

Ashland Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 2022
4:30 PM

President Sandra Tunnell, Members of the Library Board and Fellow Citizens:

First, thank you for your service to our community library. I am here today as a member of the community and a leader in our faith community. This board of Trustees is filled with capable and qualified community leaders who have the same commission as me, to protect the children.

We have been given by the Almighty a serious mandate to “guard the heart, because out of it flow the issues of life. Parents have that commission, leaders, politicians, and educators particularly.

I begin with a question, Have each of the Trustees on this board viewed the following materials: “Puberty Gross but also really Awesome”, “Own Your Period” by Chella Quint; “Wonderful Women of the World” and the most obscene and shocking one, “Making A Baby” with naked men and children in the shower naked.

I was beyond shocked to find the following materials in our public library in the children’s section. Have you seen them?

I would like to address the following concerns in my presentation for your deliberation.

Based on the following considerations, I am asking for the Board to remove these books from circulation, and if that is considered to be extreme, then at least remove them from the eyes of the innocent.

Consider First, PARENTS ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE RIGHT TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT SEXUALITY AND GENDER: (Not the Library or the public schools) Protect their innocence. Children are such formative creations, made in the image of God with plenty of time to develop their identity. By the will of God they were placed into family for their spiritual, mental and physical development. Every parent has the obligation to teach their children about their sexual identity.

If it is deemed necessary for them to have help, they can consult resources in our libraries, churches, or counseling agencies. In the adult section of the library is the place for books with adult level content. “Making Babies” is the title, but the pictures in the book are pornographic and obscene. To display naked men, with children in a shower exposing body parts is just plain wrong.

Consideration #2: COMMUNITY VALUES, All people are welcome to hold to a prescribed position, but as a republic, we elect people to represent us in certain elected or appointed positions to protect and promote the values of the said community.

This is Ashland, Ohio and it is a conservative, family based, a faith-based community with a strong belief in God, His Design of human sexuality and the right of parents to instruct their own children in their sexual development.

Consideration #3: OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE VOTERS:

In my consultations with our state representatives and State Senator, I have asked them to investigate in the Ohio Revised code for the criteria for members of the Board of Trustees for our Libraries across the state. I have asked them where is the standard of decency in our library? What is off limits and what is out of bounds? We are consulting with the Ohio General Assembly LSC Legislative Service Commission. Those materials are pending.

Quoting from your own website under the heading “STRATEGIC PLAN”, is the following statement: **Strategic Plan**

“The Ashland Public Library understands that libraries, along with a wide range of other service organizations, are facing tougher, more numerous challenges than ever before. **Our funding model is changing as we are moving from a state funded system to a greater dependence on local funding, and there fore we are more concerned about our voters.”**

If the voters of the community are a concern to you as stated in your own strategic plan, then you should agree to place these books and their subject matter in a place for adults. The Ashland County voters if given a voice would not be supportive of exposing subject matter of adult version to children. Just because a publisher or an educator labels it appropriate, does not make it appropriate. The parents hold final authority over their children.

In a letter provided to me of a former Speaker of the Statehouse, Speaker Householder stated in regard to teenage boys being exposed to drag queens at such a young age.

“Quote” which references the induction of drag queens to local libraries, the Speaker goes on to say:

“Ohio’s libraries are among the best – and best funded – in America. This year alone, the state will spend nearly 400 million (2019) supporting local libraries, which are a wonderful resource for our community.

Each and every day across Ohio, libraries are playing an important role in helping our students through literacy programs, book clubs and other enrichment activities. These and other initiatives, like educating you people on the dangers of drugs or teaching them technology skills, are the types of programs and activities on which the taxpayers hope to see their libraries focus on.

Let me be crystal clear: This isn’t about banning books or banning thought or any other red herring argument. This is about right and wrong. This is about being good stewards of the public’s money.

Our libraries are incubators of thought and ideas, for debate and discussion. On this point, we all can agree. But I can also assure you the taxpayers are not interested in seeing their hard-earned dollars being used to teach teenage boys how to become drag queens.”

I expect this to end immediately.”

I concur this is not the main issue, but it is in the same category.

In Conclusion: I make an appeal to this ruling body to give the parents final authority. Uphold the values of our community. Allow children to experience innocence and protection in a culture where they are the prize to be caught. Finally, freedom and liberty are the responsibility of our citizenship in America. We can and will stand up when right is promoted to say, Amen. And we will stand up and say “No” when those rights are impeded.

Just like our developing children must wait for certain attained ages in life to experience things. A teen cannot drive on their own unless they had drivers education and they reach the age of 16; one cannot vote unless you register and attain the age of 18. One should not be exposed to the adult matters of sexuality until their parents choose.

Please remove these books and their subject matter from our Library. If you cannot make that a determination, then please place them in an adult

section for parents to choose to educate and expose their children in an appropriate age of accountability.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak and for your consideration of my concerns. God bless each of you.

Pastor John A. Bouquet