

6-2-2009

West Bend Library Board - lies, anger, and vengeance

Ginny Maziarka

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.uwm.edu/west_bend_library_challenge



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Maziarka, Ginny, "West Bend Library Board - lies, anger, and vengeance" (2009). *West Bend Community Memorial Library (Wisconsin)*, 2009. 219.

https://dc.uwm.edu/west_bend_library_challenge/219

This Blog Post is brought to you for free and open access by UWM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in West Bend Community Memorial Library (Wisconsin), 2009 by an authorized administrator of UWM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact open-access@uwm.edu.

West Bend Library Board - lies, anger, and vengeance

Tonight's rendition of the **West Bend Library Board** meeting...

The meeting began with a long, boring enlightenment on where materials are located in the library, complete with power point.

The opening statement by the library board, presented by Barb Deters (new president of the board) was lengthy. My husband and I were placed on trial, for lack of any other word that can describe the event with their version of a **timeline** of sorts. The dissertation ensued lending itself to incorrect depictions of an alleged timeline of events, stating time and again how **we** were the ones who did **this** and **that** and everything else. Adjectives? Accusatory, inflammatory, vengefully attacking...

Not to fear.

The Library Board had a little help.

The following organizations were so afraid of what was going down in West Bend, they decided to pay a visit and lend their 2 cents. Mind you, the standards inflicted on our community by the likes of ..

- **DEBORAH CALDWELL-STONE**, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE ALA OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
- **JOYCE LATHAM** - UW-M SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
- **EMILIO DE TORRE** - ACLU/WISCONSIN (**School of Saul Alinsky**)
- **CINDY CRANE** - EXEC. DIRECTOR OF GSA FOR SAFE SCHOOLS

are insignificant to us. The Library Board did not use the same discretion that we did (**Town Hall Meeting** of March 27) in allowing members of the community we live in to speak to the issue first. No. Instead, they threw in these unofficial voices who lent no credibility to our community standards and twisted the knife to commit the murderous assault on the minds of the West Bend children.

In the usual unsurprising fashion, Ms. Stone accused:

DAN KLEINMAN OF <http://www.safelibraries.org/>
PABBIS (PARENTS AGAINST BAD BOOKS IN SCHOOLS)
PFOX (PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF EX-GAYS AND GAYS)
FAMILY FRIENDLY LIBRARIES

of opposing intellectual freedom, calling them "censorship advocates."

Here are some quotes from tonight..

"Children should explore their curiosity and it is better that they do it with books." - Speaker unknown.

"Your library does not receive CIPA funding, so you are not required to have porn filters on your computers." That was from Ms. Caldwell-Stone.

"Libraries are exempt from the law." Another precious moment from Caldwell-Stone.

How about this one from Latham?? "...when I was a kid it was so easy to find the dirty books because of the labels on them" Our city attorney, Mary Schanning, found this highly amusing as she openly laughed

over this account. So was this a confession? An enlightenment? A suggestion that perhaps we need to be asking for greater restrictions?

The board listened to the community speak. This began with two minutes of personal attack on my husband and myself from Ms. Deters husband.

After community commentary, the board then adjourned for a 10-minute break in the 3.5-hour-long meeting.

All of the library board members had prewritten a statements, so the outcome was (as we had anticipated) inevitable.

Each vented their anger over the City Council's disapproval of mayoral reappointments to the library board, specified our involvement in the "constantly changing" complaint, but took no blame themselves for stonewalling, lying, being misinformed and dragging their feet.

A motion was made to leave the books where they are. All voted "aye."

The only surprise in all of this was that we were never notified of this meeting. We found out inadvertently through a friend.

The most profound statement read tonight was by an area resident that went like this, "All is permissible, but not all is profitable."