

Subject: Re: Pornographic images in the HS Library

From: Tamara Parks <tparks@ewsd.org>

Date: 12/15/2021, 7:55 AM

To: 3a74a5005da611ecbf5257297b6c41b4 <tparks+gmelius@ewsd.org>

CC: Elizabeth von Nagy <evonnagy@ewsd.org>, Beth Cobb <bcobb@ewsd.org>

Hello Mr. Williams,

Thank you for sending the completed form. Please note, I made an error in my previous email and mentioned procedures being from the school board. They are actually administrative procedures. We will reach out to you about the next steps soon.

Thank you,

Tamara Parks

On Tue, Dec 14, 2021 at 11:09 PM Tom Williams <tom8williams@gmail.com> wrote:

Tamara, Elizabeth,

Please find attached my formal complaint form for the book Gender Queer. Note that this is the first time I have submitted a complaint like this to a school in my life. I hope it's the last.

I am a strong advocate for our freedoms including speech, press, etc. but when it comes to my children and their peers in our publicly funded high school, we must draw a line for their protection. I believe that Gender Queer crosses that line with its graphic sexual images. I should not have to tell my children to "be careful" what you pickup in your school library because it may be pornographic and/or offensive. I should not have to worry about my children's physical or mental safety in their own high school. Surely you must agree with this sentiment.

Please let me know what the next steps are after submission of this form.

Thanks very much

Tom

On Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 11:04 AM Tamara Parks <tparks@ewsd.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Williams,

Thank you for your letter. Here is the board procedure link: <https://www.ewsd.org/Page/8397> and here is the [Request for Reconsideration form](#). Once the request for reconsideration form is completed it should be submitted to both me and our librarian (who is copied on this email).

Sincerely,

Tamara Parks

On Fri, Dec 10, 2021 at 5:56 PM Tom Williams <tom8williams@gmail.com> wrote:

Tamara,

I have two children at Essex High school and one in middle school. I would like to know how to submit a formal complaint about the book Gender Queer in the Essex Highschool Library. I received the letter about this book yesterday.

Whereas I appreciate the District being proactive with letting parents know of this book's existence on the shelf, I was **horrified** when I did some research. Are you aware this book contains sexually explicit drawings?

This has nothing to do with homo or hetero sexual behavior but everything to do with **pornographic images in our school library**. With students as young as 14 years old, we cannot allow this to persist. We must protect our children. I would be equally horrified if books like the Anarchist's Cookbook or Mein Kampf were sitting on the shelf - or any book that propagated hate or white supremacy. Certainly the district is in agreement as I'm confident these books are not on our shelves.

I am confident if I were to check out this book from the Essex HS Library and open it to the images in question, then leave it on my desk at work, I would be promptly **fired** for violating the zero-tolerance policy on pornographic content. We cannot allow this same book to be in our public-school libraries.

Please advise on how I can file a more formal complaint about this book.

Thank you
Tom Williams

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Tamara L. Parks
Principal of Teaching & Learning
[Essex High School, VT](#)
Pronouns: she, her, hers

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