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Draft Petition to the West Bend Library Board

Ginny Maziarka

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Petition to the West Bend Library Board

We, the undersigned, request that the following five policies be considered separately by the Library Board at its next public meeting, and be voted upon, and a public record of the individual votes of the Library Board members be made.

1. Reclassification of Youth-Targeted Pornographic Books: We request that the Library Board adopt a policy to provide for the mandatory reclassification of any books in the youth sections of the West Bend Library (i.e., children's, young adult/YA Zone) that (a) are obscene, (b) child pornography, (c) appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (d) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and that these books be reclassified to the adult sections of the library.
2. Visual identification of explicit material: We request that the Library Board adopt a policy to provide for the labeling with a visible identification mark (similar to a RIAA or MPAA Parental Advisory warning) such materials targeted toward minors that (a) are obscene, (b) child pornography, (c) appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (d) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals;
3. Restrict Access to Library-produced Sexual Content Online: We request that the Library Board adopt a policy that any content and/or books promoted on a Library website that (a) are obscene, (b) child pornography, (c) appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (d) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; be either (a) removed from the library website; or (b) restricted to adults eighteen years or older using library card numbers or similar technology as is currently used for the library computers.
4. Balanced Literature on Controversial Issues: We request that the Library Board adopt a policy to attain balance in the viewpoints of selections (both affirming and opposing) that the libraries carry in issues sufficiently controversial within the West Bend community (i.e., homosexuality). Specifically, we request faith-based and/or ex-gay books affirming traditional heterosexual perspectives be added to the library. A list of suggested books is attached.
5. Children's Internet Protection: We request that the Library Board adopt a policy to protect minors consistent with the Children's Internet Protection Act (required for libraries receiving federal funds) to implement technology protection measures with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.