search further if you would like to pay for the time

You can also now view the requests and the results of the requests on our website: <https://christiancountylibrary.org/library/policies/>

Everything I have responded to since July is listed.

**Who challenged the books above:** Patron names are confidential but I can give you the number of people

2022-2023: 12 people, 39 requests, 38 titles (2 requests for the same title)

2021: 3 people, 3 requests

**How many hours spent on challenges:**

This isn't a record we keep, but anecdotally, it takes a minimum of 5 hours total for a picture book. For a longer book, it could easily take 20+ hours of staff time for multiple people to read, research, and write recommendations. A lot will depend on the length of the book and how many staff members read it in its entirety. The time we spend on the reconsideration process delays us from other tasks that are not deadline driven. Here are a few things I believe have been impacted this year:

-Collection maintenance (withdrawing materials due to lack of use or condition, rebalancing the branch collections, looking for areas with gaps in content/series, replacing lost/damaged materials, etc.)

-Timely responses to patron purchase suggestions

-Attention to planning for the future - fundraising, grant requests, strategic planning, etc.

-Community engagement - less time to attend community events and connect with partners and plan collaborations

The above are anecdotal, I don't have quantitative evidence or records to clearly demonstrate. It's a gradual cumulative impact upon efficient library operations.

Please let me know if anything is unclear.

Renee



## Our Promise to You

As we near the end of another year, it is an opportune time to reflect on why public libraries exist and the role we play in our communities. I began working in public libraries in 1994 and have been a professional librarian since 1999. I entered this profession because I like books, research, and learning, but I found out very quickly the heart of the public library is so much more than that. We are one of the very few places in society today that is unequivocally for everyone. Regardless of age, race, religion, gender, or social standing, anyone is welcome to come through our doors and be treated with respect and dignity. We help the marginalized, isolated, or lonely make connections that they desperately need. We help the unemployed find jobs and senior citizens file their taxes. We help people start businesses and help existing business owners become more successful. We boost local economies and help train workforces. We ensure everyone has free and equal access to information and everyone can choose for themselves what they want to read, view, or hear. The public library is a cornerstone of a strong community and a strong democracy. As former Kentucky Governor Wendell Ford once said "If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are its banks."

For as long as public libraries have existed, le have challenged the items held in their collections and called for certain items to be removed. These have come from every side of the ideological and political spectrum and, until recently, they have been met with equally bipartisan resistance. Freedom of expression is a founding principle of our nation, after all, and it should be vigorously defended. Unfortunately, that notion is increasingly being forgotten; libraries across the country are coming under fire by those who would seek to politicize them and twist their decisions for their own purposes.

Make no mistake, every public library respects the right of its citizens to question items in its collection, just as we value and encourage citizens to suggest items to add. It is out of that respect that we take each request for reconsideration seriously and adhere to a standard process. It is out of that respect that we don't make any public statements that could bias the process and cast doubt on its validity. It is out of that respect that we remain neutral and apolitical in our assessment. When anyone submits such a request, we convene a review committee and each member reads or views the work in its entirety. They measure the work against our collection management policy, consider why the item was purchased in the first place, determine if the subject or topic is otherwise represented in our collection, and make a measured and rational decision. Decisions to remove something from the library are not made lightly, nor should they be.

You may have heard about one such request for reconsideration that has been the subject of a fair amount of news coverage. As often happens, most of the comments cited in these reports and elsewhere were made by people without first-hand knowledge of the item in question, reacting to the item's provocative title and things they'd heard about it. In fact, the library's copy hasn't been publicly available for months. During the committee's review, they learned that the item did, indeed, have explicit photographs that seemed unrelated to the text they should have been illustrating. They also learned that this item was purchased because it was the only item readily available at the time about sexuality and sexual health for gay men. It contains important information about health, safety, and consent that are not contained elsewhere in our collection and to remove it would be to erase this topic altogether. They also learned the item had been checked out several times since it was purchased over five years ago and has a list of twenty people waiting. To make a logical, unbiased decision that isn't just personal opinion, all of these factors were considered.

As a result of this process, we decided to retain the item until all of the holds placed on it prior to November 21 have been filled, since those residents and taxpayers have a right to access the item. Once they are finished, all copies will be removed from the collection. Since it was purchased, other books on this topic have been published so we are able to fill the information need with sources that don't necessarily contain the explicit imagery that is superfluous to the text.

All decisions we make are approached in this manner – logically and based on facts, not opinion and emotion. At the November 14 St. Charles City-County Library Board of Trustees meeting, there were statements made to the effect that the Library's administration has been pursuing an agenda by purchasing items that are inappropriate for public libraries or are not commonly found in them. I cannot state more strongly that this is false. Of the five books that were referenced at the meeting, all are commonly held at libraries across the state of Missouri and the nation. We are a large library, larger than more than 98% of the public libraries in the U.S., and to exclude items from our collection that are included in collections of literally hundreds and thousands of other libraries – libraries in communities large and small, urban and rural – would be to fail our residents and taxpayers who expect access to them. In fact, excluding these, or any such lawful subject matter ranging from religious texts to political works or anything else, would be exhibiting the very bias and agenda that has been alleged.

A common refrain is that the materials in question don't reflect the values of the residents of St. Charles County. Yet, cumulatively they have been checked out hundreds of times by those very residents. Do they not count as true St. Charles County residents? Are their tax dollars somehow worth less? The answer, of course, is obvious if you're approaching it from an apolitical, unbiased point of view as we always do.

It is our promise to you that we will continue to do so.



Jason Kuhl  
Chief Executive Officer

Meeting Date 11/24/23



## Board of Trustees Public Comment Request Form

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\*Name Scott Woosley

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Maus

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christiana

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card Y

*\*Required Information*



I'm Scott Woosley, and I'm a member of U-Turn in Education. I'd like to tell you about one of the positive experiences that we've had with our efforts of supporting the right to read, and expert librarianship.

So, a little backstory first. Last June, the Nixa School Board voted to retain "Maus" in their high school library. The challenge to the book came from an administrator rather than from a parent, and stemmed from confusion over the interpretation of SB 775 and its subsequent laws. This whole situation of "Maus" being reconsidered drew negative national attention to the district and to our community, and we were all greatly relieved when the book was retained.

A couple of days before that vote, we were contacted by a professor who had made national news over the banning of "Maus", but for a positive reason. Drs. Scott Denham and Barbara Mann had taught a virtual class to students of a Tennessee school district, when Maus was removed from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum there in January 2022. I served as the main point of contact with Scott and Barbara, and coordinated their generous offer of a free class in Nixa with the developments in our area and possible venues for providing a class custom tailored to the needs of our community.

What we wound up with was the Maus Course, which was held right here in this room, all 5 Tuesday nights in October. The start of the class coincided with Banned Books Week, and in a development I did not see coming, the attack on Israel occurred before we even held our second class session.

Dr. Denham's PhD is from Harvard, and he is the chair of German Studies at Davidson College. Dr. Mann's PhD is from Berkeley, and she is a professor of Hebrew Language and Literature at Case Western. She has also taught at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and at Princeton. They are capable of teaching at length about Maus on any conceivable level. What we hit on was something akin to upper divi-

sion undergrad at a top-tier university, but without tests. The course was fascinating, and unlike anything else I've ever experienced in Nixa.

We learned a lot about Maus, and also about how to read a graphic novel in general. The various layers of messages and stories occurring on multiple levels simultaneously in both the text and the meta-text were absolutely fascinating, and beyond my ability to fully understand when I had read the book previously. There's a darned good reason why Maus is the only graphic novel ever to win a Pulitzer prize.

Besides the Zoom attendees, I counted 28 people in person at the first class, and the feedback was extremely positive.

If the board can encourage CCL to offer some other literary academic experiences comparable to what the Maus Course proved to be, I'd appreciate it, and I think you'll find an audience.

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\*Name David Rice

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Reconsideration Requests

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

*\*Required Information*

#4

**Board Members:** I'm sharing a small sample of the multitude of offensive material found in the book, *Flamer*. Community members have requested it to be reconsidered but it remains on the shelf. Will you use your authority to remove it before I start tonight?.

Let me remind you of your Strategic Plan for 2023-2025, "Build collections to reflect the community." Does a book about a teenage boy with graphic, sexual nudity and sexual violence reflect community standards?

*Flamer* is about a teenage Boy Scout who is 13-14. It's meant to attract young readers who have read *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. This book is at Nixa in the YA section as a Graphic Novel. This book is brightly colored with a boy backlit by a fire. It's meant to attract children to pick it up. It's meant to elicit sexual responses from children.

Examples:

Page 14: "Hey, Navarro, suck any good dicks lately?"

Page 77: "'I don't want you homos lookin' at my ass."

Page 86: Father Danilo said I should consider the priesthood, but... I want to have sex. Someday, when I'm married, I want to know what it feels like. I wonder if priests jerk off."

Page 121: "My dick gets so hard thinking about her sometimes that I think it's gonna rip right through my jeans..."

Page 131: "We're each busting a load into this bottle. If you don't cum, you have to drink it."

Page 132: "I came across a video tape hidden behind the TV... I could see... everything. People were doing things that I didn't even know were possible, or even... allowed."

"Why is there so much hair?"

"Those dicks are so... BIG."

Page 133: "I started watching my dad's porn... a lot... while I was naked. And eventually, I stumbled upon... a surprise sensation. It felt good, but then I felt really guilty about it. I knew watching porn... had to be a sin. And now here I am in this tent full of people jerking off."

Page 207: "YOU'RE THE FAGGOT!!! YOU'RE THE FUDGE-PACKING FAIRY COCKSUCKING QUEER PANSY FAGGOT!!!"

Profanity Count:

Ass 14

Bitch 3

Cock 2

Dick 5

Faggot/Fag 14

Fuck 14

Piss 1

Prick 1

Queer 2

Shit 13

Knowing what you know now, will you remove this book from your collection?

This book actually admits how harmful porn is to the development of children. Do you not see how this book is child porn?

As someone who was sexually abused by older children, reading this book was traumatizing. Many of you were traumatized by me reading it. I'm an adult who has gone through counseling to heal. How is a sexually abused child supposed to deal with this added trauma?

Who is in charge here in Christian County? Would you rather have children be sexually traumatized than upset the American Library Association? The ALA is a Marxist organization whose Marxist president, Emily Drabinski, said, "she wants to re-center children's libraries on 'notions of queerness' and prevent what she described as 'angry, White mob parents' from trying to block the efforts?" Queer Theory (which is Marxist) was invented by Pedophiles.

Think about that. Making libraries queer is more important than anything else. Emily will eagerly sexually traumatize children to queer libraries. Do you share her views? Are you Marxists? Why won't you remove this book? From this vantage point, I can't tell if it's because you are perverts or cowards.



Figure 3

Meeting Date 11/28



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\*Name Ferran Cohen

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Censorship

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christiana

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Required Information*



Christian Co. Pop 2021—91,499  
Attendance at Library board meetings 100 tops  
.0011 % in attendance  
1/1000  
Many attendees are the same every month  
NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY!!!!!!!

Missouri is No. 3 on the book banning list Nation Wide-Public schools-  
Since the history of time, those who ban/restrict/censor/remove books have NEVER been on the right side of history.

School banning—comments included “children should go to the public library to check out those books”

Here we are.

Banning books in the public library.

And a concerted effort by a few to destroy the current library board and institute their own ideal of what should be in the library, not based on research, the law, science, or any logical argument.....only on fear and emotion.

Large majorities of voters (71%) oppose efforts to have books removed from their local public libraries, including a majority of Democrats (75%), independents (58%), and Republicans (70%). Most voters and parents hold librarians in high regard, have confidence in their local libraries to make good decisions about what books to include in their collections, and agree that libraries in their communities do a good job offering books that represent a variety of viewpoints..  
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/voters-oppose-book-bans-libraries>

- Voters love librarians and rank librarians as twice as favorable as their governors, the Democratic Party, the GOP, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden. ([click to tweet](#))
- 95% of Democrats, 80% of independents, and 53% of Republicans are against book bans and will consider book bans when voting. ([click to tweet](#))
- MINORITY RULE: Just 8% of voters believe “there are many books that are inappropriate and should be banned.” ([click to tweet](#))
- 31% of Republicans think there is absolutely no time when a book should be banned. ([click to tweet](#))

- MINORITY RULE: Only 18% of voters support book banning on issues of race and CRT. ([click to tweet](#))
- More than 90% of voters are against banning the hundreds of classic novels and children's books that extremist groups have targeted for banning. ([click to tweet](#))
- MINORITY RULE: Only one-third of voters support bans on books that discuss sexuality. ([click to tweet](#))
- 75% of voters will consider book banning when voting in November. ([click to tweet](#))
- More than 50% of voters are concerned about legislation being created to regulate Americans' access to books. ([click to tweet](#))

<https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/bookbanpoll>

#### 4. Democrats, Independents *and* Republicans oppose book bans

When it comes to state lawmakers removing certain books from schools, such bans have the support of just 5% of Democrats, 16% of Independents and 35% of Republicans. Fifty-two percent of Republicans oppose such efforts.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/06/02/1177566467/poll-teachers-underpaid-republicans-book-bans>

Cambridge Dictionary: Ban: an official order that prevents something ...

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/example/english/banned-book>

**Merriam-Webster dictionary:** to prohibit especially by legal means

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ban>

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**Public Comment Request Form**

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\*Name Aileena Keen

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Public comment

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card Yes

*\*Required Information*

## Christian County Board of Trustees Meeting - November 28, 2023

### Response to Public Comment Response Policy

“As a general rule, the Board will not respond to public comments at the time they are made. **The Board may ask clarifying questions, comment, or take action at their discretion.** Questions for staff about library operations should be made during normal business hours. Updated March 2023”

- *You have discretion to respond - whether during public comment or during the “old business” portion of the following meeting*
- *It is a choice to ignore questions, comments, and concerns from the public*

### Examples of Compromise or Action for Lack of Compromise in Other Libraries

- **St. Tammany Parish Public Library in Louisiana** - 5 library card options including adult unrestricted card, juvenile unrestricted card, juvenile card, juvenile sem-restricted card, and juvenile fully restricted.
- **Idaho Falls Public Library** - Two-tiered library card system including unrestricted (for adults or juveniles with parental consent) or restricted to juvenile material.
- **Jamestown, Michigan Public Library** - Descriptive labels attached to over 90,000 books in the library to make the public aware of content they may find objectionable for their children. This occurred after the public voted to defund their library through 2 rounds of public votes.
- **Saline County Public Library in Arkansas** - The library board recently fired their executive director after she refused to relocate age-inappropriate books from the children’s section into the adult section.

### Compromises for the Christian County Library?

- We are all ears! Let’s hear your ideas!
- The public is seeking a compromise that works for ALL tax paying Christian County citizens.
- Two-tiered library card system? Labeling books? Relocate age-inappropriate content to the adult section?

### References:

- [www.sttammanylibrary.org/library-services-for-your-family/#ApplyForALibraryCard](http://www.sttammanylibrary.org/library-services-for-your-family/#ApplyForALibraryCard)
- [www.ifpl.org/library-cards/#junior](http://www.ifpl.org/library-cards/#junior)
- [www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/compromise-offers-hope-michigan-library-defunded-over-lgbtq-books](http://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/compromise-offers-hope-michigan-library-defunded-over-lgbtq-books)
- <https://www.kark.com/news/local-news/saline-county-library-director-terminated-after-months-of-controversy/>

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\*Name Reggie Micham

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
books

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

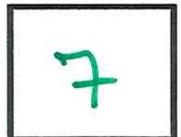
County of Residence christian

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

*\*Required Information*



THE POWER <sup>of</sup> ~~OF~~ SUGGESTION THROUGH SEEING AND HEARING

Proverbs 4;23 Guard your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Matt. 4; 24 Take heed what you hear. Or pay attention to what you hear, or be careful what you hear

Two ladies the last few months, made the comment that what children heard or read wasn't that important! But the Eyes and the Ears are the gateway to the mind. It's the information center where choices weather good or bad are made. ILL. We all hear tonight because we heard or read there would be a meeting at 6;00 PM. Bad knowledge entertained will eventually find its way to the heart

PROV. 23;7 as a man thinketh in his heart so is he!

I had watched some video's on interviews of serial killers- James Dobson interviewed TED BUNDY who in the 70,s raped and murdered 30 women, when asked what started all this? He said a magazine he had found in a alley at the age of 12. It became like a hook in his brain, when reading and looking at it no longer satisfied, he started doing what he had read and seen. He said, "I have meet many men in the last 10 yrs. like me that what they had seen, read, or heard was the start of their problem.

I admit that these books that promotes this life style isn't the only problem, no more than, Drugs, Alcohol, Adultery, they all originate from their root problem sin. Most children by the age 10-12 have formed their projection in life, every picture has a thought connected to it,

TED KOPELL interviewed JEFFERY DAHMER- in 1978-91 killed and dismembered 17 males then ate part of their body. Told Ted "I keep making trips to the book store". He was murdered himself in prison in 1994.

JOHN WAYNE GACEY- involved in politics, worked also as a clown in birthday parties. Convicted of killing 33 people, they found 30 buried under his house and back yard. He was executed in 1994. JACK THERIPPER, HAROLD SHIPMAN known as DR. Death 1972- 98 was convicted of murdering 250 , committed suicide while in prison, There was many others, but one thing they had in common, it all started with what they seen, heard, or read. So don't try to tell us these pornographic books aren't dangerous to children.

Reggie Micham  
Nov 28, 2023

Meeting Date 11/28



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\*Name Lucas Underwood

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Library Censorship

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card Yes

*\*Required Information*

8

Hello, members of the board, I hope you all are doing well this evening. I am here today because I wanted to talk about a book that has been the target of much recent controversy. This book is called *It's Perfectly Normal*, and it was written to inform preadolescent children about puberty, relationships, and sexual health.

*It's Perfectly Normal* has received much praise for its credible information regarding sexual health, as well as normalization of the, quite frankly, freakish things that happen to us all when we go through puberty. Unfortunately, it has also been one of the most challenged books of the past two decades due primarily to the directness of its imagery regarding sex. Many claim that this book is much too graphic for its target audience, and should at the very minimum be moved into a higher age range for its availability.

This sounds like a fair criticism on its face, however, a story that came from the Philadelphia Inquirer earlier this year shows why this book is important, and should be available for its current age range. A mother and her 10-year old girl, who have requested to remain anonymous, visited their local library, and the child found *It's Perfectly Normal* on the shelf. After finishing the book, the girl showed her mother a section in Chapter 6, which talks about sexual abuse and told her "This is me."

The girl's own father was abusing her.

Soon after, the father was convicted, and sentenced. The abuse cannot be undone, but he is now locked away, and the girl can get the help she needs to heal from the trauma inflicted upon her. If *It's Perfectly Normal* wasn't available for her age range, or worse, banned from library and book store shelves, who knows how much longer she would have been abused?

Whenever people call for books like this to be banned, they often make the claim that the children are too young to see things like this. A child, however, is never too young to be abused. It is our duty as citizens to understand and allow educational material to be readily available to all who may need it. We do not protect our most vulnerable from harm by isolating them and keeping them ignorant of the world and its evils. We protect by preparing them, and ensuring they can recognize harmful behaviors from those who would take advantage of them.

I have been made aware that this book is not available currently in Christian County's library system, so I will be filling out a Suggested Titles Purchase Form and I hope others who are here tonight will do the same. Thank you for your time, members of the board.

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\*Name Kevin Bright

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Content

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Required Information*

I am not certain when it started but there is a concerning lack of communication between the majority of this library board and the citizens of Christian county. I realize I do not represent everyone in the county but this is my community, I pay taxes here, and I do know a good number of the citizens.

Outside of a few members of this board and very few individuals that have attended these meetings, I have not found anyone that speaks in defense of the age inappropriate material that is being made accessible to our children and youth.

To be very blunt, the reaction to this material is that it is absolutely unacceptable. This material goes against the very nature of anything natural, traditional, or positive. Quite the opposite; this material causes confusion, degrades the moral fiber, and reduces individuals into objects and erodes their value. This material tells children that there is something wrong with them and deceives them.

I will identify myself to you as anything but perfect. I have faults, I have flaws, and I have made mistakes. However, I also have a Savior and a book that gives me instructions to help me navigate my way through this world. I also look forward to the future and I am compelled to provide a future for our children. History, logic, and basic common sense expose the core of this material to be destructive and evil.

*Our children are a gift from God*

**Psalm 127:3 NASB**

Behold, children are a gift of the Lord,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.

*Our children are frail and need cared for.*

**Ephesians 6:1-4**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.  
Honor your father and mother (which is the first  
commandment with a promise)

So that it may turn out well for you and that you may live long  
on the earth

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them  
up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

*Our children are created in the image of God*

**Psalm 139:13-16**

**13** For You created my innermost parts;  
You wove me in my mother's womb.

**14** I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely and  
wonderfully *made*;

Wonderful are Your works,  
And my soul knows it very well.

**15** My frame was not hidden from You  
When I was made in secret,

*And* skillfully formed in the depths of the earth;

**16** Your eyes have seen my formless substance;

And in Your book were written

All the days that were ordained *for me*,

When as yet there was not one of them.

*We absolutely should not cause harm to children*

**Matthew 18:1-5**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And He called a child to Himself and set him among them, 3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you change and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 So whoever will humble himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever receives one such child in My name, receives Me; 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depths of the sea.

This is how our Creator, Almighty God feels about children.

Due to the influence of a few individuals there has been an introduction of material placed in our public libraries that is absolutely unacceptable for our children. If any of you think this material is not evil and destructive, I recommend that you resign and leave. If you are somehow being forced to expose our children to this evil, we will join and help you find a way to put an end to that influence.

Christ is the chief cornerstone and foundation of this community and this will be stopped. That process has begun, and we will see it through.

Meeting Date 11/28



## Board of Trustees Public Comment Request Form

Anyone wishing to address the Board must arrive early and sign up with library staff at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting. Please note that forms must be submitted in person at the Board of Trustees meeting. Comments will be heard in the order in which requests are received.

\*Name Alex Harrison

\*Agenda Item or Topic  
Books

Group Represented (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Christian County Library Card no

*\*Required Information*