



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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MEMO

Date: October 14, 2024

To: Library Citizens' Advisory Committee

From: Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director

RE: Final Decision on the Library Material *Red Hood* by Elana Arnold

I have reviewed the meeting recording, your comments, your score cards and the votes on the book *Red Hood*. I would like to make you aware of the factors that I used to determine my final decision:

1. The purpose of the creation of the LCAC by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was to "incorporate citizens in the review process, providing a better understanding of the attitudes and opinions held in the community...".
2. I appreciate the LCAC answering the initial Evaluation Criteria section of your score cards for this book. There were some suggestions to remove some of these questions by members. The Evaluation Criteria questions come from 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 certain questions from the Evaluation Criteria but have chosen to retain the entirety of the questions because although not all the questions are relevant to this book selected to review 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 not pertain to the current material being reviewed.

3. In the Library Collection Development Policy, the Young Adult Collection purpose is "to provide material for young adults 16 & over in a variety of formats. To meet the recreational and informational interests as well as to support their formal educational curriculum".

4. A summary of your responses under the section for Suitability for Minors under 16 and your Suggested Disposition:

Member	Q1 Does the material depict the following act or simulated conduct?	Q2 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?	Q3 Would a reasonable person find that the material, <i>taken as a whole</i> , lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value for persons under 16 years of age?	Q4 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?''.	Suggested Disposition
Susan Hillman	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Reshelve to Adult Collection
Aaron Malone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Remove book from the library
Camilla Potts	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Remove book from the library
Michelle Dempsey	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Remove book from the library
Dorothy Denison	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Remove book from the library
Chad Scott	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Remove book from the library
Nancy Bertels	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Reshelve to Adult Collection

After reviewing all the comments and notes, I do not believe it is appropriate to remove the book from the library when the primary concern from the committee is mainly the appropriateness of the material for children. The comments on the score cards from the members under the Evaluation Criteria section did not preclude me to restrict an adult from access or selecting this book. These factors and our Administrative Policy determined my decision that the book, *Red Hood* shall remain in Willow Library and will be reshelve to the Adult Collection.

My decision respects parental choice to apply for a library card with their child, parental responsibility for the library material choices of the child and provide the freedom for patrons to choose library materials of their interest. I would like to add that parents and guardians can view their children's checked out books at any time by logging into their account online or inquiring at the library. Additionally, the joint Alaska Library Network is working on a refresh of their app this fall and it will include the ability of parents to 'tether' their account to their child's. Parents will be able to review all library material checked out to the minor from the convenience of their mobile app.

I want to thank all the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee for their service and their recommendations.