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Draft Letter

Ginny Maziarka

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Mr. Tyree,

We do not agree that there is confusion concerning our requests. Attorney Schanning asked us to clarify our [position](#) and we complied. We outlined for her the same issues we discussed in our meetings with both Kristin Pekoll, the YA Zone librarian, and yourself. (I have attached the meeting minutes.)

Our requests, as stated to Atty. Schanning, **continue to be:**

1. That the West Bend Public Library attain, at the very minimum, balance in the selections that the libraries carry on the homosexual issue in the YA Zone. There is no logical or common-sense reason why taxpayer-funded public libraries should make available every latest gay-affirming book, including those designed to open up young minds to the false and dangerous notion that homosexuality is normal, while not carrying any faith-based and/or ex-gay books that affirm traditional heterosexual perspectives and oppose a pro-homosexual ideology.
2. We further asked for the removal of any book in the youth section of our library, i.e., children's, young adult/YA Zone, that contains perverse and pornographic language, including those that graphically and explicitly depict sex acts. Two such books are "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" and "The Geography Club", which is neither about Geography or any school-related subject. We will further be requesting via formal request form that the book "Deal With It" by Esther Drill be removed for it's GRAPHICALLY crude, explicit, pornographic written and pictorial content.
3. We requested that any youth web pages referring to topics of a sexual nature, i.e., Out of the Closet, be removed from the library website, or at the very least, become password-protected, only accessible with parental authority, such as the practice in place for use of the library computers. Upon meeting with Mr. Tyree, we suggested the web page name "Out of the Closet", which clearly promotes a pro-homosexual theme, be changed to a neutral category.

Though we told him we would prefer certain books be removed all together, we understand that the library has an obligation to give the broadest spectrum of information on any given subject; therefore, we are [willing to agree to more information, not less. To resolve our complaint against the whole genre of books, the library staff and board can elect to remove them all from the library, re-classify them all and place them in an appropriate section, add additional books from differing perspectives and/or undertake a combination of those things. Our clarifications were a means of outlining what corrective steps might be appropriate short of removal. You have sought to turn this around into a withdrawal of the original request for removal, which it never was](#)

intended to be. Our complaint is not evolving; our discussion about how to remedy the problem are evolving during and following discussions with your staff. You are trying to use forms and procedures to put discussions into neat boxes for an up or down vote on individual items in the collection, attempting to leave no room for any “if x, then y” type complaint and precluding any consideration of the collection as a whole or as sub-groups. For instance, according to your own policies, the collection as a whole should not amount to one-sided coverage of controversial topic. When it does, one can ask for removal of those portions of the collection but allow that the defect could be remedied in another fashion with the introduction of materials covering the other sides of the issue.

To further clarify, as we told you in our face-to-face meeting, "removal" did not necessarily mean "ban." Reclassification and placement in the appropriate adult section of the library would be, at the very least, a satisfactory conclusion to our request for removal. Accordingly, the request for removal could be clarified that removal may not be necessary if the required balance is achieved in another way consistent with your own policy. The issue has been fully aired and is ripe for a decision by the whole Library Board.

***Once again,* we would like to clarify that our original request stands.** We made them clear in the letter and email communications, through the media, in addition to the required library complaint form. The purposes of meeting with library staff were to engage in dialogue, which we did, and we were asked to clarify our position from time to time as we went through the process. **To date, all of our issues have been addressed by your staff.** Based on your responses to our meetings, there is no reason for us to believe that going through more staff meetings a second time would yield any different response from the staff. There is no point in breaking up the request into sub requests and starting all over.

We have been through this process once now and we have not withdrawn anything. All we have done is respond to your requests for clarification and more specifics, which we have done carefully and thoroughly.

We, AGAIN, insist on our appeal rights to the Library Board as we feel your withdrawal of our complaint is in gross error. We wish to proceed with the staff decisions that have already been fully discussed. The Library Board is not restricted from placing this matter on its agenda, whether it comes from a form, a letter, or any other source. Your attempt to derail the board’s consideration of these controversial issues is transparent. You do not control their agenda—the board controls its own agenda. This issue was already on the agenda and, but for the meeting delay, would already have been aired and considered by the Library Board. Since that delay, you have attempted to twist our words into something never intended to justify burying this issue. Whatever we have said to lead you to conclude that we have withdrawn our request is hereby withdrawn

and we insist on proceeding with whatever portions of our requests have been refused by the staff. We insist that this old business proceed forward without delay or further obstruction by the staff. Once the Board reaches its decision and gives direction to staff, we will see where things stand. At that point, we may or may not raise concerns about elements of the collection that were not part of our original request that has been denied by staff. This issue will not go away and we will not go away, either.

Jim and Ginny Maziarka