

PATMOS LIBRARY
RESOLUTION TO DENY APPEAL OF RECONSIDERATION REQUEST
REGARDING KISS NUMBER 8

At a meeting of the Library Board of the Patmos Library held in the Library on the 3rd day of October, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Members Larry Walton, Marcia Frobish, Kathy VanZandbergen, Angela Rodenhouse & Deb Fridsma
ABSENT: Members John Strick

The following resolution was offered by Member Angela Rodenhouse and supported by Member Marcia Frobish :

WHEREAS, the Patmos Library was established under the provisions of the City, Village and Township Libraries Act, 1877 PA 164 (“PA 164”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 164, the Board is authorized to enact policies governing the use of the Library and has adopted a Material Selection Policy;

WHEREAS, pursuant to terms of the Policy, a requester filed a Request for Reconsideration for “Kiss Number 8”;

WHEREAS, the basis for reconsideration was stated more fully in the attached Exhibit 1 which provides the full explanation for the basis for reconsideration. However, there were objections based on the language, LGBTQ+ themes, and references to religion;

WHEREAS, pursuant to that policy, the requester filed an appeal with the Patmos Library Board (“Library Board”). The appeal request is attached as Exhibit 2 to this Resolution;

WHEREAS, the Library Board met on October 3, 2022, to consider the appeal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS: the Library Board of Patmos Library has determined it is in the best interest of the Library to deny the appeal to remove “Kiss Number 8” (“Book”) from the Library collection for the following reasons:

1. Under the United States Constitution, the law recognizes a First Amendment “right to receive information” from a public library. *Kreimer v. Bureau of Police*, 958 F.2d 1242, 1255 (3d Cir.1992). A decision to remove a book from the Library impacts that “right to receive information” because patrons will no longer have access to the Book at the Library.
2. This request for reconsideration asks for the Library Board to censor information that would otherwise be available to other patrons because of the content and subject matter of the Book.

3. The First Amendment right to receive information cannot be denied to other patrons because people may dislike the ideas, content and subject matter contained in the Book.
4. The Book does not violate Michigan or federal law, so patrons who desire to read the Book are entitled to First Amendment protection against censorship.
5. In addition to following federal and state laws, the Library has enacted a Material Selection Policy to assist the Library with its mission of education, and with protecting the First Amendment Rights of its patrons.
6. Based on the United States Constitution, federal and Michigan law, and the Library Board's Material Selection and retention policy, the Library Board selection and retention of "Kiss Number 8" is consistent with Library Policy for the following reasons:
 - A. The Library is not in violation of federal or state law by maintaining a copy of the Books in the Library. In fact, the Library is upholding a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution.
 - B. Based on the Section V.A of the Policy, the Library has determined that the selection of material should not be made based on anticipated approval or disapproval by patrons or Library users, but solely on the merits of a work, without regard to the race, nationality, political or religious view of the writer. Thus, the Library may include books with themes or passages that will not be agreed upon by everyone.
 - C. The Library has determined there are no compelling governmental interests in this instance that would allow it to remove the Book or censor the Book on the basis of its content or the fact that some people disagree with the message.
 - D. Based on Section V.B of the Policy, parents or legal guardians shall be responsible for the selection of materials, and the Library cannot restrict material because one person may find it objectionable or that children can access the Book if their parents chose not to accompany them to the Library. This denies the rights of parents to select the Book for their child.
 - E. The Book meets the Principles for Selection and other standards of the Library's Material Selection Policy:
 - 1) There is contemporary significance and interest in checking out this material. Publisher's Weekly describes it as follows: "Venable (Mervin the Sloth Is About to Do the Best Thing in the World) creates a remarkably full picture of Amanda's life—family, school, church, baseball, the local music scene, and the corresponding and overlapping relationship dynamics."

- 2) Selection of the title falls within the goal of material selection to provide a well-balanced and broad collection of materials and meets the selection criteria to show different points of view.
- 3) The reviews demonstrate that the material is positive as Kirkus calls it “[a] rare blend of tender and revolutionary.”
- 4) The author won several awards for the Book:
 - a) 2019 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature Longlist Selection
 - b) 2019 New York Public library Best Books for Kids
 - c) 2020 Tayshas Reading List Selection
 - d) 2020 Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List Selection
- 5) The text and drawings are easy to understand.

7. All resolutions that are in conflict with this Resolution are repealed.

YEAS: 4 - Deb Feidma, Marcia Frohish, Angela Rodenhouse, Larry Walton

NAYS: 1 - Kathy Kuzandbergen

Resolution declared Approved

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
 COUNTY OF OTTAWA)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Patmos Library, Ottawa County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Library Board at a regular meeting held on the 3rd day of October 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Deb Feidma
 Secretary

- Brought in May 12, 2022

Book 3 of 4
Page 1 of 2

**Appendix 1:
Request for Reconsideration of Materials Form**

If you wish to recommend the removal of materials from the collection, please answer the following questions:

- 1. Author of the item Colleen A.F. Venable
- 2. Title of the item Kiss Number 8
- 3. How was the item brought to your attention? Fellow citizens of
Ottawa Co.
- 4. Do you know what literary critics/reviewers think of this item? Yes No
- 5. Have you read the entire book/listened to entire CD/ watched entire movie Yes No MOST too difficult to put in my mind let alone a 4th grader
- 6. Are you objecting to the entire item? yes

7. What, in your opinion, is the theme of the item? over stated by author see back sheet wants children to doubt their given ID, encourages deep family secrets to come out + encourage children to "come out + group"


8. What is your objection to the item? (Be specific; cite pages/tracks) sexual abuse without parental supervision
turn over page for info.
Inappropriate reading material without parental supervision


9. In what section of the library is the item found?



Adult Tween Young Adult Juvenile


10. What do you feel might be the result of reading this book/listening to this CD/watching this movie? child questioning their identity + morals + even their faith + their parents

11. If the item were removed from the library, what similar item would you recommend to replace it? A Young Woman After God's Own Heart - Jim George
Lies Young Women Believe + the Truth That Sets them Free
by Dana Presch

Signature 

Street Address 

City  State 

Telephone 

Date 5-12-2022

1-8. Graphic pictures displaying different stages of ~~masturbation~~
+ words describing experience "French kissing - felt like
tongue went down to my intestines!"

Book 3pt
Page 292

pg 8 - Display of Jesus on the Cross + alter Baya discuss
ing Jesus abs + Jesus A (Butt) - words
spelled out - swearing + we would call "spitting"
[If you saw + read this yourself - you would
know this is not acceptable.]

pg 15 asses
what the H — spelled out } even not allowed
on our T.V.

pg 25 'super B — spelled out

pg 73. drinking, mocking Jesus Jesus turning
wine into tequila - AGAIN think about
age group!

p. 79 'who the F — is this?' spelled out

pg 132 "making out with strangers"

136 "making web footed babies"

pg 151 unravelling a family secret with dodi's trauma
"Grandma was not my real grandma,
my real Grandma was a Man."

pg 165- Mom dressed up as a man

pg 192- Disrespecting praying - mocking, fool

241 explicit girl/girl kissing

275. Finally "out of the closet"

A + A for authors. Graphic artist asked "Why did you write this book?"
A. I was cartoonist in practice received such unkindness that
I decided I wanted 'Amanda' to not just come out of the
closet but I wanted her to keep exploring all sides
of her sexuality once she was out.

This in itself is unacceptable to have our
children TWEENS to grab off open shelf + start
reading without mom or dad present or knowing!

August 8, 2022

To each member of the Jamestown Township Library Board – Patmos Library

Re: Requests for 4 Books to be Reconsidered for removal or coding

Because of immoral material with visual sexual content, profanity, and a written intention of having “‘Amanda’ not only to come out of the closet but to keep exploring all sides of her sexually once she was out.”

(this is a direct quote from the author of Kiss 8 which is one of the books being asked by the board to address.)

4 Books were brought before the acting librarian director and denied any adjustment of removal or rating or coding.

Kiss 8

Spinning

Heartstopper

The Breakaways

Age Category: directed and put on open shelving for 4th-8th grade

Reason for Request: This material is not even fit for adult reading\viewing let alone children who are not of age and should be protected by parents, community and country.

Added Points to be considered: Public broadcasting on TV bleeps out profanity and nudity. Movie industry rates their movies according to content for children under age, or children needing parent supervision, or R ratings. Gaming Media is rated for E, everyone or Adult Material

advising and providing input for kids and parents to be aware of content. It is appalling that a librarian can put any material into a library without accountability so easily but making it nearly impossible to remove a book after in.

Another Factor: if this is only 2nd avenue to proceed, it should not only be a President that gets to decide..the Board members should be reading the questionable material, without bias, or threat of anything being involved with your FAITH., since our children. All of our children are at risk!

Resubmitted by

August 8, 2022