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Library Board rewrites policy to give broad access to minors and EXCLUDE parents

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Fri, Jul 24, 2009 at 7:06 AM

SUBJECT: Library Board rewrites policy to give broad access to minors and EXCLUDE parents

7:06 AM (16 hours ago) Reply

Dear Mayor Deiss and City Council members,

This month, the WBCML Library Board quietly REWROTE their "Materials Selection Policy" to include:

"Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of their contents, and no library materials will be sequestered.

Responsibility for reading and the use of the library by children rests with their parents and legal guardians. At no time will library staff act in loco parentis. Selection of library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that they may come into the possession of children.

While a person may reject materials for himself or herself, or for his or her children, he or she cannot exercise censorship to restrict access to the material by others."

West Bend Citizens for Safe Libraries opposes, rejects and condemns such a statement in a taxpayer-funded library where the citizens are insisting that parents be assisted in the selection of materials for minors. The wording of this statement clearly implies that the WBCML and Library Board members will give full access to all materials to minors, regardless of content.

The action of our Library Board in rewriting the Materials Reconsideration Policy in this manner is despicable and an outrage to the majority of parents in the West Bend community who wish to be heard, and have been rejected time and again.

To what extent must citizens carry this inappropriate and disturbing issue in order to come to a resolve?

Please consider what is taking place under your leadership, and for the sake of your community, take action.

Sincerely,

Jim and Ginny Maziarka, Advocates

West Bend Citizens for Safe Libraries

Please cc: Terry Vrana