

4-21-2010

Library Board Prez Ousted in West Bend, WI, After Book Controversy; A Lesson for Library Board Members Nationwide

Dan Kleinman

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



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

Recommended Citation

Kleinman, Dan, "Library Board Prez Ousted in West Bend, WI, After Book Controversy; A Lesson for Library Board Members Nationwide" (2010). *West Bend Community Memorial Library (Wisconsin)*, 2009. 344.
https://dc.uwm.edu/west_bend_library_challenge/344

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.

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

[Library Board Prez Ousted in West Bend, WI, After Book Controversy; A Lesson for Library Board Members Nationwide](#)



Barbara Deters (West Bend Library Board President)

A library board president is removed by the West Bend, WI, government for a lack of professionalism in her handling of the issue of inappropriate books for children! Her personal attacks on various people figured into the equation as well.

And this is not the first time [the West Bend government has ousted library board members who protected American Library Association \[ALA\] policy instead of local interests/children](#). See also, "[Library Board Reappointment Rejected](#)," by **Dave Rank**, *West Bend Daily News*, 21 April 2010, p.A7.

Here are the details on the removal of **Barbara Deters**, from an interested observer and one victim of her attacks, including YouTube videos to see for yourselves:

["WISSUP = WISCONSIN SPEAKS UP: West Bend City Council Removes 30-Year Veteran and Board President, Barbara Deters, from Library Board](#)," by **Ginny Maziarka**, *WISSUP=WISCONSIN SPEAKS UP*, 20 April 2010.

Naturally, Barbara Deters's personal attacks on others are excused as efforts to oppose "censorship" by "ultra-conservatives" who were "voted into power this month in a low turn out election." See, "[Let the Purges Begin. WB City Council Dumps Library Board Member Who Stood Up Against Censorship](#)," by **Mark Peterson**, *The Motley Cow*, 21 April 2010.

See also, "[West Bend Library Board President Not Reappointed](#)," by **Owen**, *Boots & Sabers*, 20 April 2010: "Regardless of what you thought of the controversy itself, Deters behaved unprofessionally and publicly attacked the council and individual members - even though she is appointed by the council and is supposed to be an instrument of the city. It was time for her to go." The many comments on this *Boots & Sabers* blog post are even more revealing.

"[Alderman Michael Schlotfeldt moved to not reappoint Deters, stating she verbally attacked aldermen during the book controversy...](#)" Should the issue be reconsidered now that the politics of personal destruction have been removed from the equation?

"Of the nine Library Board appointees who last year dealt with a campaign to remove or label certain books in the young adult section of the West Bend Community Memorial Library only one remains, John Aynesworth." Recall that these library board members choose to follow the advice of outsiders, with the [ALA, for example, making personal visits in West Bend](#). What is the lesson to be learned by library board members nationwide? Please comment below.