

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Meeting Date

01/22/2023



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 - Busherk

*Agenda Item or Topic Books

Group Represented (If applicable)

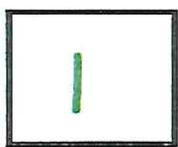
County of Residence Christian

Phone Number

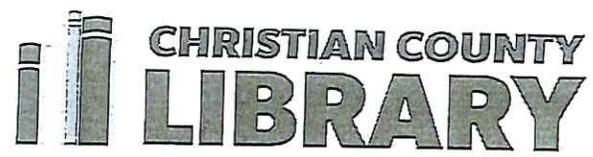
Email

Do you have a Christian County Library Card Yes

*Required Information



Meeting Date August 22



Board of Trustees
Public Comment Request Form

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*Name Deborah Spindle

*Agenda Item or Topic
Reconsideration Request Forms

Group Represented (If applicable) Right to win Ozarks

County of Residence Christian County

Phone No _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

*Required Information

2

Request for Reconsideration Recommendation
1/5/23

The item *The Compact Brick Bible: A New Spin on the Old Testament* by Brendan Powell Smith was requested to be reconsidered for the Christian County Library collection on 12/16/22. This book is currently cataloged in our Children's Nonfiction section. The patron is requesting that the book be moved to Adult Nonfiction, as they feel that some of the subject matter is not suitable for young children.

After reviewing the material, I determined that this book was intended for an adult audience; this is stated in the Foreword and confirmed by information provided on our book vendor's website. The author has two *Brick Bible* series, one intended for children, and one for adults. This item was mistakenly placed in the Children's Nonfiction section, and is now being moved to its appropriate location in Adult Nonfiction.

I contacted the patron via phone on January 5th, 2023 to let her know of this decision.

August 21, 2023

Request for Reconsideration

Collection materials, displays, programs, and events are services carefully selected to reflect the variety of values and viewpoints in our community. If you have a concern regarding a library service, complete this form and return it to a library staff member and the Executive Director will respond. Please note that incomplete forms will not be processed.

This is regarding:

Item in the collection

Display

Event

Presentation

Other

Please describe what content you find objectionable, including the location. If this is a specific collection item (book, audiobook, magazine, etc.) provide the title, author, and format.

13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher
Topics such as suicide, rape,
sexual assault, domestic violence
should not be exposed to minors
without parental knowledge/consent.
Children need guidance through these
topics and this book only glorifies
suicidal thoughts and actions.

If you are requesting the item or service to be removed from the library, can you suggest other materials or services to take its place?

This book should be removed from
the young adult section.

What other comments would you like to make?

Parents should decide what material
their children access. Libraries should
support parents and help them
monitor material their child is able
to access via ratings, cataloging etc.

Are you the parent or guardian of a minor child (under the age of 18) living within Christian County?

Yes No

Name

Deborah Spindle

Email

Mailing Address

Signature and Date

Deborah Spindle 8-21-23

Responses to Requests for Reconsideration posted publicly will not disclose identifying information under RSMO 182.817.

**Mail to: Executive Director, Christian County Library Nixa Branch,
208 N. McCroskey St., Nixa, MO 65714**

For Staff Use

Received By (staff name):

Date Received:



REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Please provide information on the material for which you are requesting reconsideration:

Title: a memoir
Sissy a coming of ~~age~~ Gender story

Author:
Jacob Tobia

Copyright date:
2019

Publisher/Producer:
G.P. Putnam's Sons / Penguin Random House LLC

Format (e.g. Book, DVD, Magazine, Pamphlet, etc.):
Book

What are you requesting the Library to do with this item?
(e.g. Remove it from the collection, Move it to another area of the Library, etc.)

Please describe what content you find objectionable. Be specific, citing page numbers and text when possible.

If I had to cite every page that Jacob Tobia mentions sucking penis, I would be citing half the book nearly. While this content may be amusing to an adult, the numerous mention of suicidal thoughts, sexual activity, and trans victimhood is not appropriate for a young audience.

Yes

Pg 18 - wants ^{Sissy} sailors to plumb his depths.

No

Pg 40 - children showing genitals
Pg 47 - Suicidal thoughts
Pg 60 - sexuality/homosexual
Pg 158 - voyeuristic/homosexual

... It goes on and on and on...

If not, which parts have you read?

I've read the entire book.

Can you suggest other material to take its place?

I Refuse to suggest any similar material to be placed in the young adult / banned book display near the young adult section.

What other comments would you like to make?

This book needs to be moved for away from the teen corner / young adult books.

PLEASE GET THIS BOOK AWAY FROM CHILDREN!
The cover is very appealing to kids.

If you would like a written response, please include your name and address below.

Name

Deborah Spindle

Signature and Date

Deborah Spindle 6/21/23

Mail to: Executive Director, Christian County Library, 208 N McCroskey, Nixa, MO 65714; or
Email to: info@christiancountylibrary.org, Attn: Executive Director

For Staff Use Only:

Received By (staff name):

Date Received:

Date of Response:

Meeting Date

8/22



Board of Trustees

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*Name Reggie Micham

*Agenda Item or Topic
books

Group Represented (If applicable) _____

County of Residence christian

Phone _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

**Required Information*

3

Meeting Date Aug 22, 2023



Board of Trustees

Public Comment Request Form

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Comments will be heard in the order in which requests are received.

Please note that forms must be submitted in person at the Board of Trustees meeting.

*Name John Garrity

*Agenda Item or Topic
Protecting children

Group Represented (If applicable) _____

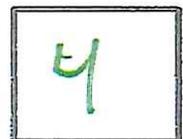
County of Residence Christian

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

**Required Information*



Meeting Date August Meeting



Board of Trustees Public Comment Request Form

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*Name Mary Hernandez de Carl

*Agenda Item or Topic
Policy Comment

Group Represented (If applicable) _____

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card Yes

**Required Information*

5



Board of Trustees Public Comment Request Form

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*Name Mike Miller

*Agenda Item or Topic
Book Titles- Labels

Group Represented (If applicable) _____

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

**Required Information*

6

Dear Christian County Library Trustees,

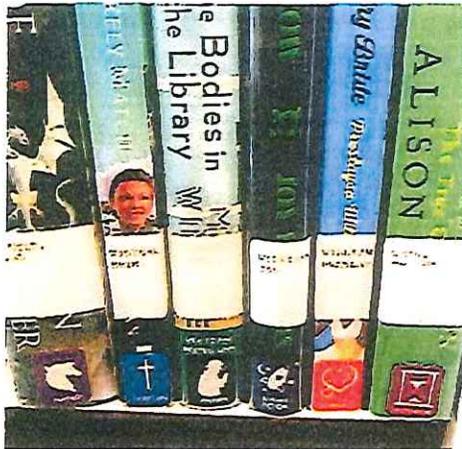
One reason parents want labels on library books offering pornographic or obscene content is because they do not want their children seeing it, on purpose, or by accident. Surveys tell us that...

- 75% of parents believed their child had never encountered porn, but of those children, 53% reported that they had in fact seen porn.
- Of the adolescents who had been exposed to porn, 28% were first exposed by accident, 19% were unexpectedly shown pornography by someone else, and only 19% searched for it intentionally.
- Half of boys (53%) and over a third of girls (39%) reported believing that pornography was a realistic depiction of sex. (source of data shown on page 2)

The biggest road block to protecting our children from pornography and obscene materials in our libraries is attitude. If the library trustees want it done, it can be done.

ACTION STEP: Create an "Awareness Label" identifying obscene or pornographic material in Christian County Libraries. At a minimum, in the Children's, and Young Adult sections. This will support parents/guardians who are monitoring what their children read.

The library currently has a labeling system in place, and there are already hundreds of books and other materials in circulation that have labels. Sample label titles include Mystery, Romance, Christian, SoHo Crime, Historical, Fantasy, and Science Fiction.



A new label, something like "Parent/Guardian Review Recommended" could be created and applied to those books with obscene or pornographic material, with little financial impact to the library budget.

OUTCOME: This new content label program would advance the library mission of "building community for all through access, innovation and engagement" by **making book shelves safer for unsuspecting children and more user friendly to busy parents** who may not have time to *preview and read every book on a shelf their children may be looking at*. With a quick glance they will be able to guide children away from books with objectionable content *before* their impressionable minds are exposed to it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Miller, Nixa, Missouri

Pornography is BIG business.

As high as \$90 billion worldwide and perhaps \$10 billion in the US.

These consumer stats are from FightTheNewDrug.com

1. According to a recent report by the BBFC, 75% of parents believed their child had never encountered porn, but of those children, 53% reported that they had in fact seen porn.^[1]
2. According to research by the NSPCC, of the adolescents who had been exposed to porn, 28% were first exposed by accident, 19% were unexpectedly shown pornography by someone else, and only 19% searched for it intentionally.^[2]
3. Despite the fact that porn can be wildly unrealistic and often glorifies violence, sexism, or racism, one recent survey found that over half of boys (53%) and over a third of girls (39%) reported believing that pornography was a realistic depiction of sex.^[3]

Sources

[1] British Board of Film Classification. (2020). Young people, pornography & age-verification. BBFC. Retrieved from <https://www.bbfc.co.uk/about-classification/research>

[2] Martellozzo, E., Monaghan, A., Adler, J. R., Davidson, J., Leyva, R., & Horvath, M. A. H. (2016). 'I wasn't sure it was normal to watch it'. London: NSPCC. Retrieved from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2016/i-wasn-t-sure-it-was-normal-to-watch-it>

[3] Martellozzo, E., Monaghan, A., Adler, J. R., Davidson, J., Leyva, R., & Horvath, M. A. H. (2016). 'I wasn't sure it was normal to watch it'. London: NSPCC. Retrieved from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2016/i-wasn-t-sure-it-was-normal-to-watch-it>

Pornography can be anywhere, and accidental exposure to porn through online sources is very troubling. UNICEF offers this insight on their website.

Pornographic content can harm children. Exposure to pornography at a young age may lead to poor mental health, sexism and objectification, sexual violence, and other negative outcomes. Among other risks, when children view pornography that portrays abusive and misogynistic acts, they may come to view such behaviour as normal and acceptable.

UNICEF supports the efforts of governments to ensure that children are protected from harmful content in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the authoritative guidance from the Committee on the Rights of the Child.^[1] UNICEF also recognizes the tremendous opportunities that the digital environment provides for children's learning, play, creativity, participation, and socialization.

Children should be able to access and safely engage in the digital environment without being harmed by exposure to pornography. It is also important that the protection of children from harmful content does not unjustifiably impinge on other rights children have under the Convention.^[2]

[NOTE: The above comments relate to online porn, *but shouldn't they apply to printed porn as well?*]

QUESTION 1 FOR THE BOARD: If there were books or videos in circulation at Christian County Libraries containing porn or obscene images or descriptions (as established in the 1973 In Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 Supreme Court Case), *wouldn't you at least want to put a warning label on those materials?*

QUESTION 2 FOR THE BOARD: What threshold needs to be met in order for a book to be considered pornographic or obscene? Did you know that recently two Christian County families had an uncomfortable experience with The Breakaways, a graphic novel in the Nixa Children's graphic novel

section? The book offers overt sexual images and language, and promotes transgenderism, which you would never know based on the summary provided by the library based COOLcat.org resource.

COOLcat.org book SUMMARY for The Breakaways: Faith, an introverted fifth grader with a vivid imagination, starts middle school worrying about how she will fit in. To her surprise, Amanda, a popular eighth grader, convinces her to join the school soccer team, the Bloodhounds. Having never played soccer in her life, Faith ends up on the C team, a ragtag group with a tendency for drama over teamwork.

Despite their losing streak, Faith and her fellow teammates form strong bonds both on and off the soccer field, which challenge their notions of loyalty, identity, friendship, and unity.

The Breakaways is a positive exploration of the complexity of female friendships, as well as the ups and downs of middle school life. Cathy G. Johnson brings this diverse and spirited group of girls to life with her joyful art style and honest, thoughtful writing.

Honesty in Book Reviews. An alternate and more specific view of the content of The Breakaways can be found at BookLooks.org, which offers an image of the book cover, examples of text, and images for easy viewing by busy and caring parents.

BookLooks.org SUMMARY for The Breakaways: A group of teenage girls discover their sexualities and genders.

Please see page 5 of this proposal for text excerpts from the BookLooks.org review of The Breakaways.

This is the challenge parents who use our library face, and the type of book that probably needs a warning label to help them in their role of parenting. Take a step to help parents/guardians and they will increase their use of the library which they pay for through their taxes.

MOVING FORWARD WITH LABELING

MATERIALS: Labels should not cost more than 25 cents each. If there were 200 titles needing the new label the cost would be \$50. A library budget report at the July 2023 board meeting indicated there is ample money available for new projects. A volunteer could handle this project.

LABOR: Library staff should be able to use a computer software program in order to cross match our local inventory list with books identified as containing obscene or pornographic material. Library staff time needed. Perhaps ten to twenty hours during the course of a month, during slow visitation times at the library. Minimal cost.

BOOK IDENTIFICATION: Court cases have upheld the rights of communities to determine their standards of morality in relation to pornography and obscene material. A group of parents, concerned citizens, library patrons, staff, trustees and others could be formed to guide this process in Christian County. Only five to six hours of staff time (for two-meetings) would be needed. Once the books are identified give the public a 30-day window of opportunity to offer comments of support or criticism for the book list.

PROCESS After the list of titles is prepared, a "theme" titled label can be applied. Something like "Parent/Guardian Review Recommended". I am sure that volunteers could be recruited to help with this process, with no cost and little time needed from library staff.

Book Label Project Summary

Project time estimate: Two to three months, with a range of 20 to 30 hours of staff time, which would be about ten hours a month.

Project Cost Estimate: Under \$500.

FOR THOSE WHO SAY THIS IS NOT NECESSARY...How about asking library patrons what they think?

IDEA: Offer patrons a printed questionnaire when they visit the library, and send all patrons a short email letting them know that you are considering placing an "awareness" label on library items with obscene or pornographic material.

One question would follow:

Would you support the library placing an awareness label on a limited number of books in our library system (Children's and Young Adult sections) that contain obscene or pornographic material?

YES NO

Comments _____

From _____ Date _____

#

Sample Text from *The Breakaways*

Page	Content
33	Sodacan is talking to Faith and says, "I saw you looking at Bulldog's bra today." Faith says, "N-no I wasn't!"
68	Mathilda, a messenger for Kings and Queens, dressed as a man says to a king, "I enjoy the sentiment, King Breaker, but you know very well i am not a knight nor a 'sir'."
100	"So? That just means I'll look awesome my whole life. I'm going to die when I'm thirty anyway."
155	Marie and Sammy are lying in bed together. Sammy says, "You're my best friend...Can I tell you something?" "Yeah." "I think I'm a boy."
156	Sammy says, "I just...I know I'm a boy..." "You're totally right. You're a boy."
158	Sammy and Marie are lying in bed together. Sammy says, "Is it okay...Is it okay if I kiss you?" "Yeah."
159	The illustrations on this page depict Marie and Sammy lying in bed together kissing from various views. <i>See Figure 1.</i>
166	Zoe says to Faith, "Hey, Faith?" "Yeah?" "Do you like boys?"
167	Faith is talking to Zoe and says, "Um. I don't know who I like. Maybe boys. Maybe girls." "Really? That's not gross?" "No way. My aunt lives with her wife in New York."
168	Zoe says, "I like girls."
193	Sammy is talking to Sodacan saying, "I'm, um, I'm a boy."
194	Marie is talking to Sodacan saying, "He's trans." Sodacan asks Sammy, "What does that mean?" Sammy replies, "It means when I was born the doctors said I was a girl, but I'm actually a boy."

Meeting Date 8/22



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*Name Jeanne Colburn

*Agenda Item or Topic
Books

Group Represented (If applicable) _____

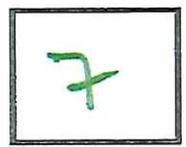
County of Residence Christian

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

**Required Information*



Meeting Date 8/22



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*Name Sheila Michaels

*Agenda Item or Topic
Book Bag Program

Group Represented (If applicable) none

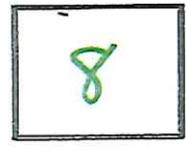
County of Residence Christian

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

**Required Information*





#BookBag Summer '23

700
visitors

\$1200

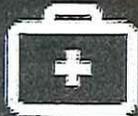
in school supplies



YALSA Award **\$500**

\$400 **\$300**

Private Donations CCL



100 period kits



350 hygiene kits

2,775

books given away

40

Snack Boxes

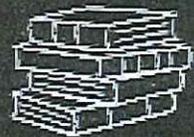


CTL

Care To Learn - Nixa

\$500

Nixa Education Foundation Grant



copies of **50**
Wonder
by R.J. Palacio



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*Name Alexis Alford

*Agenda Item or Topic
BOOKS

Group Represented (If applicable) _____

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card Y

**Required Information*



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*Name Wanetta Bright

*Agenda Item or Topic Book Rating

Group Represented (If applicable)

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number

Email

Do you have a Christian County Library Card Yes

*Required Information

10

Meeting Date 8/22



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*Name Polly Davis

*Agenda Item or Topic
Support for library

Group Represented (If applicable) _____

County of Residence Christian

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Do you have a Christian County Library Card yes

*Required Information

