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Draft Letter

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Dear Attorney Schanning,

Thank you for your email. Your letter highlights the inadequacy of the complaint form required to be used by the library staff. There is no space beyond a check-off box to explain the nature of your complaint and requested resolution. One can only list a single item and a comment, but our concerns could not be outlined via this method. This is why we met with the staff. However, the media has turned the request in numerous directions. It is best to communicate directly.

We met with West Bend Library director, Michael Tyree, and respectfully requested the following.

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 its' 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 requesting more information, not less.

As an attorney, we are sure you can appreciate the legal duties and obligations of adults, including city and library employees, in connection with exposing minors to sexual material.

Please refer to various WI statutes I have highlighted below:

948.11 Exposing a child to harmful material or harmful descriptions or narrations (2) Criminal Penalties (a) whoever...loans to a child any harmful material....

948.055 Causing a child to view or listen to sexual activity.... [()]

948.05 Sexual exploitation of a child (1m) Whoever
.....promotes...distributes, any recording of a child engaging in
sexually explicit conduct may be penalized... (p) if the person knows
the character and content of the sexually explicit conduct involving
the child and if the person knows or....that the child engaging in the
sexually explicit conduct has not attained the age of 18 years.

We have requested that the library simply follow its' own procedures and
policies regarding a balanced collection. As it turns out, those policies
are mandated by Wisconsin Law.

[Then, there is this] for libraries:

948.11 (4) Libraries and Educational Institutions.... (b) carry out the
essential purpose of making available to all citizens a current,
balanced collection of books.....that reflect the cultural diversity
and pluralistic nature of American society.

We look forward to you lending your expertise to help explain to the library
board its' legal obligations and options in this situation.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

We will be gone on a short vacation from Friday through Sunday OF THIS WEEK.

Thank you,

Jim and Ginny Maziarka