

**PARENTS AGAINST BAD BOOKS, an affiliate of Idaho Parents for Educational Choice**

*...we don't complain; we inform, and perform...*

**PROGRAM UPDATE – August 28, 2023**

Since our last update on July 17, 2023, Parents Against Bad Books, has been engaged in a multitude of activities to protect our kids:

**“My Child, My Books” Proposed Parent-Involvement Legislation (for Minors)** – This stop-the-books-before-they-are-selected/purchased, parent-involvement library bill answers the question parents have asked us from the inception of our effort:

*“Why aren't we involved in the selection of books and materials for our minor children before the books get 'in'?”*

Please see the attached three-page overview of this unique opportunity for our parents and their children. Also, please go to our website to view the legislation, in its entirety, as well as sign the Petition for the parents' involvement:

[www.idahoparentsforeducationalchoice.com](http://www.idahoparentsforeducationalchoice.com)

We currently have close to 300 Petitions signed (in just three months). Our goal: 1,000 signatures by October 1, 2023, to show the upcoming legislature the need for the parents to be “tangibly” involved in the State of Idaho's minor-book selection/acquisition decisions. These decisions, which are currently made, exclusively, by “library professionals”, need to be made by the assistance of objective, deeply caring group (parents) that is all-inclusive, BEFORE bad-book decisions are made for our kids.

**Impartial Review and Rating Opportunities Exist** – Parents' participation in the minor-book selection phase of library books acquisition, via the “My Child, My Books” legislation, will add a varied direction to the decisions made by existing left-wing review and rating organizations. We want the parents to know that there are review and rating sources available to them via such reviewing/rating sources as the following parent-led systems, which will add objective insights into the current one-sided book-review/rating system:

- Utah Parents United (UPU) – UPU's “LaVerna in the Library's” Facebook page is a community of concerned parents who share ideas and strategies to protect their children. It also highlights sexually explicit books that have been found in school libraries. UPU also sponsors “RatedBooks.org”, a searchable website that has catalogued the rated reports of over 300 books that are commonly found in public school libraries.

We are setting up a **Zoom call** with Utah Parents United to discuss how Idaho can emulate the true successes of this great organization. If you are interested in this opportunity, please let me know, and I will put you on the list.

*“Children are more successful when their parents are involved and engaged in their lives and their education. We monitor state and local legislation and promote legislation that supports parents in their role of parenting and speak against legislation that undermines parents in policy and education.*

Utah Parents United

[www.utahparentsunited.org](http://www.utahparentsunited.org)

- BookLooks.org – Located in Broward County, Florida, this parent-led group **reads every minor book**, from cover to cover. This book-rating system was developed to provide a means of assessing the appropriateness of a book for a child or young adult, based on the content of the book and taken as whole. The ratings are based solely on content that has been legally and statutorily categorized as explicit, offensive, or obscene, similar to what is done for other media ratings, such as motion pictures, television, and video games.

*“We make no money and seek no recognition in our efforts. We believe ‘sunlight’ is the best disinfectant, and parents should have the information at their disposal to make informed decisions about the content their children consume.*

BookLooks.org

[www.booklooks.org](http://www.booklooks.org)

**“Inform-the-Parents” Events** – Once a week until the middle of October, 2023, our Parents Against Bad Books team has, and will continue to, stand in front of the Idaho Falls Public Library, or other parent/children-occupied locations, to give the parents data relative to the 53 “questionable” books that currently reside within the IFPL's walls, as well as our “My Child, My Books” proposed Bill. Our next “Inform-the-Parents” Event is scheduled for September 7, 2023, for the IFPL Children's Storytime from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If any of you are interested in helping out, please let me know, and I will send you an updated calendar.

***A special “thanks” goes out to all the great gals who helped us this summer; it was so much fun, and extremely “interesting”, at times!***

**Banning Books** – Many people asked us if we were banning these books; we assured them, **this is not about banning books** but leaving books in the Library, cordoning off those that are adjudged “obscene” by The Miller Test, and having a librarian check IDs for adherence to the “minor” definition under Section 18-1514, Idaho Code. IFPL has incontrovertibly said, “No” to separating the “bad” books for adults only to view.

**Request for Reconsideration of Materials** – On August 14, 2023, twenty-one (21) of these forms, which were completed by our group, were hand delivered to Robert Wright, Director, Idaho Falls Public Library. There is yet to be an acknowledgement of the receipt by Mr. Wright of these forms. We will keep you posted on the outcome of this “reconsideration” process, as it materializes. There are still 32 books to be read, with corresponding Request for Reconsideration of Materials forms to complete; so, if you would like to help us with this, please let me know.

**Idaho Falls Public Library Board of Trustees Meetings** – We plan to attend the September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup> Board meetings, as well as those planned (but yet scheduled) for November and December, 2023, and all Board meetings in FY2024. “One-sided” discussion items will include:

- Personal meeting with Robert Wright, Director, Idaho Falls Public Library; let me know if you would like to attend.
- American Library Association (ALA) – Ask if IFPL is part of the ALA, led by a self-professed Marxist who embraces a radical agenda that undermines the traditional family values of our community. If they are still a part of the ALA, we will ask “Why?!” As previously stated, because this is always a one-sided conversation, this will be an opportunity to “plant a seed” and follow up in future Board meetings. We will leave an example of a severance letter to the ALA for all of them to view and ponder and follow up on this action item each Board meeting until the ties have been severed.
- “My Child, My Books” Bill – Discuss the Board’s openness to having a parent on their Books/Materials-for-Minors Selection/Acquisition Team. One Board member has already said, “No, no way! The parents do not have the experience to do this kind of work!”
- Policy for Protecting Children – We will ask for this policy, which protects children from harmful, sexually explicit content. If they do not have a written policy, we will ask them to establish one and leave an example for all of them to view and ponder. We will follow up on this action item each Board meeting until there is a written policy in a public space at the Library, for all parents to view.

### **Synopsis**

We make it very clear to all that Parents Against Bad Books is not criticizing the IFPL, nor any like institutions; we are giving out information and data to the parents for them to make cogent, rational decisions, themselves, about any organization’s inappropriate books and the negative effects these books have on their children’s psyche and future well-being.

**Interested in helping out?** – If you would like to help us “save our kids”, please contact me at the following:

Carolyn Harrison, Co-Founder, Parents Against Bad Books – 208.520.0903 - [carolyn@idahoparentsforeducationalchoice.com](mailto:carolyn@idahoparentsforeducationalchoice.com)

### **Add my email address**

Lastly, please be sure to add my email address (above) to your address book to make sure these emails do not go to spam. Google’s (“gmail”) left-wing search and news algorithms tend to divert conservative types of documents to spam, so please be sure to opt for the “primary” tab out of the three options (“primary”, “promotions”, and “spam”).

**THANKS AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN HELPING OUR PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN. IT IS SO APPRECIATED!**

*Carolyn.*