



You received a submission for Request for reconsideration policy and form

patt@firstcitylibraries.org <noreply@123formbuilder.com>
Reply-To: noreply@123formbuilder.com
To: patt@firstcitylibraries.org

Fri, Feb 10, 2023 at 3:11 PM

Form Summary

Title Lets Talk About It
 Choose one format: Book
 Please describe if you chose Other:
 Author Erika Moen & Matthew Nolan
 Publisher
 Your First / Last name Tanya Hedlind
 Your Address 7929 S Tongass Hwy
 Ketchikan
 99901
 United States
 Your Phone number 760-500-5468
 Best time to call Any
 Your Email address tanyahedlind@gmail.com
 Indicate one I represent myself

1. Request for Reconsideration form
 page 1 of 1

If you are filing this request on behalf of another, please enter their name:

To what in the material do you object? Page 82: Talks about anal sex and encourages it. That is not a safe sex practice. Page 152: Encourages sexting. We shouldn't be teaching kids to post nudes online. 164: Encourages looking up porn. Page 165 Continues on with the porn along with very graphic photos including a couple in a sex act. There are many other pages that (I can't see page numbers) but show VERY graphic sexual photos.

Did you read, listen to or watch the entire work? No, I only saw the pages, with the page numbers listed above.

What do you think might be the result of reading this work? It is encouraging kids as young as 12 to go out and put nude photos online, look up porn. This has a very high potential to turn into a child pornography situation. Kids are being taught too much sexualization at such a young age.

What would you like the Library to do about this item? Remove the book from the kids section and library. It belongs in an adult book store.

The message has been sent from 206.223.196.150 us at 2023-02-10 on Chrome 109.0.0.0

Entry ID: 1

Referrer: <https://www.ketchikanpubliclibrary.org/how-do-i>

Form Host: <https://www.ketchikanpubliclibrary.org/reconsideration-request-form>



February 21th, 2023

2 - Amie Toepfer
response to
request -
page 1 of 2

Ms. Hedlind,

Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding *Let's Talk about It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human* by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. I am responding to you in my capacity as Head of Youth Services of the Ketchikan Public Library. All requests for the reconsideration of youth library materials are addressed through this process. I have read your comments, read the material in question in its entirety, and have considered your concerns.

Each title purchased for the library is selected on its own merit and the needs of the audience for whom it is intended. Selection is made primarily on the basis of book reviews and other professional tools. The library's collection is composed of materials that reflect the unique and diverse needs of this wonderful community. This book was selected based on the authority, effectiveness and currency of the information, the reviews, need for updated material, and the overall balance of the subject matter.

Let's Talk about It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human has received several starred reviews from multiple professional review sites and was nominated for the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) Great Graphic Novels of 2022. Here are some of the reviews:

"A refreshingly inclusive read.... offering comprehensive, no-nonsense information on sex and sexuality." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

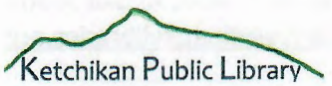
"Honest, normalizing, and sex positive.... Puts the *graphic* in the graphic-novel format, in the best and most educational way." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Every panel of this book... is loaded with crucial information about consent, respect, consideration, and boundaries.... Real talk about relationships and sex." —*School Library Journal*

"A frank and open minded look at sex, relationships, and self-understanding." —*Booklist*

It was written by a married team of professional cartoonists who have more than twenty years of experience between them. It is an open and honest graphic novel guide to sex education that addresses issues like gender, consent, body types, sexting, safe sex, jealousy, anatomy, and more. It is comprehensive, thoughtful and well-researched and presents the information in an inclusive and accessible way, while creating space for discussions around a subject matter that is often considered taboo.

This book was written for teens and can be found in the teen nonfiction collection of the public library. The catalog record indicates that this item is for teenagers who are 14 years of age or older and/or for



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grades 10-12. The library does not act in place of the parents and does not restrict access to library materials for minors. Parents are encouraged to come to the library with their teen to select material that they feel is appropriate for their family.

After considering your request, I have concluded that *Let's Talk about It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human* meets the requirements of the Collection Development Policy and should be retained by the Ketchikan Public Library.

If you are not satisfied with this decision, you may file a written appeal to Library Director Patricia Tully. Ms. Tully will respond in writing within ten (10) days. If that response is unacceptable, you may file a written appeal to the Library Advisory Board to request further consideration at a public hearing. You can contact Ms. Tully at Patt@firstcitylibraries.org.

Thank you for your interest in the collections at the Ketchikan Public Library. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Amie Toepfer

Digitally signed by Amie Toepfer
DN: cn=Amie Toepfer, o=Ketchikan City,
ou=Library, email=amiet@firstcitylibraries.org,
c=US
Date: 2023.02.21 16:03:14 -0900'

Amie Toepfer
Head of Children's Services
She/Her/Hers
Ketchikan Public Library
1110 Copper Ridge Ln, Ketchikan AK 99901
907-228-2306
amiet@firstcitylibraries.org

2. Amie Toepfer
response to
request

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3. Tanya Hedlind
appeal letter to
Director Pat Tully
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From Tanya Hedlind, February 21, 2023. Subject: My Appeal

Good Afternoon Ms. Tully,

I thank you for allowing me the chance to come and talk to you about my concerns and for your courtesy. I did however feel that Ms. Toepfer had already made up her mind before I arrived. Her body language came off as unwelcoming and that left me feeling like I was not truly heard.

So, with that and her response, I respectfully request an appeal to the decision made by Ms. Toepfer. The issues I have with her letter are as follows:

1. Her age/grade reference. 14 years old is 8th/9th grade. From Letter: The catalog record indicates that this item is for teenagers who are 14 years of age or older and/or for grades 10-12. It would appear that Ms. Toepfer is referring to the reading level of this book. Since it has been shelved in the Young Adult/Juvenile and the American Library Association defines Young Adult as "individuals between 12 and 18 years of age."

2. As per the sheet I gave you (and have attached here) I feel as though none of the issues I saw were addressed in her response. There are pictures in this book depicting people having sex and masturbating. That is sexually explicit material. I did not see anything defending or justifying the use of pornographic and sexually explicit materials. Nor is there any attempt to defend or justify the use of a how-to guide for sexting and posting pornographic images "safely" on the Internet or using the Internet as a reliable source for information as the book councils.

3. I do not see where the experienced cartoonist had true and accurate medical references. References should be included when talking about medical facts. From letter: It was written by a married team of professional cartoonists who have more than twenty years of experience between them. What authority does this married team have besides being professional cartoonists? Are they an authority on the subject matter, particularly that I have pointed out as being inappropriate? Effectiveness of what?

4. Her use of book reviews are from biased sources and not looking at sources from all avenues. From letter: This book was selected based on...the reviews... Initial selection of a book based on reviews, is understandable, but after reading and hearing reviews from the public whom you serve, a re-selection should take place.

It is alarming and how biased, opinionated, and factually inaccurate this book is. This book is teaching misinformation on genders and the body. It is pushing a political opinion that only serves half the library audience, which based on the library's Freedom to Read Statement and the Library Bill of Rights, this book is in gross violation of those standards. If the library is to appeal to all audiences, then there is a major failure at this point. This book does not provide a balance of point of view as it is only serving half this communities' beliefs. This book goes against morals and community standards by teaching kids it is ok to sext and to look up porn and that it significantly downplays STIs. From letter: It is an open and honest graphic novel guide to sex education that addresses issues like gender, consent, body types, sexting, safe sex, jealousy, anatomy, and more. Saying that teens need a guide for sexting and safe sex endorses and promotes these actions.

There are many kids who commit suicide over the consequences of sexting. This is a dangerous act to allow this book to encourage. Pornography has a significant negative affect on families, and marriages

and is a dangerous thing to encourage kids. Especially when our own government is trying to fight to protect kids from pornography. When you incorporate pornography and sexting, you open up kids to become victims of abuse and this can lead into child pornography. These kids can end up downloading pictures that once their 18 would technically put them in a category of being in possession of child pornography.

I understand that the world is growing more graphic and that there are dangers online (which this book encourages bad behavior) but our library doesn't need to add to it. We should be fighting against it. The library is becoming less safe and more about political agendas anymore. From letter: The library does not act in place of the parents and does not restrict access to library materials for minors. In fact, the library IS acting in place of the parents by not restricting material to age-appropriate audiences. Has the library truly become a place that parents must accompany small children and cover their eyes? How does that serve the community?

Collection development

The Library Director, with the advice of the Library Advisory Board, will set policy and guidelines governing materials selection. This policy will be reviewed and revised, if necessary, on an annual basis by the Library Director and the Library Advisory Board to ensure that both understand, approve, and support the policy. When was this policy last reviewed by the Library Director and the Library Advisory Board? The Library Advisory Board and the library staff recognize the responsibility to provide materials representing diverse points of view. The Ketchikan Public Library subscribes to and supports the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and the American Library Association Freedom to Read statement.

Selection Criteria

Each title is selected on its own merit and the needs of the audience for whom it is intended. From letter: It is an open and honest graphic novel guide to sex education that addresses issues like gender, consent, body types, sexting, safe sex, jealousy, anatomy, and more. Saying that teens need a guide for sexting and safe sex endorses and promotes these actions. Selection is made primarily on the basis of book reviews and other professional tools. Major selection tools for the Ketchikan Public Library include Booklist, Library Journal, School Library Journal, and Kirkus. Works that have won major awards such as the Caldecott, Man Booker, and Academy Awards are also considered for selection. Patron requests are given strong consideration. Publishers or dealer's catalogs and "bestseller" lists are also used for selection. No single standard exists which can be applied in all acquisition decisions. Some materials must be judged primarily on their artistic merit, some on their scholarship, some on their value as human documents; others are needed to satisfy recreational and entertainment needs. General criteria considered in evaluation and reevaluation of materials for the Ketchikan Public Library include:

- Funds and space
- Popular interest and usefulness
- Authority, effectiveness and currency From letter: It was written by a married team of professional cartoonists who have more than twenty years of experience between them.

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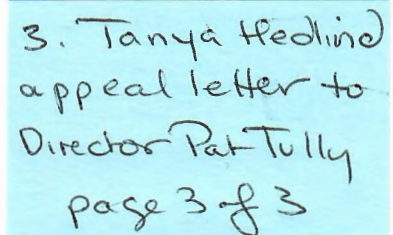
What authority does this married team have besides being professional cartoonists? Are they an authority on the subject matter, particularly that I have pointed out as being inappropriate? Effectiveness of what?

- Attention of reviewers, critics, and public From letter: This book was selected based on...the reviews... Initial selection of a book based on reviews, is understandable, but after reading and hearing reviews from the public whom you serve, a re-selection should take place.
- Reputation and/or significance of author From letter: It was written by a married team of professional cartoonists who have more than twenty years of experience between them.

What authority does this married team have besides being professional cartoonists? Are they an authority on the subject matter, particularly that I have pointed out as being inappropriate?

- Suitability of physical form for library use
- Availability of similar material in other library collections
- Overall balance in subject and point of view From letter: This book was selected based on the authority, effectiveness and currency of the information, the reviews, need for updated material, and the overall balance of the subject matter. Please explain the balance to which you refer.

Tanya Hedlind



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4. Pat Tully
response to
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Copper Ridge Lane, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
907-228-3331; library@firstcitylibraries.org

March 2, 2023

To Ms. Tanya Hedlind,

Thank you for your detailed letter appealing the decision of our Head of Youth Services, Amie Toepfer, to retain the book *Let's Talk About It*, in the Library's Teen Nonfiction collection. What follows is my response and decision regarding the book:

1. Random House, which published the book, indicates that it is for teenagers 14 years of age and older. The Teen Room is available for use by teens who are 13-19 years of age. All of our collections—adult, teen and children's collections—are available for checkout by any person who has a Library account. Often teens will check out books that are in the adult section to use in their schoolwork, or for recreational reading. The Library encourages parents of minor children, including teens, to accompany them to the Library and assist them in selecting books that suit their interests, needs and family beliefs. Library staff are not able to act in the place of parents, or to customize what each child is permitted to check out based on their parents' preferences.
2. Many of the illustrations in the book are sexually explicit, which is to be expected of a book on sex and relationships. I would not categorize the illustrations as pornographic, since the intent of the illustrator is to educate teens about sex, not to provoke sexual feelings. The information on sexting is educating teens (and their parents) about what it is and under what circumstances it is legal and not exploitive. Providing information about sexting or other practices is not the same as encouraging or promoting these practices. An alternative perspective is that information about this and other sexual topics enables teens to make mature choices, and to recognize when someone is attempting to groom or abuse them and know how to seek help.
3. Neither author is a medical professional, but they have written other well-received books on sexuality and relationships.
4. The review sources the Library uses are standard in public libraries—Publishers Weekly; Kirkus, School Library Journal, and Booklist—and they provide valuable insights into newly-published books so that librarians can determine which books will be most useful and popular in their community. We value community members' input into what we select for the collection—we receive many suggestions for books to consider adding and we acquire most of these. The Request for Reconsideration process allows members of the community to request that the Library reconsider a book in the collection. It is



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important that this process be as careful and thorough as the Library's original selection process.

5. The Library seeks to maintain a balanced collection, but this does not mean that each book must contain all points of view on a topic. The Library's collection contains books with many points of view and opposing perspectives on issues, by which we provide the community with a balanced collection. A book such as *Let's Talk About It* is not for every family, but it does provide information for teens and their parents who choose to check it out.

6. The Library is a place of knowledge, ideas and learning, and sometimes this can be uncomfortable, unsettling, and confusing. Ketchikan's community is very diverse, and what is offensive and inappropriate to one group of residents may be acceptable and useful to another group. The Library cannot make those distinctions for every family, and so it falls to parents to do so. What the Library can do is provide a wide range of books and other materials, so that people can choose from among them based on their interests and beliefs.

After considering the points in your letter, I have decided to retain the book, *Let's Talk About It*, in the Library's Teen Nonfiction collection. You may appeal this decision by sending a written request to the chair of the Library Advisory Board, June Dahl, to ask that the Board hold a public hearing on the matter. You may send the letter to her in care of the Library:

June Dahl, Chair, Library Advisory Committee
c/o Ketchikan Public Library
1110 Copper Ridge Lane
Ketchikan, AK 99901

4. Pat Tully
response to
Tanya Hedlund
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Thank you for the care and time you have taken in this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Tully
Director, Ketchikan Public Library
patt@firstcitylibraries.org ; 907-228-2311

March 6th 2023

June Dahl, Chair, Library Advisory Board
c/o Ketchikan Public Library
1110 Copper Ridge Lane
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Ms. Dahl,

Pursuant to the enclosed letter to me from Pat Tully, Director, Ketchikan Public Library, I am contacting you regarding Ms. Tully's decision to retain the book, Let's Talk About It, in the Library's Teen Nonfiction collection despite my Request for Reconsideration filed with Amy Toepfer, the Teen Librarian, and Pat Tully as Library Director. Accordingly, as detailed in Library Policy, this is my formal written appeal to the Library Advisory Board to request further consideration at a public hearing. Please have the Library Advisory Board arrange a public hearing on this matter.

Of note is the fact that, despite Ms. Tully's instruction that I contact the "Library Advisory Committee: I am addressing this to the "Library Advisory Boards" since that is the terminology used by both the library policy and city code. If that is incorrect, please inform me otherwise.

Enclosed is a copy of all the material I have received and generated in response to this Request for Reconsideration.

Mrs. Tanya Hedlind



Enclosed:
Personal Book Observations
Summary of Meeting with Ketchikan Public Library Head of Children's Services
Ketchikan Public Library Director's Response to Appeal of Denial to Request for Reconsideration

tanyahedlind@gmail.com

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The takeaways from the book:

It is encouraging any age to read this.

This book is written based on biased views and opinions.

This book is written as a way to influence teens, not to be strictly educating.

Despite a couple warning labels, the book goes on to encourage various sexual activities without scientific support, medical inaccuracies, misinformation, biased views, political viewpoints, foul language etc.

This book is full of graphic and sexually graphic pictures.

It downplays the seriousness of STIs.

It encourages dangerous sexual practices such as anal sex, nude selfies, sexting, downloading porn.

Breakdown of issues by page number:

- Page 18: The label of virginity and referencing cisgender term. Biased view/opinion and not scientifically backed.
- Page 31: Normalizing one night stands. These can have serious consequences
- Page 37: Sleeping around with multiple partners is ok. Can have serious consequences
- Page 38: Telling kids to F the government and go with radical ideology. Politically biased
- Page 45: Definitions of Gender, Sex, and Sexuality are misinformation, biased, not scientifically backed
- Page 46: Gender is defined by society is misinformation, misleading, biased, not scientifically backed. It dismisses the foundational tools on gender study and how gender classified behaviors into male/female values and beliefs. We used this to compare to societies around the world and throughout history.
- Page 47: Referencing history with sexual information is rewriting history. It is misleading, unnecessary
- Page 48: List of multiple genders is not scientifically backed. Biased and misinformation, misleading
- Page 50: Gender pronouns are not scientifically backed and are biased and misinformation, misleading
- Page 53: Gender IDs change. That is misinformation. Not scientifically backed
- Page 64, 65, 73: Unnecessary nudity
- Page 76: Body Parts. No references made to male or female body per scientific facts
- Page 78-79: Misleading and misinformation on body types and unnecessary nudity
- Page 80: Unnecessary nudity
- Page 82: Encourages anal sex and explains anus functions with misinformation not scientifically backed

- Page 83-90: All body parts shown without proper explanation of female and male bodies. Missing important information
- 91: Sexually explicit photos of someone engaging in a sexual act
- Page 101: Normalizing one night stands which can have dangerous consequences
- Page 111-116 Encourages masturbation
- Page 117-119: Sexually explicit and unnecessary photos depicting and encouraging masturbation
- Page 120-123: Encourages masturbation
- Page 133-134: Downplays STIs. That is a serious topic that needs to be emphasized
- Page 139-145: Graphics are unnecessary
- Pages 149-151: Encourages sexting. Very dangerous and can have horrible consequences
- Page 152-153: Encourages sexting and unnecessarily graphic.
- Page 158, 159, 162, 163: Graphic
- Pages 164-165: Sexually explicit photos and encourages looking up porn which can have bad consequences
- Page 166, 171, 172, 174: Unnecessarily graphic
- Page 228: More book options on the topic. Have these options been vetted.

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 letter to Advisory
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My takeaway from the Freedom to Read Statement and Library Bill of Rights:

Misleading when stating it is 'Guaranteed by the Constitution.' It is not in the constitution. The constitution is the freedom of speech. The freedom to read is a God given freedom.

All rights are in fact not being safeguarded as only some views are being guarded and others disregarded.

The Freedom to Read statement and the Library Bill of Rights portrays a view of totalitarian views. It's the library's decision and no one has a say. Giving the library staff total control over books despite public opinion because the blanket statement covers every type of material and point of view as being protected.

In regards to the book with this statement and bill in mind:

This book does not enrich learning because it promotes:

Propaganda: Gender ID, mentions systemic inequality (page 38), Telling kids to Fuck the government and viva la revolution (page 38)

Misinformation: Mostly focusing on what gender is and how it is defined and with pronouns.
Downplaying STIs.

Censorship: Cutting out any and all scientific facts about the human body in regards to male and female.
Focuses on terms and ideology

Corrupt Morals: Encouraging porn, sexting, multiple sex partners, one night stands.

Questions:

Who adopted this Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement?

Did the Library Advisory Board or the City Council have input?

Did the patrons have input?

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