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## West Bend Library Board Rejects Restrictions

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# [West Bend Library Board Rejects Restrictions](#)

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The [West Bend Community Memorial Library](#) board held a public meeting this evening to consider the request from the “West Bend Citizens for Safe Libraries” that the library remove books they consider to be “obscene” or “child pornography” from a section of the library designated “Young Adults.” (Background can be found [here](#) and [here](#), and note that while four of the library board members [were denied reappointment](#) by the West Bend city council, they remain in their seats until replacements are nominated and approved, which has yet to happen.)

After listening to citizen voices for over two hours, the library board unanimously concluded that its existing policies regarding these texts were sufficient. As reported by the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#):

The Library Board on Tuesday night unanimously rejected efforts by a local citizen group to restrict access of young adults to books depicting sex among teenagers or those describing teenage homosexual relationships.

Such books already are separated from children’s books, either in a young adult fiction section on the first floor of the library or shelved as young adult non-fiction alongside similar adult texts on the second floor, board members said.

The nine-member board listened for 2½ hours as nearly 60 people discussed the appropriateness of the library providing such books to the public before the board voted to maintain current policies.

I believe this was the right decision by the library board (but they’re [not quite out of the woods yet](#), unfortunately).

The library board did not, however, appear to take specific action on a separate, but related, request by the complainants, whose [petition](#) also asked the Library Board to “balance” its collection of books about homosexuality with books “affirming traditional heterosexual perspectives” that are faith-based or written by “ex-gay” authors.

This is a very problematic request, a fact made clear by SOIS grad student Tony Hoffmann at his [Sex, Drugs, and Intellectual Freedom blog](#). Time will tell if this demand will continue to be put forward by the West Bend Citizens for Safe Libraries.