

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
LIBRARY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chairman—Chad Scott (MBR 7)

Vice Chair—Michelle Dempsey (MBR 2)

MBR1—Nancy Bertels

MBR3—Aaron Malone

MBR4—Dorothy Denison

MBR5—Erik Palin

MBR6—Susan Hillman

ALT1— Camilla (Nan) Potts

ALT2— Sally Pollen



AGENDA

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AND LIVE STREAMED

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11289539>

350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

REGULAR MEETING

5:00 PM

OCTOBER 14, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. September 9, 2024

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreational & Library Services Manager

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Forever; Judy Blume

ISBN 978-1-4814-1442-5

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve corrected minutes from August 12, 2024 meeting.

B. Suggestions for removing score sheet questions

C. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Damsel; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0-06-274232-2

2. The Haters; Jesse Andrews ISBN 978-1-4197-2018-9

3. Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation ISBN 978-0241978641

X. NEXT MEETING

A. December 9, 2024

XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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MEETING MINUTES

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350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

REGULAR MEETING

5:00 PM

September 9, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Called to order at 5 pm

II. ROLL CALL

A. Present – Chad Scott, Michelle Dempsey, Nancy Bertels, Aaron Malone, Dorothy Denison, Susan Hillman, Sally Pollen, Camilla Potts (voting alternate)

B. Absent – Erik Palin

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Agenda approved unanimously

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Mr. Malone led the Pledge of Allegiance

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. AUGUST 10, 2024 – Mr. Malone moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, unanimous consent.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Jillian Morrissey – Community Development Director – Ms. Morrissey read aloud her memo on the final decision of the book “Identical”, it will be reshelved to the adult section.
- B. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager – Mr. Leslie reminded the committee of the score sheet and materials collection procedure after the meeting. Mr. Leslie stated the only book we have in hand to provide the committee currently is “Damsel”, if they choose another title, it will take some time to acquire.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

- A. Mary McCrum – Ms. McCrum stated her opinion on censorship.
- B. Lynn Lovegreen – Ms. Lovegreen thanked the committee for allowing the public to speak and stated her position on how books support teens and young adults.
- C. Linda Spohm – Ms. Spohm stated her opinion on the book “Identical”.
- D. Jeanne Troshynski – Ms. Troshynski shared two Alaska statutes and her opinion on the material being reconsidered.
- E. Mary Robinson – Ms. Robinson shared her opinion on the responsibility of parents regarding library materials.
- F. Kathy Kysar – Ms. Kysar shared a research study regarding young adults and reading.
- G. Jackie Goforth – Ms. Goforth shared her opinion on the LCAC and other similar committees.
- H. Karen Lewis – Ms. Lewis shared her opinion on the challenged material.
- I. Mary Ravetta – Ms. Ravetta shared her opinion on the challenged material.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Red Hood; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0062742353
 - 2 votes to reshelve the book to the adult section (Hillman, Bertels)
 - 5 votes to remove the book from the library (Malone, Potts, Scott, Dempsey, Denison)

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Damsel; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0-06-274232-2
 - Postponed to the next meeting by unanimous consent.
2. Forever; Judy Blume ISBN 978-1-4814-1442-5
 - Ms. Bertels moved to review “Forever”, unanimous consent.
3. The Haters; Jesse Andrews ISBN 978-1-4197-2018-9
 - Postponed to the next meeting by unanimous consent.

X. NEXT MEETING

- A. OCTOBER 14, 2024 – accepted unanimously.

XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

- A. Ms. Potts thanked the other committee members.
- B. Ms. Bertels suggested two questions be removed from the score sheet. Will put on next meeting's agenda.
- C. Ms. Pollen asked if there's a limit to what the supporters of the challenged material will accept.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Adjourned 6:37 pm

DRAFT

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager

1. Mr. Leslie explained that he and Sarah Thomas will collect the score cards after the meeting to present to the Community Development Director. Introduced Sarah Thomas, Nick Spiropoulos and Erin Dooling as staff present at the meeting. Mr. Leslie stated 2 of the 4 books from the reconsideration list are available today, Damsel and Red Hood, if they decide to review one of those. If not, time to acquire the title they choose would be necessary.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

- A. Mary Robinson – Ms. Robinson hoped the committee has read the book, spoke to the difference of misinformation vs disinformation.
- B. Patricia Fisher – Ms. Fisher wanted to also make sure that each of the committee members have read the book before voting.
- C. Jackie Goforth – Ms. Goforth identified herself as the challenger of the book that committee is voting on this meeting. Explained why she submitted the book for reconsideration.
- D. Karen Lewis – Ms. Lewis thanked the committee for their acceptance of the task at hand.
- E. Linda Spohm – Ms. Spohm explained why she believes the material in the book is dangerous for youth.
- F. Mary Ravetta – Ms. Ravetta thanked the committee for being willing to read the material in the challenged books. Explained why she believed this material is harmful.
- G. Mark Spohm – Mr. Spohm thanked the committee for their acceptance of the task at hand.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Identical; Ellen Hopkins ISBN 978-1416950059
 - 2 votes to reshelve to the adult section (Hillman, Denison)
 - 5 votes to remove the book from the libraries (Scott, Dempsey, Bertels, Malone, Pollen)

Hillman →

Bertels ←

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Red Hood; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0062742353
 - Ms. Hillman moved to review Red Hood, unanimous consent.
2. Damsel; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0-06-274232-2
3. Forever; Judy Blume ISBN 978-1-4814-1442-5
4. The Haters; Jesse Andrews ISBN 978-1-4197-2018-9
 - All other titles are postponed to the next meeting, unanimous consent.

- B. Decide if there should be limits imposed on the debate of questioned items during the meeting.

1. No discussion.

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MEETING MINUTES

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350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

REGULAR MEETING

5:00 PM

AUGUST 12, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Called to order at 5:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

A. Present – Chad Scott, Michelle Dempsey, Nancy Bertels, Aaron Malone, Dorothy Denison, Susan Hillman, Sally Pollen (voting alternate)

B. Absent – Erik Palin, Camilla Potts

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Agenda approved unanimously.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Mr. Malone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. JULY 8TH, 2024 – Ms. Denison moved to approve minutes, unanimous consent.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager

1. Mr. Leslie explained that he and Sarah Thomas will collect the score cards after the meeting to present to the Community Development Director. Introduced Sarah Thomas, Nick Spiropoulos and Erin Dooling as staff present at the meeting. Mr. Leslie stated 2 of the 4 books from the reconsideration list are available today, Damsel and Red Hood, if they decide to review one of those. If not, time to acquire the title they choose would be necessary.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

- A. Mary Robinson – Ms. Robinson hoped the committee has read the book, spoke to the difference of misinformation vs disinformation.
- B. Patricia Fisher – Ms. Fisher wanted to also make sure that each of the committee members have read the book before voting.
- C. Jackie Goforth – Ms. Goforth identified herself as the challenger of the book that committee is voting on this meeting. Explained why she submitted the book for reconsideration.
- D. Karen Lewis – Ms. Lewis thanked the committee for their acceptance of the task at hand.
- E. Linda Spohm – Ms. Spohm explained why she believes the material in the book is dangerous for youth.
- F. Mary Ravetta – Ms. Ravetta thanked the committee for being willing to read the material in the challenged books. Explained why she believed this material is harmful.
- G. Mark Spohm – Mr. Spohm thanked the committee for their acceptance of the task at hand.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Identical; Ellen Hopkins ISBN 978-1416950059
 - 2 votes to reshelve to the adult section (Bertels, Denison)
 - 5 votes to remove the book from the libraries (Scott, Dempsey, Hillman, Malone, Pollen)

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Red Hood; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0062742353
 - Ms. Hillman moved to review Red Hood, unanimous consent.
 2. Damsel; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0-06-274232-2
 3. Forever; Judy Blume ISBN 978-1-4814-1442-5
 4. The Haters; Jesse Andrews ISBN 978-1-4197-2018-9
 - All other titles are postponed to the next meeting, unanimous consent.
- B. Decide if there should be limits imposed on the debate of questioned items during the meeting.
1. No discussion.

X. NEXT MEETING

- A. September 9, 2024 – Ms. Denison moved to accept meeting date, unanimous consent.
- B. November was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict; other meetings are planned for second Mondays of each month going forward.

XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

- A. Mr. Leslie let the committee know we will collect the copies of Identical that were provided and score cards at the end of the meeting.
- B. Ms. Pollen was appreciative for being able to be involved in this process.
- C. Mr. Scott thanked everyone for their involvement. Reiterated that this committee is not a decision-making body, just advisory.
- D. Ms. Dempsey thanked everyone for the opportunity to participate.
- E. Ms. Denison asked for state law clarification.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Adjourned 5:59 pm

CORRECTED



Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Community Development Department
Library Material Staff Report

Title: Forever

Author: Judy Blume

Library where this material is shelved: Willow

Is the material in good condition or appearance?

Willow Library Material Condition – Fair condition

Is the topic of the material a priority for the collection?

‘Forever’ is shelved in the Young Adult (YA) section at the library. Young Adult collections are responsive and tend to reflect the age and stage of life of the intended reader. The book ‘Forever’ was written in 1975 and is a coming-of-age book. A coming-of-age story allows young readers to relate to the protagonist’s experiences including challenges and personal growth in the transition to adulthood.

Is the format of the material a priority for the collection?

The material is a book format. Books make up the majority of inventory in all five of our public libraries.

Has the material been used frequently by patrons?

This factor depends on the library due to the collections size, the size of the library and length of time one patron maintains the book. For the title, ‘Forever’, the Willow Library initially shelved the book in August 1995, and it has been checked out 24 times. This is a low rate of check out for a YA collection in a library of Willow’s size.

Is the material factually accurate?

This book is a work of fiction and not a resource material.

Has the material been superseded by a new edition or a better source?

There have been 2,797 editions of the book ‘Forever’.

Is the material relevant to the needs and interests of the community?

According to the US Census, there are about 2100 people in the Willow area and about 114 are 15-19 years old. ‘Forever’ was written as a coming-of-age story for this census age group.

Can the material be easily borrowed from another source?

It is available at all the Borough libraries through our participation in the State Library Catalog as well as an E-Book through the Alaska Digital Library.

What is the literary, artistic, scientific, political, or educational merit of the material.

‘Forever’ is considered a modern classic coming of age story by the literary community.

Does the material have positive review(s) in one or more appropriate professional journals?

Reviews are typically done in professional journals soon after the publication of the book. Staff found several reviews available at the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway Webpage, [SLED Databases - SLED Databases - Libraries, Archives, Museums at Alaska State Library](#).

Does the material have positive reviews from critics, patrons or staff members?

Source	Editor Rating	User Rating	# of reviews	Notes
Amazon		4.3 stars	3,130	
Barnes & Noble		4.1	351	
Goodreads		3.63 stars	4,914	

Are there sufficient materials available on the same subject?

There are many non-fiction coming-of-age books and resources available that include the topic of sexuality.

Does the material have a reputation and/or significance of the author, publisher or producer?

- The book, ‘Forever’, has sold 4 million copies.
- It also been adapted for television in 1978 and for an online streaming service in 2022.
- It has won many awards including:
 - Margaret E Edwards Award in 1996
 - Runner-up for the Best Book of the Year Award 1975
 - Best YA Book of All Time 2021

Has the Mat-Su Borough School District’s (MSBSD) Library Citizens’ Advisory Committee (LCAC) reviewed this material?

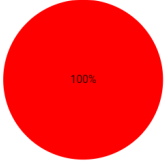
Yes, the MSBSD LCAC reviewed the book on December 14, 2023 and recommended the book be removed from circulation in MSBSD School Libraries. The totals for the vote included:

- Retain at all libraries: 0
- Retain only at high school libraries: 2
- Retain only at middle and high school libraries: 0
- Remove from all school libraries: 9

The MSBSD Board voted to remand the book to the Administration for a final decision regarding obscenity status and any potential restrictions on access. District Administration has returned the book to the shelves in the origin. This is according to what the district filed with the federal court on 8/14/24. The affidavit reads, in part: “All books highlighted in the green and yellow categories

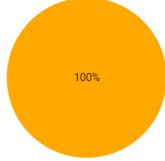
have been or will be placed back on the shelf at their original location...” The book ‘Forever’ was categorized as yellow which indicated that the school board remanded to the administration for the final decision.

Committee Recommendation



● Remove this title from circulation in MSBSD school libraries.

School Board Action



● Remand to Administration to make a final decision regarding obscenity status and any potential restrictions on access.

DIRECTIONS: Use the interactive pie charts on the left or select from the dropdown filters below to explore the outcomes.

Date: De... (1) ▾

Committee Recommendation ▾

School Board Action: Remand to Administration to make a final decision re... (1) ▾

Title ▾	Author	Meets state statute for indecent material for those under 16:	Date	Library Citizens Advisory Committee Recommendation	Library Advisory Vote Totals	School Board Action
Forever	Blume, Judy	Yes: 8 No: 3 Abstain from Vote: 0	Dec 14, 2023	Remove this title from circulation in MSBSD school libraries.	Retain at all libraries: 0 Retain only at high school libraries: 2 Retain only at middle and high school libraries: 0 Remove from all school libraries: 9 Abstain from voting: 0	Remand to Administration to make a final decision regarding obscenity status and any potential restrictions on access.



Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Community Development Department
Library Material Review Score Card

Title:

Author:

Date:

Reviewer Name:

Evaluation criteria: *The committee should consider the following acquisition and weeding criteria as applied to the challenged material.*

- Is the material in good condition or appearance?
- Is the topic of the material a priority for the collection?
- Is the format of the material a priority for the collection?
- Has the material been used frequently by patrons?
- Is the material factually accurate?
- Has the material been superseded by a new edition or a better source?
- Is the material relevant to the needs and interests of the community?
- Can the material be easily borrowed from another source?
- Does the material have literary, artistic, scientific, political, or educational merit?

- Does the material have positive review(s) in one or more appropriate professional journals?
- Does the material have positive reviews from critics, patrons or staff members?
- Are there sufficient materials available on the same subject?
- Does the material have reputation and/or significance of the author, publisher or producer?

Suitability for Minors under 16 (answer yes or no):

1. Does the material depict the following actual or simulated conduct?

- sexual penetration;
- the lewd touching of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast;
- masturbation;
- bestiality;
- the lewd exhibition of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast; or
- sexual masochism or sadism

Yes No

2. Would the average individual, applying contemporary community standards, find that the material, *taken as a whole*, appeals to the prurient interest in sex for persons under 16 years of age?

Yes No

3. Would a reasonable person find that the material, *taken as a whole*, lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value for persons under 16 years of age?

(Note: Mark "Yes" only if the book lacks all of them)

Yes No

4. Does the material depict actual or simulated conduct in a way that is patently offensive to the prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for persons under 16 years of age?

Yes No

COMMENTS (this may include anything related to the challenge or notes about factors contained in the above evaluation and suitability criteria):

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep the book where it is | <input type="checkbox"/> Remove the book from the library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reshelve the book to the young adult section | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reshelve the book to the adult section | |

COMMENTS/REASONS REGARDING SUGGESTED DISPOSITION (if any):