

PARENTS AGAINST BAD BOOKS, an affiliate of Idaho Parents for Educational Choice
...we don't complain; we inform, and perform, for our kids...

PROGRAM UPDATE – September 29, 2023

21 UP, 21 DOWN – On July 14, 2023, Tom Harrison, Co-Founder of Parents Against Bad Books (PABB), dropped off 21 Request for Reconsideration of Materials forms at the Idaho Falls Public Library (IFPL). These forms were filled out by PABB team members after reading 21 of the 53 books “bad” books that are located in the IFPL at the present time. During the week of September 16, 2023, 100% of these forms for “reconsideration” of the 53 “bad” books were rejected, and rejection notices were sent to our team members by the IFPL. When asked if books that were adjudged “obscene” by the Miller test could be cordoned off and have a librarian ask for IDs, the overriding premise from the IFPL was:

“...the library does not place restrictions on what materials a child can check out...”

We’re not talking about checking out books with the Library’s “new-and-improved” “restricted”/“unrestricted” method; we’re talking about the children being invited in by the “Restricted” and “Adult Graphic” signs on the third floor and sitting there and reading the books. We also have found out that every Request for Reconsideration of Materials forms that have been submitted to public libraries throughout the State of Idaho have been rejected!

IFPL Board Meeting of October 26, 2023 – We invite those of you who are interested in discussing the following, as well as other items, at the next IFPL Board meeting to let us know if you would like to speak:

- Follow-up on “My Child, My Books” Bill, especially electing, not appointing, Board members for Idaho’s public libraries.
- Why are there no parents on your books/materials acquisition teams?
- The BookLooks.org and Utah Parents United systems of rating compared to IFPL’s.
- Why do the two books that are the topic of Senator John Kennedy’s (Louisiana) discussion, below, during the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on September 12, 2023, reside at the IFPL?

(WARNING: THIS IS A VERY GRAPHIC AND ALARMING PORNOGRAPHIC READING BY SENATOR KENNEDY OF PORTIONS OF TWO BOOKS THAT CURRENTLY RESIDE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE IFPL; DO NOT VIEW THIS IF YOU FEEL IT MAY ALARM AND/OR DISTRESS YOU.)

<https://hannity.com/media-room/senator-uncensored-kennedy-reads-from-explicit-books-at-hearing-im-a-little-confused-graphic-content/>

The essence of this video:

***“Now, Mr. Secretary, what are you asking us to do?
Are you suggesting that only librarians should decide
whether the two books I just referenced
should be available to kids?
Is that what you’re saying?”***

**Senator John Kennedy (R) (Louisiana)
Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing
September 12, 2023**

A note of interest: This video has been altered (shortened), so the audience is not able to see the entire responses from Illinois Secretary of State Alexei Giannoulis and another gentleman. The reaction by these men, according to our team, when we first viewed it, reflected confusion, misinterpretations of facts, and frustration on both men’s parts.

NPR Visit – An award-winning reporter from National Public Radio (NPR) in Boston is planning a trip to Idaho Falls on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, to view an “another-side-of-the-coin” look at the adverse effects of what the State of Idaho public libraries are doing to our kids. Specifically, we have invited the reporter to view the IFPL via our weekly “Inform-the-Parents” Event on Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. She has also agreed to a Q&A session at 2 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon at 364 Stillwater Circle, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Please let us know if you would like to attend, or receive the summary, of the meeting.

“Inform-the-Parents” Events – Throughout the summer, we have placed a table outside the IFPL with 24 “bad” books that are housed inside the third floor of the facility. Here, we give the parents a list

of the 53 “bad” books and ask them to sign our Petition for our “MY CHILD, MY BOOKS” two-pronged parent-involvement bill:

Proposal 1 – Parental Inclusion in the Selection of Minor-Children Books and Materials
Proposal 2 – Election (not appointment) of Public Libraries’ Board of Trustees Members

In keeping with “Proposal 2”, above, the result of the appointment by Mayor Casper of the IFPL Board of Trustees over the years, for example, has resulted in...:

- ✚ **...an average of 16 years’ appointments, each, for all five IFPL Board of Trustees members; and**
- ✚ **a part in the decision-making for the 53 “bad” books that currently reside on the open-access, third floor of the IFPL.**

For those of you who have wanted, and received, clean Petition sheets for you to obtain signatures of your own, could you please give me a call, so we can arrange to obtain your signatures. For those of you who would like to sign via our website, please go to the below-referenced address in the footer.

Also, we have two more weeks scheduled for the “Inform-the-Parents” program: Wednesday, October 4, 2023; and Wednesday, October 11, 2023. So, if you would like to join us at the IFPL at 9:30 a.m. on those two dates, you are more than welcome.

Summary

Again, we make it very clear to all libraries and library-related institutions and organizations that we give out the type of data we do to the parents for them to make cogent, rational decisions, themselves, about any organization’s inappropriate books and the negative effects these books may have on their children’s psyches and future well-being.

- ✓ We make it clear that we are NOT talking about banning books.
- ✓ We are asking for libraries to adhere to the obscenity standard that was promulgated by the U.S. Supreme Court in its Miller v. California (1973) and The Miller Test’s three following criteria for determining whether speech can be classified as “obscenity” or “harmful for minors”:
 - Individual community standards;
 - Specific applicable state law; and
 - Work that lacks serious literary, artistic political, or scientific value for minors.

In the case of the IFPL, if this test is given to all 53 books, and decisions are made by objective parties that some (or all) of these books “meet” the Miller Test, those books could be (and should be) cordoned off for adults, only, to check out. Simple, right? Evidently not!

Onward and Upward!
Carolyn and Tom Harrison, Co-Founders
Parents Against Bad Books



“Exposure to pornography harms children and youth by:

- ❖ ***normalizing sexual violence,***
- ❖ ***creating unrealistic expectations for intimate partners and relationships, and***
- ❖ ***increasing the risk of addiction.”***

**American Bar Association
2023**