



Board Meeting
June 8, 2023

Board Members

Present: Charlie Anderson, Sage Bear, Charles Butler, Chelsie Collier, and Darcie Lyon

Library Staff

Present: Terri Lesley, Larissa Stalcup, and Irene Moore

Campbell County:

Sage called the meeting to order at 4:32pm in the Wyoming Room of the Campbell County Public Library.

Sage provided a summation of written comments. Members of the public provided public comment.

The board discussed the revised Collection Development Policy.

Chuck stated the reconsideration policy should be amended to require that board members read the (challenged) book.

Charlie made a motion to amend the policy to require, in the cases of appeals to the board, that the board members read the book. After discussion, Chuck seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Charlie made a motion to amend the challenge form to require the challenger to certify, by checking a box, that they have read the book in its entirety. Darcie seconded. Motion carried.

Terri expressed concerns about being caught between policy and the reality of the First Amendment. The policy states the Director *shall* ensure certain things, such as not allowing inappropriate visual and narrative items in the collection. There are also issues of interpretation due to the ambiguity of the wording. Terri asked if the staff would violate the policy if they bought a book that they didn't realize would violate the policy. Sage stated she didn't think it would violate the policy, but if an item is challenged and if the director refused to follow the policy, then that would be a violation.

Charlie stated the policy language concerning the Children's Internet Protection act on page 11 needs to be removed. He felt it was not applicable because the standards of the Act only apply if the library is getting money from the Federal Government.

Charlie made a motion to amend the policy to remove language regarding the Internet Protection Act. The motion was not seconded.

Charlie made a motion to remove language referring to the Children's Internet Protection Act. Motion fails.

Sage invited board members to make closing comments (summarized below):

Charlie stated the Board reviewed the challenge process a year and a half ago and the process is now streamlined and faster. The process was harmed when Liberty Council, an activist, religious group from Florida (501c4) reviewed the policy. Their draft censored the adult collection, clearly violating everyone's First Amendment rights. ALA references were purged so that staff education is more difficult; the library is the only county agency that doesn't provide continuing education. Liberty

Council gave the board the right to censor library material for any reason. This was taken out of the draft. The Children's Internet Protection Act language that was added does not apply. Language was added that requires an obscenity standard. If we pass this draft, it is going to cause confusion. It's going to be difficult to administer. Other than the section on the appeal process, there is nothing better in the draft than what we had in the first place. The language is vague. There's a possibility of using unconstitutional standards. The existing rules we have were written by library professionals and are constitutionally defensible. We should postpone adoption to assure the rules are constitutional.

Charlie made a motion to table discussion until the board gets an opinion from the County Attorney. The motion was not seconded.

Darcie stated that this is one of the hardest decisions that she's ever made. She's talked to many people about it. She loves the idea of an organization for librarians, but has concerns about the ALA, and is happy to have the references to ALA removed from the policy. She read 15 challenged books. There would be five books she would ask to move to the adult area. She will review every challenge. This is a slippery slope. Everyone feels differently about books. It's up to the parents and the community to help children with book choices. We have the right to read whatever we want.

Chelsie stated she received many written comments. She referred to a patron statement that said librarians should review the books and that we should trust that parents will parent the children—an honorable idea. The Library was brought to the state that it is in due to standards of an organization that believes and endorses educating equal access to all. While equal access sounds like a really great idea, she doesn't give her kids equal access to information because they're not ready for all the things this world has to share. She expressed concern about the culture children live in, and the need for safeguards. This policy will give a boundary to the culture of sexually explicit content pushed by our media. She expressed concerns about parents who are not vested in what their children access. She acknowledges how busy parents are, and that children shouldn't be exposed to sexually explicit material with parental ability to stop this. The ALA has chosen to make this an issue of religion and politics with radical ideas about what is appropriate access for all. The ALA is infringing on her rights.

Chuck stated his support for policy changes has been back and forth. Most of the conversation has been asking why the library insists on providing such highly sexualized content in books in areas accessed by minors and children. How can there be some guidelines to monitor how age-appropriate material is accessed. Libraries are tax funded entities so how can they buy this content. There are laws that keep kids from accessing sexually inappropriate materials—why not in the libraries? The ALA is a self-proclaimed Socialist Marxist activist group so this has nothing to do with targeting LGBTQ ideology or anyone's lifestyle. This is about making the library more responsible for protecting children from sexually explicit material until they are emotionally mature. This may not be popular with some of the ideologies, but as a board member, this is a step in the right direction.

Sage thanked everyone for enduring the process. She stated the board has listened earnestly to both sides of the issue. It boils down to two things: one side believes anyone of any age has the right to access all material. To suggest otherwise is an infringement of freedom of speech. On the other side, it has been argued by a Supreme Court Justice that society has a duty to protect children, in reference to the CIPA Act (Children's Internet Protection Act). This is an argument to provide filters to

protect minors from the same things we are talking about today. We do not want sexually graphic materials. This has nothing to do with LGBTQ. There are certain books that could be moved to the adult section and the older kids can figure out where they are. The catalog is easy to use and this will then not be marked to them.

Chelsie moved to approve the collection development policy as proposed. Chuck seconded. Vote: Chelsie, Sage, Chuck: Aye. Charlie, Darcie: Nay. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 4:30pm, Voucher meeting, Library Board Room, Regular Meeting, June 26, 2023, 4:30pm


Board Chair
Director