



MEMO

Nick Grove

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TO: Jeffrey Kohler, Board Chair

FROM: Nick Grove, Library Director

CC: Meridian Library District Board of Trustees (the "Board")

DATE: 3/4/25

RE: Request for Reconsideration - *Pride 1 2 3*; Library Director Response and Recommendation

Overview

On February 5, 2025, Meridian Library District ("District") staff received a Request for Reconsideration form regarding the book *Pride 1 2 3* by Michael Joosten (the "Material"). This Memo constitutes the Library Director's written response and recommended decision regarding the submitted Request for Reconsideration, as required by the District's Collection Development Policy (the "Policy"). More specifically, this Memo provides a synopsis of the Material, its circulation history, an analysis of the Material through the lens of the District's Collection Development Policy, and a recommendation to the Board for consideration and decision at the March 2025 monthly Board meeting.

Synopsis of the Material

1 parade in the month of June

2 DJs spin fabulous tunes

3 families of all different types

Teach your little ones about the Pride Parade with this colorful, energetic counting book! Featuring a diverse cast of characters and families, this board book highlights and celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community, love, and standing up for who you are while counting to ten. Perfect for all families, this counting board book should be shared and read with pride!

[Simon & Shuster Digital Catalog](#)

Requestor

The requestor is a resident within the boundaries of the Meridian Library District and has marked on the Request for Reconsideration form that they are a parent of the Minor who obtained the Material.

Request for Reconsideration Report

Staff Member: TG

Date: 2/24/2025

Director: Nick Grove

Formal Review Initiated

Per the District's [Collection Development Policy](#), when MLD receives a Request for Reconsideration for an item in the District's collection, the Library Director shall endeavor to submit to the Board a written response to the submission and a recommended Board decision within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt. The Board shall give the Library Director's written response and recommended decision substantial deference and endeavor to issue a written decision within sixty (60) days of receipt of the submission explaining the Board's rationale for approving or denying the submission. The Board can adopt the Library Director's written response and recommended decision as its own, with or without modification, or the Board can issue its own decision. Board deliberation must be done openly on the record at noticed Board meetings. As provided in the Policy, the Board shall always take the most narrowly-tailored action necessary.

The challenged material must be considered as a whole and individual passages cannot be taken out of context. Supporting materials should also inform the analysis. In determining whether material possesses serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value, the proper inquiry is not whether an ordinary member of any given community would find serious value in the allegedly obscene material, but whether a reasonable person would find such value in the material, taken as a whole.

This Memo constitutes the Library Director's written response and recommended decision regarding the submitted Request for Reconsideration.

Title: Pride 1 2 3

Call Number: BB Joosten

Categorized in collection (i.e., Children, Youth, Adult): Youth Picture Book - BB (Board Books)

Patron confirmed they read Material: Yes

Patron request for Material: Remove from Children's section

Reason given by patron for removal or reassignment as it relates to Section B of

Collection Development policy:

Patron marked they had not read the Collection Development Policy and did not cite any part of the Material that violates the Policy.

In response to how the book meets the definition of *Material Harmful to Minors* the Patron wrote: *"promoting gay and homosexual lifestyle to children. promoting drag queens to children."*

In response to how the book appeals to the prurient interests of Minors the Patron wrote: “*fun colorful illustrations, fun colors, & language to kids*”.

As provided within the Definitions section on page 6 of the Policy Prurient Interest means, “*as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court, a shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex, or excretion, and goes substantially beyond customary limits of candor in description or representation of such matters, and does not include a normal, healthy interest in sex.*”

Does the reasoning take into consideration the literary work as a whole? No

Explain: Patron wrote “*It shows lesbian and gay couples and drag.*”

Research:

MLD Circulation Statistics:

Year to Date Circulation: **2**

Previous Year to Date Circulation: **7**

Lifetime Circulation: **9**

Reviews:

- [Little Simon Publishing \(Simon and Schuster\)](#): Suggested Children ages 1-5
- [Publishers Weekly Review](#): Suggested for ages 1 - 5

Does the reason given by the patron justify action requested based on “Collection Development and Maintenance, Section B” of Collection Development Policy? No

Explain: Based on staff and Library Director review of the Material and the selection criteria set forth in the Policy, the Material meets the following criteria outlined in Section B under “Development and Maintenance” within the Collection Development Policy:

Literary or stylistic quality;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Content created by and representative of marginalized and underrepresented groups;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Reputations, qualifications, and significance of author, producer, or publisher;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Accuracy, currency, timeliness, and validity;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Attention of critics, reviewers, awards, and public;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Resources from self-published, independent, small, and local producers;	<input type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Physical quality and effectiveness of format and appropriateness of format to subject;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Cost, as measured against competing materials on the same subject;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Resources in formats that meet the needs of users with disabilities;	<input type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Literary or stylistic quality;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Content created by and representative of marginalized and underrepresented groups;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Reputations, qualifications, and significance of author, producer, or publisher;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Material meets criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Material does not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

If the patron requests alternative placement of the Material, is there an option that is suitable without making the Material inaccessible to other patrons? No.

Explain: The patron requested the item be removed from the children's area. The format of the Material is intended for the children's collection and there is not another collection it would be suitable for in the library. As such, removing the Material would make it inaccessible to the patrons for which it is intended.

Findings:

- The Material meets a majority of the criteria outlined in "Collection Development and Maintenance, Section B" of the Collection Development Policy.
- The Material was well reviewed by industry experts.
- Circulation statistics for the Material show that the item is being used by the community.

Conclusion:

After reviewing the Material as a whole, it is recommended that the Request for Reconsideration for *Pride 1 2 3* be denied and that the Material stay in its currently assigned collection and location.

The Material aligns with the District's Collection Development Policy. It has positive reviews and circulation statistics that demonstrate its relevance to the community. Additionally, the Material doesn't meet the legal definition of "material harmful to minors" as outlined in Section A. under Reconsideration of Materials within the Collection Development Policy, which references Idaho Code § 18-1514.

A determination to remove the Material based on a portion of the contents that an individual finds disagreeable would be counter to the District's Collection Development Policy and an affront to the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement as well as a violation of the First Amendment.

Section 2 of the form constitutes "written notice" to the District for a request to relocate the Material pursuant to the "Children's School and Library Protection Act" (see Idaho Code § 18-1517B(3)(b)). This Memo treats the patron's submitted Request as formal written notice under the Children's School and Library Protection Act and the Material has been reviewed for compliance with the Act. As stated herein, review of the Material has led to the conclusion that the Material does not meet the definition of "harmful to minors" under Idaho Code § 18-1514(6).