



# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

## Community Development

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## MEMO

**Date:** April 14, 2025

**From:** Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director

**RE:** Final Decision on the Library Material *The Haters* by Jesse Andrews , *Damsel* by Elana K. Arnold and *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation* by Ari Fulman

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I have provided a copy of the Ordinance No. 24-039 at the end of this memo that established the Citizens' Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations to the Administration regarding challenged library materials as a reference for the public.

To make my decision, I reviewed the provided Staff Reports, the LCAC meeting recordings with your comments, your score cards and the votes on the book *The Haters*, *Damsel* and *Anne Frank's Diary: the Graphic Adaptation*.

I would also like to note additional insight and information:

1. There have been questions about why the LCAC was being asked to answer the Evaluation Criteria questions. The Evaluation Criteria selection is included on your scorecard because the same questions are in the 'Material Selection Guidance' section of the MSB Libraries Collection Development Policy and states, "The purpose of the MSB Libraries Materials selection guidance is to provide MSB library staff members, and inform the MSB Library Board, MSB Library Citizens' Advisory Committee and the public about the principles upon which the selections are based. The primary objective of library materials selection in MSB libraries is to collect material of current interest and significance, as well as those of permanent value."

I have considered the requests to remove or change certain questions from the Evaluation Criteria but have chosen to retain the entirety of the questions, as is, because although not all the questions are relevant to these books selected to be reviewed by the LCAC, we do not know the nature and content of every future book to be reviewed. Maintaining consistency preserves the integrity of the process even if the individual questions may or may not pertain to the current material being reviewed.

2. Libraries routinely weed library collections in order to ensure relevancy and usage.

*Damsel* was first procured by a Borough library in 2018 and is available at three separate libraries. The checkout rate remains consistent at two and this shows relevancy to the community.

The checkout rate of *The Haters* (procured in 2016) and *Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation* (procured in 2018), available at single Borough library also remains consistent.

3. As stated in the Staff Reports none of these books were reviewed by the Mat-Su Borough School District LCAC. However, additional information from the District states, “*The Haters* was on an [original list of challenged books to be reviewed by MSBSD](#), but was removed from the list of 56 books because it was designated as Lost or Stolen in the library catalog. The library catalog info indicated zero copies, and zero total checkouts of *Haters*” when the District was looking at titles in their system that needed review.
4. Despite several comments on the ages of the Young Adult section from members of the public, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough libraries Young Adult section is designated 16 and over.
5. Multiple comments from several members of the LCAC are concerned about the placement of books in the collections and that there are not safeguards for minors 15 and under in perusing and selecting material. The Borough respects parental rights and parental choice to apply for a library card for their child and to use community libraries. When a parent applies for a library card in Borough Libraries, their signature indicates that they “accept responsibility for (their) child’s selection of materials”. Additionally, parents can view their child’s selections at any time by looking at their account online or directly inquiring at the library.

To date, current patrons that have applied for a library card for their child have not requested that Borough Libraries provide additional access restrictions to the library collections.

6. A summary of your dispositions is below for *The Haters*:

Member	Suggested Disposition
Michelle Dempsey	Remove the book from the library
Aaron Malone	Remove the book from the library
Camilla Potts	Reshelve the book to the adult section
Sally Pollen	Remove the book from the library
Dorothy Denison	Remove the book from the library
Chad Scott	Remove the book from the library
Nancy Bertels	Keep the book where it is

- A summary of your disposition for *Damsel*:

Member	Suggested Disposition
Michelle Dempsey	Reshelve the book to the adult section
Aaron Malone	Remove the book from the library
Camilla Potts	Remove the book from the library
Sally Pollen	Remove the book from the library
Dorothy Denison	Reshelve the book to the adult section
Chad Scott	Remove the book from the library
Nancy Bertels	Reshelve the book to the adult section

- A summary of your disposition for *Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Suggested Disposition</b>
Sally Pollen	Reshelve the book to the young adult section
Aaron Malone	Reshelve the book to the adult section
Camilla Potts	Reshelve the book to the adult section
Susan Hillman	Reshelve the book to the adult section
Dorothy Denison	Keep the book where it is
Chad Scott	Reshelve the book to the adult section
Nancy Bertels	Keep the book where it is

The comments from the LCAC and the completed scorecards speak mainly to appropriateness of the material for children or provide an opinion on the reading selections of adults. The comments from the members under the Evaluation Criteria section of the scorecards did not preclude me to restrict an adult from selecting or accessing these books. Additionally, I believe the three books, at this time, reflect relevancy and interest from patrons at their community library as demonstrated by their checkout rate. These factors and our Administrative Policy determine my decision that the books, *The Haters*, *Damsel* and *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation* shall remain in Borough libraries and will be reshelved to the Adult Collection.