

HENNEPIN COUNTY

LIBRARY BOARD



THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME AT ALL LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

October 19, 2023, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Ridgedale Library | Meeting Room 172 | 12601 Ridgedale Dr. | Minnetonka, MN 55305

Library Board Agenda

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Attendance
-  3. Approval of Agenda*
-  4. Approval of August 10, 2023, Meeting Summary*
5. Welcome to Scott Duimstra
6. Other Board Training Opportunities
7. Bloomington Schools Book Challenges
8. November 15, 2023, Board Meeting Agenda
-  9. Adjourn*

Library Board

Jane Brissett, President | Lynn Stetler, Vice President | Amal Karim, Secretary | Randy Klauk | Ashley Krohn | Michael Hogan | Erin Carney | Briana Eicheldinger | Adja Kaba | Jessica Kraft | Gordy Aune, Jr.

Library Director
Scott Duimstra



HENNEPIN COUNTY

LIBRARY BOARD

The public is welcome at all library board meetings

Executive Committee

Meeting Summary

The Library Board Executive Committee met on Wednesday, August 10, 2023, at Ridgedale Library, Robert H. Rohlf meeting room.

Attendees

Present: Jane Brissett, Lynn Stetler, Amal Karim, and Ashley Krohn.

Hennepin County Staff: Dan Rogan, J.R. Genett, Amy McNally, Christy Mulligan, and Jeannette Lewis

Welcome and Call to Order

President Jane Brissett called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

Attendance of Committee Members

Library Board Clerk Jeannette Lewis took roll call. The Committee met the quorum with 3 members present.

Approval of Agenda

Jane Brissett made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Lynn Stetler. Motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Jane Brissett made a motion to approve the April 19, 2023, meeting summary; seconded by Lynn Stetler. Motion passed.

EDI Trainings

Christy Mulligan discussed EDI trainings available to the board through Hennepin County.

Other Board Training Opportunities

The committee tabled "Other Board Training Opportunities."

Motion: Amal Karim

Second: Lynn Stetler

Motion passed.

Library Board

Jane Brissett, President | Lynn Stetler, Vice President | Amal Karim, Secretary | Randy Klauk | Ashley Krohn | Michael Hogan | Erin Carney | Briana Eicheldinger | Adja Kaba | Jessica Kraft | Gordy Aune, Jr.

Interim Library Director
Dan Rogan



The committee voted to propose the Advancing Racial Equity (ARE) Training to the board.

Motion: Ashley Krohn

Second: Lynn Stetler

Motion passed.

[Agenda For September 20, 2023, Board Meeting](#)

The committee discussed agenda items for the next full board meeting.

[Adjourn](#)

President Jane Brissett adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Email thread from HCL librarian regarding Bloomington schools book challenges

We had talked on Wednesday last week about the book challenges hitting Bloomington Public Schools and what I as a youth services librarian can do to support the schools and the freedom to read. I'm forwarding you the email that I received from a Bloomington resident who has a petition to fight against the book challenges. The email also goes over the titles that are being challenged as well as places to reach out to about the issues right now. My hands are a bit tied as I can not represent Hennepin County Library, and I'm not a Bloomington resident, but as a librarian who is very anti-censorship and wants to combat book challenges at the root rather than letting them spread, this is an issue that I care a lot about.

If nothing can be done on your end, that's okay, but I appreciate you reaching out to ask about more details.

Email from Friends of Penn-Lake Library to three HCL librarians

Subject: [External] Fwd: Freedom to Read. Books threatened to be removed from school media centers in Bloomington.

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of Hennepin County. Unless you recognize the sender and know the content, do not click links or open attachments.

This email was sent to the Friends of PLL gmail account. I have not responded ...

----- Forwarded message -----

Subject: Freedom to Read. Books threatened to be removed from school media centers in Bloomington.

Dear Penn Lake Library, this is for whoever manages this mailbox, but please also forward to your new youth services staff member as I'm not sure if she gets these emails.

Perhaps this news has reached you, but if not, I want to share in case any of the Penn Lake Library staff or board members could speak up against a proposed book ban in Bloomington, and write letters to the school board in favor of keeping the books.

Ways to get involved to fight against this book ban are below. The books all have a theme or characters about LGBTQ+ issues or diverse perspectives. Feel free to ask me any questions. My apologies if this is not something you want to get involved in, but I implore you to do so since it affects access to books.

Those in favor of removing the books from the school media centers say that kids can get whatever books they want to at the public libraries. But we know transportation can be an issue for children so we want to ensure these books stay available in the school media centers where they currently exist. See all the book details, etc. below for your reference. I am a Bloomington resident. Thank you.

There is an effort to ban books in Bloomington Public Schools that is supported by groups the Southern Poverty Law Center has deemed hate groups. A petition in support of the banning was presented to the school board at the Aug. school board listening session.

Click this link to sign and submit an already drafted letter or write your own.

https://actionnetwork.org/letters/ban-hate-not-books-bloomington?source=direct_link&

Additional info:

LETTER CAMPAIGN BY BAN HATE
NOT BOOKS BLOOMINGTON
Bloomington, Minnesota

Freedom to Read intro:

As public institutions, our schools must serve the entire community. Overwhelmingly, parents in this community believe diverse voices on our library shelves offer students the opportunity to feel seen, understood, and to learn about the lived experiences of others. While caregivers have the right to decide what people, values, and beliefs they wish to expose their children to at home, U.S. law does not grant them the right to impose those decisions on other parents' children. As caregivers, we have a right to choose what our children do or do not read. We don't need others making those choices for us. We have rights too.

Below is the content of the letter to ISD 271 school board without customization. You can enter your info and send the letter as is, or you can customize it as well, but that's not a requirement.

Dear Members of ISD 271 School Board,

I am a stakeholder in ISD 271, and I would like to voice my support for access to literature, books, and information that reflect all people and experiences. Recently, our students' First Amendment rights to learn, read, and express themselves freely has come under attack by members of this community who are committed to driving an agenda and depriving our children of their rights to free expression, education, and diversity. The organizers of these efforts are fueled by groups which have been classified as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

As public institutions, our schools must serve the entire community. Overwhelmingly, parents and caregivers in this community believe diverse voices on our library shelves offer students the opportunity to feel seen, understood, and to learn about the lived experiences of others. Libraries, including school libraries are a place where our youth can learn and grow. Books in Bloomington Public School libraries are carefully selected by trained librarians to support the educational needs of our children. While caregivers have the right to decide what people, values, and beliefs they wish to expose their children to at home, U.S. law does not grant them the right to impose those decisions on other peoples' children. As caregivers, we have a right to choose what our children do or do not read. We don't need others making those choices for us. We have rights too.

As our school board, you have a duty to serve all students in this district. I am urging you not to remove any books from Bloomington Public School libraries and to reject any policy that would jeopardize our children's right to free expression and robust education.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

....

Info about the school board:

<https://www.bloomington.k12.mn.us/school-board>

Link to register for the next school board listening session. (Always 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in person at Oak Grove Middle / Education Service Center:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdisXmOWBVngPLreyalVI-NdJLvsDcYjUcy50RECJv6P-lZtg/viewform>

Adults and students can speak at the listening sessions. Must register prior to noon on the second Monday of the month to speak. No registration required to only attend.

Below is the list of books for which the ISD 271 school board has received book removal requests, and the school media centers where the books are located. There may be others, but these were listed in the book ban petition circulating in Bloomington:

Elementary

Call Me Max by Kyle Lukoff (Hillcrest, Poplar Bridge)

Calvin by Ronald M. Ford (Ridgeview)

I Am Jazz! by Jessica Herthel (Hillcrest, Indian Mound, Normandale Hills, Oak Grove, Poplar Bridge)

When Aidan Became a Brother by Kyle Lukoff (Oak Grove)

Melissa/ formerly titled George by Alex Gino (Indian Mound, Oak Grove, Poplar, Ridgeview, Washburn, Westwood)

5 books at elementary level

Middle School

Lilly and Dunkin by Donna Gephart (All 3 Middle Schools)

If I Was Your Girl by Meredith Russo (Olson Middle)

July Zenobia by Lisa Bunker (All 3 Middle Schools)

Parrotfish by Ellen Wittlinger (All 3 Middle Schools)

Melissa/ formerly titled George by Alex Gino (All 3 Middle Schools)

Pet by Akwaeke Emezi (All 3 Middle Schools)

6 books at MS level.

High School

Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid (Jefferson HS)

Verity by Colleen Hoover (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe (Jefferson HS)

Ugly Love by Colleen Hoover (Jefferson HS)

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison (Jefferson HS)

L8r.g8r by Lauren Myracle (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

Boy Toy by Barry Lyga (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany Jackson (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

Felix Ever After by Kacen Callendar (Jefferson HS)

Lawn Boy by Jonathon Evison (Jefferson HS)

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathon Safran Foer (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

What Girls Are Made Of by Elena Arnold (Jefferson HS)

PUSH by Sapphire (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

The Kite Runner (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

Crank by Ellen Hopkins (Jefferson & Kennedy HS)

19 books at HS level.

Thank you for your efforts in the freedom to read and keeping these crucial books available to students.
(We have approximately 10,00 kids in our district)

HENNEPIN COUNTY

LIBRARY BOARD


The public is welcome at all library board meetings

November 15, 2023, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Golden Valley Library, Meeting Room

Library Board Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance of Library Board Members
-  3. Approval of Agenda*
-  4. Consent*
 - A. Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2023
 - B. Donations
5. Public comment
6. Welcome from Golden Valley Staff
7. President's report
 - A. Announcements
-  8. 2023 - 2024 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule
9. Director's report, Scott Duimstra
 - A. Library, Community, and County Updates
10. Library Staff Dialogue
11. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee
 - B. Policy Committee
 - C. Budget Committee
 - D. FHCL
12. Unfinished Business
 - a. Update on Marie Tran Letter and Public Comment
 - b. How Meeting Minutes are Recorded
13. New Business
-  14. Adjourn*

 *Denotes board action item.

Library Board

Jane Brissett, President | Lynn Stetler, Vice President | Amal Karim, Secretary | Randy Klauk | Ashley Krohn | Michael Hogan | Erin Carney | Briana Eicheldinger | Adja Kaba | Jessica Kraft | Gordy Aune, Jr.

Library Director
Scott Duimstra

