

6 messages

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 2:34 PM

To: "sarah@cromaine.org" <sarah@cromaine.org>

Same cover letter included in folder

Thank you Sarah

 **Library Cover Letter.docx**
16K

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 12:03 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>, Darlene Randolph <[REDACTED]@cromaine.org>

I received the paper copies of your requests for reconsideration forms, filled out by you and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on Monday, 3/31/25.

I will use the steps outlined in Library Policy #3010 Materials Selection Policy, **Section IX. Challenges to Materials** to evaluate your requests.

No material shall be removed from the Library's collection until all steps in the following process have been completed.

A. Patrons ("Requester") who object to Library Materials will be sent to the Director. **I received a phone call from you at the end of February 2025. We set a meeting for Monday, March 3rd at 1pm, which you attended with [REDACTED]**

B. The Director will discuss the Library Materials in question with the Requester, attempting to resolve the concern to both the Requester's and Library's satisfaction. **On March 3, we spoke for over an hour. You brought 3 children's picture books and left a list of other items of concern with me.**

C. If the Requester wishes to carry the request further, the Director will provide the Requester with a copy of the Materials Selection Policy, including the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials ("Request for Reconsideration"). **I gave you a copy of the Request for Reconsideration from and indicated that you would need to fill one out for each material in question.**

D. Once a completed, signed copy of the Request for Reconsideration for each Library Material is received, the Library Director shall decide the Request for Reconsideration, taking into consideration the Library's Materials Selection Policy and any other relevant information to reach a decision. The Director may consult with any other staff or consultants when making this decision. **We are currently at this stage in the process.**

E. The Library Director shall send the decision in writing to the complainant within seventy-five (75) days of the receipt of each completed Request for Reconsideration form. If the decision is that the questioned material should be removed from the collection, the Requester will be notified in writing by the Library Director and all copies of the item will be withdrawn. If the decision is that the questioned material is to be retained, the Requester will be notified in writing by the Library Director that the material will be retained.

I will respond, in writing, by June 13, 2025.

F. A written appeal of the Library Director's decision may be made by the Requester to the Chair of the Library Board within ten (10) business days after the written decision is made by the Library Director. The appeal must include the specific Library Material being appealed and the reason that the Requester would like the decision reversed. The Library Board will review any documentation it deems necessary to decide within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal. The

Library Board may issue an additional extension if necessary, in order to fully evaluate the material. The Library Board serves as the final authority in cases involving retention or withdrawal of Library Materials.

Thank you,

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 5:12 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Darlene Randolph <drandolf@cromaine.org>

[REDACTED]

After consulting with the Library's legal advisor to discuss the volume of requests you submitted, I was advised that I should follow the policy as written, in order to give each request the attention required. When we first met you indicated you had "about 20" books, so I was not prepared for the 200+ submitted. I realize when we spoke on the phone you asked about the best way to handle the volume, and I should have delayed my answer until consulting with legal counsel first.

So- all that is to say-I can only accept the books we discussed on March 3rd. From my notes, they were the ABCs of Gender and Love Violet and one other title-I cannot recall the third book you had that day, can you? If you do, please let me know and we can keep the same schedule listed above for those three items.

For the other books in question, I will need to meet with each member of your group about their specific books individually, in order to give each request the consideration they deserve. I am willing to look at each requester's "batch" of books, rather than require a meeting for each individual book, which seems tedious. Those would be: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I would also like to meet you and [REDACTED] again, individually, about the books not discussed on the 3rd of March.

I will make myself available for meetings on Thursdays, beginning on Thursday, 4/10/25, at the Library. For those available during the day, I have set up a booking page on Google Calendar.

For those who prefer evening hours, I can set up a time that might be better suited to their needs, most likely on Thursdays as well as I often work those nights, but do have a few standing commitments that may need shuffling.

Please share my email address and phone number, along with the booking page with each person listed above, and ask them to reach out to set up a time to meet to discuss their concerns with me.

The process for any requests for reconsideration will begin after that meeting, assuming they wish to continue at that time.

Thank you for your understanding of the importance of process and procedure.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 4:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Darlene Randolph <drandolf@cromaine.org>

[REDACTED]

I tried to call you just now, but your phone was busy. When I tried again, it seemed to have picked up, but then I got a busy signal. I want to be sure you've received this message.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 6:19 PM

Very good. Thank you

[Quoted text hidden]

Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 6:32 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

I didn't see this at first.

To be clear, I did hand over the list of 25+ books that I checked out from the library and then another list from the brochure which was 40 something books.

The other book was called True You. In the library.

I did hear the phone ring from the library today and said hello quite a few times. Just silence.

[Quoted text hidden]

To: Sarah Neidert

From: [REDACTED]

3/31/25

Submitting some Request for Reconsideration forms

Please note there are # 222. Note: some numbers are skipped because the book content did not apply. The following numbers were skipped..5,24,51,53,58,63,65,76,192,209,228

We enlisted helpers to fill out all the forms. They were encouraged to read summary or actual book themselves.

Names of Requesters: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The order they were put into the binder was the order in which they were found. We apologize for any repeats.

We would like to be noticed when all forms are done by email or text. We would like to request that if you allow all requesters than all be notified on the same day. Then we can decide next steps as a group. Please call if any questions.

Would like the White Binder returned please

Please note we included parenting guide on same subjects.

Thank you for your help in reviewing our requests.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

5 messages

Mon, Apr 7, 2025 at 9:25 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

See attached

 **second library meeting.docx**
15K

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 10:02 AM

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>, Darlene Randolph <drandolf@cromaine.org>

I can understand. As I outlined in my emails to you, the Library's legal counsel indicated if more than one person has a complaint, that I need to meet with each person.

Thank you and [REDACTED] for following up and for scheduling a time to meet (again). Since those meeting times were set, there has been a board ad hoc committee scheduled at 4:30pm on Thursday. Would it be possible for you and [REDACTED] to come earlier in the day? I am free at 1pm. If that is not possible, I can meet until 4:30, at which time I'll need to meet with board members.

I do have a few questions about the attached letter above, I do not see these requests for removal to the adult section- many are adult books- and most forms (I'll admit I have not reviewed them all yet) note that the action you are requesting from the Library is "removal."

So I think it's worth another meeting, either way. Please let me know when is best.

Best,
Sarah

On Mon, Apr 7, 2025 at 9:26 PM Diane White <dwgw1843@gmail.com> wrote:

See attached

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 10:40 AM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

We would be happy to meet with you Thursday.

I have a 1:00 meeting which is local and will run an hr or so.

I can email or call to say we are on the way.

We believe the best solution is removing them completely. We are shocked that there are more than 222 books regarding sex around children ages baby and up.

However, gathering them and putting them in the adult section in an area may be another solution.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2025, at 10:03 AM, Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 10:44 AM

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. I'll block off 2-4pm. Please ask for me when you arrive.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 12:30 PM

Very good

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2025, at 10:44 AM, Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

To: Sarah Neidert

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

4/7/25

After reviewing the Request for Reconsideration form, we are perplexed by your request to meet with all 12 requesters.

While reviewing steps A through D of the form, it does not state that we have to address every book individually. It says that we were to discuss the materials in question. We did this during our first meeting with you and we stated that we were going to look through as many of these types of books in the library as possible.

We determined that 222 books needed to have a form filled out and then asked those concerned patrons that joined us to verify the books on their list were of the same concern and fill out the forms. So they have been looked at twice.

All 222 books are of the same nature. We are requesting their removal to the adult section.

We also asked the 10 other patrons to be aware that after filling out the forms they needed to remember steps E and F. If needed, they agreed to follow up with a written appeal for removal to the Library Board Chairman at Croma District Library.

We are requesting from you that written notice be given for all 222 books by June 13, 2025.

[REDACTED] and I can come in this Thursday (4/10) and go through the detailed description and subjects of the books. We will use my laptop. We hope to get through the whole list that day. Our appointment 3:30 to 5:45.

Please indicate if this is a way forward and then confirm our time.

Thank you for your help, [REDACTED]

materials request for reconsideration

8 messages

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Sat, Apr 12, 2025 at 11:42 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

[REDACTED]

Thank you and [REDACTED] for coming back to speak with me about the books you submitted materials request for reconsideration forms for on Thursday. You assured me you represent the views of the group. I understand that in filling out the forms, each person selected that they represent themselves as an "individual" rather than organization because you are not a formal group, but a group of like minded individuals.

While I have concerns about that, I will waive the requirement for each person submitting a form to come meet with me, as you were clear that the goal is removal of the books due to the content.

I will respond, in writing, to you, [REDACTED]. You must then submit any appeals to the board in your name. Please be aware that these forms become public record once submitted, and will be included in a future board packet published online. I will, however, redact your contact information from the forms for privacy.

I will use the steps outlined in Library Policy #3010 Materials Selection Policy, **Section IX. Challenges to Materials** to evaluate the requests.

D. Once a completed, signed copy of the Request for Reconsideration for each Library Material is received, the Library Director shall decide the Request for Reconsideration, taking into consideration the Library's Materials Selection Policy and any other relevant information to reach a decision. The Director may consult with any other staff or consultants when making this decision. **We are currently at this stage in the process.**

E. The Library Director shall send the decision in writing to the complainant within seventy-five (75) days of the receipt of each completed Request for Reconsideration form. If the decision is that the questioned material should be removed from the collection, the Requester will be notified in writing by the Library Director and all copies of the item will be withdrawn. If the decision is that the questioned material is to be retained, the Requester will be notified in writing by the Library Director that the material will be retained.

I will respond, in writing, on or before June 13, 2025.

F. A written appeal of the Library Director's decision may be made by the Requester to the Chair of the Library Board within ten (10) business days after the written decision is made by the Library Director. The appeal must include the specific Library Material being appealed and the reason that the Requester would like the decision reversed. The Library Board will review any documentation it deems necessary to decide within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal. The Library Board may issue an additional extension if necessary, in order to fully evaluate the material. The Library Board serves as the final authority in cases involving retention or withdrawal of Library Materials.

Sarah Neidert

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Sarah Neidert
Director, Cromaine District Library
3688 N. Hartland Rd.
Hartland, MI 48353
810-632-5200 x105

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Mon, Apr 21, 2025 at 10:50 AM

Cc: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

[REDACTED]
I'm concerned that at last Thursday's board meeting (41725), Board President Bolin stated that you have met with him and that I had "already rejected" some books you'd challenged? I'll admit this process has not been linear or smooth, but I have not sent any letters to you yet, as requested.

I'm concerned that statements made at the board meeting may have indicated that you and Dr. Bolin have a different view of this process - please confirm that you would prefer that I hold any decisions about materials challenges until the batch is complete.

Thank you,
Sarah
[Quoted text hidden]

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 11:12 AM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Thank you for getting clarification.

At our first meeting, when the 3 books were discussed, you said you didn't have a reason to object to the books being in the library. This is when we discussed the form and next steps.
That was the information that was shared with him.

The books were... True You, ABC's of Gender Identity and Love, Violet.

[REDACTED]
[Quoted text hidden]

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 11:19 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
That makes sense then. I was concerned that I'd misunderstood when Bill began asking me questions in the meeting. He indicated that we were further along in the process.

Can you verify that you would still like me to hold all the forms and responses until they are all complete? I have quite a number complete, but was trying to adhere to that request on your part.

I do not seem to have a form for Love, Violet. I do remember looking at that book with you and [REDACTED]

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 9:45 AM

[REDACTED]
Please confirm if you would like me to hold all the forms and responses until they are all complete.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 11:00 AM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

That is fine. Thank you
Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 11:02 AM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Would it be acceptable to email a form for love, Violet to you to include since that was discussed at the first meeting. Obviously missed that one. Ugg

Thank you
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2025, at 11:12 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 11:16 AM

To: [REDACTED]

I can use this email as an indication that you are including it. Not a problem.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED]
1 message

Sun, May 4, 2025 at 11:16 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Sent from my iPhone

2 attachments



IMG_2176.jpg
1023K



IMG_2177.jpg
1187K

Request for Reconsideration

The Library Board of Trustees has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of collection materials and programming to the Library Director and has established reconsideration procedures to address concerns about those resources.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Do you represent yourself? Y or an Organization? (please specify) : _____

1. Type of resource on which you are commenting: All formats
- ☒ Book (e-book) _____ Audio Recording _____ DVD _____ Game _____
Magazine/Newspaper _____ Content of Library Program _____
Other, please specify: _____

Title Love, Violet

Author/Producer/Presenter Charlotte Sullivan

2. What brought this resource to your attention?

Concern for Children

3. Have you examined the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review?

Read it

4. What concerns you about the resource?

Sexualization / Exploitation of Children

5. What action are you requesting from the Library

Removal

Process: As outlined in the Library's Materials Selection Policy #3020: No material shall be removed from the Library's collection until all steps in the following process have been completed.

- A. Patrons ("Requester") who object to Library Materials will be sent to the Director.
- B. The Director will discuss the Library Materials in question with the Requester, attempting to resolve the concern to both the Requester's and Library's satisfaction.
- C. If the Requester wishes to carry the request further, the Director will provide the Requester with a copy of the Materials Selection Policy, including the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials ("Request for Reconsideration").
- D. Once a completed, signed copy of the Request for Reconsideration is received, the Library Director shall decide the Request for Reconsideration, taking into consideration the Library's Materials Selection Policy and any other relevant information to reach a decision. The Director may consult with any other staff or consultants when making this decision.
- E. The Library Director shall send the decision in writing to the complainant within seventy-five (75) days of the receipt of the completed Request for Reconsideration form. If the decision is that the questioned material should be removed from the collection, the Requester will be notified in writing by the Library Director and all copies of the item will be withdrawn. If the decision is that the questioned material is to be retained, the Requester will be notified in writing by the Library Director that the material will be retained.
- F. A written appeal of the Library Director's decision may be made by the Requester to the Chair of the Library Board within ten (10) business days after the written decision is made by the Library Director. The Library Board will review any documentation it deems necessary to decide within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal. The Library Board may issue an additional extension if necessary in order to fully evaluate the material.
- G. The Library Board serves as the final authority in cases involving retention or withdrawal of Library Materials.


5 messages

Mon, May 5, 2025 at 8:51 AM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

 **library individuals verses group.docx**
14K

Mon, May 5, 2025 at 12:25 PM

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

To: [REDACTED]

If you are not a group, how did you organize this endeavor?
Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Mon, May 5, 2025 at 1:00 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Just asked like minded people who were in the library system to volunteer to fill out forms.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 5, 2025, at 12:25 PM, Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Mon, May 5, 2025 at 1:45 PM

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

To: [REDACTED]

I understand that part- but how did you ask? How are you connected?
Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Wed, May 7, 2025 at 5:28 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

We asked people verbally and then we are connected to people who have a concern about children along with library content.

[Quoted text hidden]

May 4, 2025

To: Sarah Neidert

[REDACTED]

This letter is in regards to the question, "Do you represent yourself?" on the Request for Reconsideration form.

When filling out the forms, everyone checked, "yes."

I reviewed your comments again about considering us a group and have concerns about it. Upon further thought, I do not want to be recognized as a group because we are not. We have not formally or informally met. We are simply individuals with concerns for the children.

I believe that our initial meeting with you ought to be considered the equivalency of meeting with everyone.

I appreciate all your help in meeting with [REDACTED] and myself as we expressed our concerns for the children and are now working through our requests.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2 messages

Tue, May 20, 2025 at 3:01 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Hi Sarah,

Did you see my email from 5/18/25?

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Tue, May 20, 2025 at 3:51 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Yes. I'll respond to that email shortly.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED]
2 messages

Sun, May 18, 2025 at 9:37 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Please see the attached.

Thank you, [REDACTED]



library language #4.docx

14K

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Tue, May 20, 2025 at 3:53 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Thank you for your thoughts. I'll consider them as the board moves forward with the process. At this point, we've paused the entire endeavor until they settle on what the policy will be.

Best,
Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Sarah,

After listening to the discussion amongst the board members at last Thursday's Library Board meeting, I wanted to ask you a question regarding #4 on the Request for Reconsideration form.

Can we withdraw the current request for reconsideration form to change the language of #4 to read ...Age inappropriate content/material for minors? The form you currently have could be removed and exchanged for the new form. That would be the simplest solution.

I looked over the form and thought to leave the rest of it alone.

Please let me know your thoughts on this.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
2 messages

Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 10:23 AM

[REDACTED]
To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Good morning Sarah,

I wanted to ask if you plan to or could you put the new book challenge form online?

Thank you, [REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 2:40 PM

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
The board has not yet adopted a revised policy. I hope they will at this next meeting. After the policy is revised, I will revise the form to reflect any changes.
However, I will not be posting the form itself online, as the first step is to meet with me about any concerns, as you have done.

I realize you didn't ask, but I do not plan to require you to fill out new forms to replace those already in my possession. I understand your objections and wish to complete assessment of your requests as submitted, once I know how the board expects me to evaluate them. Does that sound reasonable to you, or would you like the option to re-submit after the policy is changed?

I hope you enjoy your weekend.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED]
3 messages

Mon, Jun 23, 2025 at 12:19 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Hi

Wondering if you would email me a copy of the new book challenge form when it is available?

Would like to read it over.

Thank you, [REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 12:31 PM

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
I plan to work on that form later this month. I'd be happy to share it with you after it is completed.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Tue, Jul 1, 2025 at 1:10 PM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Thank you. I'll look forward to seeing it.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 30, 2025, at 11:31 AM, Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Book Challenge Form

2 messages

[REDACTED]
To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Fri, Jul 25, 2025 at 7:39 AM

Good Morning Sarah,

Just checking in with you regarding the Book Challenge Form. Is it ready to be viewed yet?

Thanks, [REDACTED]

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>
To: [REDACTED]

Fri, Jul 25, 2025 at 10:04 AM

[REDACTED]
Thanks for reaching out. I am off today, but wanted to follow up before the weekend.
I have been finishing up the forms you originally submitted, and hope to have them for you in about a week.

About the revised challenge form- I have not yet had the chance to revise it based on the policy revisions. As before, if you wish to challenge materials, the first step is to meet with me to discuss each individual item. Only after that discussion, if we cannot come to a resolution, will you get the form for the items discussed.
The process is not set up for a long list of items, as you can tell from the time it has taken to assess the forms submitted in the spring. If you'd like to set up a time to meet about specific materials, please give me a call next week.

I hope you are enjoying your summer.

Sarah

[Quoted text hidden]

Request for Reconsideration forms

1 message

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 11:28 AM

To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
I have your original binder, request forms, and written responses to each form, ready to deliver. I am able to mail them, or I can leave them for one of you to pick up at the Library. What is your preference?

Best,

Sarah

--

Sarah Neidert
Director, Cromaine District Library
3688 N. Hartland Rd.
Hartland, MI 48353
810-632-5200 x105



To: [REDACTED]

Re: Materials Request for Reconsideration

Date: July 31, 2025

From: Sarah Neidert, Library Director

Thank you both for your patience during this long process. Library staff have been working to assess these materials over the past months. This process was interrupted and paused while the board re-evaluated and eventually updated policy #3010 Materials Selection and Reader Guidance (revised on June 18, 2025). After the changes and updates to that policy, I tasked staff with re-evaluation of each individual item, based on the changes to that policy.

Process of evaluation:

Each title has been considered and a letter has been issued for each item, including the specific complaint, the circulation statistics of the item, and reviews or other notes about the item. Of the 218 individual materials challenged, 10 were moved to other collections (either to Teen from Juvenile, or to Adult from Teen), 8 were removed (weeded) as part of continuous review, and 13 were labeled with non-prejudicial, viewpoint neutral labels. In addition, 3 books were on order when challenged, but have been placed on backorder and cancelled by our bookseller, and eventually cancelled at the end of the fiscal year, while 4 additional books were missing.

Per Policy #3010 Section IX. Challenges to Materials:

If a patron objects to material owned by the library, they may complete a Request for Reconsideration Form for submission to the Director. The patron submitting the request must be a resident of the Cromaine District Library service area and hold a preexisting patron card. No material shall be removed from the library's collection until all steps in the following process have been completed.

As I noted in each letter, "I understand that a group of individuals helped you fill out these forms. We discussed at our second meeting that while each person filling out the forms selected that they represent themselves as an "individual" rather than "organization" because you are not a formal group, but a group of like-minded friends with similar concerns. You indicated that you may speak for the group and that I may communicate directly with you." Therefore, each letter is addressed to [REDACTED], who has been in communication with me during the process. I feel that this adjustment of the updated policy is only fair, as you indicated you'd be willing to submit them all in your name. Going forward I will follow the policy as written.

Part E. The Library Director shall send the decision in writing to the complainant within seventy-five (75) days of the receipt of each completed request for reconsideration form. The Director may request additional time from the Board to respond, in order to fully evaluate the material. **I sent the responses, via USPS, on Thursday, July 31, 2025 (43 days from June 18, 2025).**

If the decision is that the questioned material be removed from the collection, the Requestor will be notified in writing by the Library Director and all copies of the item will be withdrawn. If the material is to be retained, the Requestor will be notified in writing. If the Director determines the material may contain graphic violence or sexually explicit material (as defined in the Appendixes), the material may be: relocated within the collection, and/or labeled with "This book may contain graphic violence or sexually explicit material- Cromaine District Library."

Details:

Relocated to Adult:

Eight (8) titles that were originally located in the Teen collection were assessed to possibly contain sexually explicit or graphically violent material, therefore were moved to the adult section. I chose NOT to label those books, as location in the adult section is meant to indicate potential adult content. One title which was located in the juvenile collection, along with one title which was in the Tween collection (located in the youth room) was moved to the Teen collection, as they may appeal to older children or teens.

Remain in Teen-labeled:

If a title remained in the Teen Collection, it was re-assessed for "graphic violence or sexually explicit material." If appropriate, labels were placed on the back of the item above the barcode, so that patrons would see the note before checking out the material.

Per the policy, those labels read:

"This book may contain graphic violence or sexually explicit material – Cromaine District Library." One book received such a label.

"This book may contain graphic violence– Cromaine District Library." One book received such a label.

"This book may contain sexually explicit material – Cromaine District Library." Five (5) books received such a label.

"Social Issues" Genre in Juvenile Fiction

If a title in the juvenile fiction section was assessed as fitting the "social issues" genre (*Fiction in which a prevailing social problem, such as gender, race, or class prejudice, is dramatized through its effect on the characters of a novel. Similar to realistic fiction, but with a direct focus on activism or dismantling the social problem*), a spine label was attached. As stated in the definition, this label was not applied to any of our non-fiction collections. Six (6) received social issue spine labels.

Parenting Collection:

If a title would fit in the "Big concerns for Little People" section of the parenting collection, then the corresponding-colored dot was affixed to the spine of that title. Each letter indicated the label that was affixed to those books. Some of these titles were already in this section, but the labels are new- added to help parents find materials.

Removed ("weeded") items:

Policy #3010, Section VIII: Maintenance of the Collection notes that "The collection shall be periodically examined for the purpose of eliminating obsolete, damaged, duplicate, or unneeded materials, and for binding or repair of materials, in order to maintain a balanced, attractive and useful Library Materials collection." Cromaine uses Continuous Review, Evaluation, and Weeding methods to weed materials, and 8 items were removed for those reasons.

Next steps:

F. A written appeal of the Library Director's decision may be submitted by the Requester to the President of the Library Board within (10) business days of the written decision. The appeal must specify the library material being appealed and the reasons for requesting the reversal. The Library Board will review relevant documentation and decide within sixty (60) days of receiving the appeal, with the option to extend if necessary to fully evaluate the material.

Please direct any appeals, in writing, to:

William Bolin

President, Cromaine District Library Board of Trustees

PO Box 308

3688 N. Hartland Rd.

Hartland, MI 48353

You may choose to mail letters, or email President Bolin at 

The Library Board will review any documentation it deems necessary to decide within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal. The Library Board may issue an additional extension if necessary in order to fully evaluate the material.

Cromaine District Library Location Description (by Age)

Cromaine District Library has various materials locations in the Youth Department to help parents and guardians find material based on their children's continuously expanding ability to understand words, concepts, and plotlines.

The table below is a breakdown of what age range may be expected to use each collection, although any patron may check out any book. Please note that because books are purchased prior to their publication, heavy reliance is placed on the suggested age ranges provided by the publishers and noted in professional reviews.

Location Name	General Suggested Age Range
Adult Collection	Adults, people aged 18+
Parenting Collection	Adults and parents or guardians of children 18 and under. This section includes a section of books for co-reading with children about tough topics (i.e.: death, divorce) called "Big Concerns for Little People" that has a color-coded dot system to help parents locate topics.
Teen Books (Fiction and Non-Fiction)	Ages 12/13 - 18 (grades 7 – 12)
Teen Graphic Novels and Teen Manga	Ages 12/13 - 18 (grades 7 – 12)
Tween Books (only Fiction)	Ages 10-12 (grades 5 – 6)
Juvenile Non-Fiction	Ages 2 - 12 (this is our broadest age range, and is broken into subjects by the Dewey Decimal System so that readers may choose to look at only their preferred subject section(s). (i.e.: Tractors, Animals, Biographies, Poetry)
Juvenile Graphic Novels (Fiction and Non-Fiction)	Ages 6 – 12
Juvenile Fiction	Ages 6 – 10 (grades 1 – 4)
Juvenile Easy Reader	Ages 4 – 6 (grades Kindergarten – 2)
Juvenile Picture Books	Ages 0 – 5
Board Books	Ages 0 – 3

Request for Reconsideration Update

1 message

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Fri, Aug 1, 2025 at 2:57 PM

To: William Bolin [REDACTED]

Cc: Darlene Randolph [REDACTED]

Bill,

I wanted to let you know that [REDACTED] just came in and picked up the package of letters I composed in response to each of the requests for reconsideration form her group submitted.

According to the policy, the next steps are:

A written appeal of the Library Director's decision may be submitted by the Requester to the President of the Library Board within (10) business days of the written decision. The appeal must specify the library material being appealed and the reasons for requesting the reversal. The Library Board will review relevant documentation and decide within sixty (60) days of receiving the appeal, with the option to extend if necessary to fully evaluate the material.

In each letter I asked her to:

Please direct any appeals, in writing, to:

William Bolin
President, Cromaine District Library Board of Trustees
PO Box 308
3688 N. Hartland Rd.
Hartland, MI 48353

In a memo summarizing the process, I indicated that she could choose to mail letters, or email you at [REDACTED]@cromaine.org. Please be sure to check your email and let the board know if any appeals have been presented to you.

I pushed to get these to her today so any appeals could be known before the board packet goes out on the 15th, giving you the option of adding discussion of the process to the agenda.

Thanks,
Sarah

--

Sarah Neidert
Director, Cromaine District Library
3688 N. Hartland Rd.
Hartland, MI 48353
810-632-5200 x105

Communication Acknowledgment Form

I acknowledge receipt of the binder containing the original request for reconsideration forms, along with a written response to each form to and agree to follow the next steps outlined below:

Per Policy #3010 Section IX. Challenges to Materials:

F. A written appeal of the Library Director's decision may be submitted by the Requester to the President of the Library Board within (10) business days of the written decision. The appeal must specify the library material being appealed and the reasons for requesting the reversal. The Library Board will review relevant documentation and decide within sixty (60) days of receiving the appeal, with the option to extend if necessary to fully evaluate the material.

Please direct any appeals, in writing, to:

William Bolin
President, Cromaine District Library Board of Trustees
PO Box 308
3688 N. Hartland Rd.
Hartland, MI 48353

You may choose to mail letters, or email President Bolin at [REDACTED]@cromaine.org

The Library Board will review any documentation it deems necessary to decide within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal. The Library Board may issue an additional extension if necessary in order to fully evaluate the material.

[REDACTED]

printed name of person picking up packet
packet

[REDACTED]

signature of person picking up

Date:

8/1/25

Hi Sarah,

We are having a wonderful summer. Michigan is beautiful place to live.

We have been working well together and hope to continue as we move forward.

Let's review a little about the books we have been talking about. First of all, we met and discussed the books that we were challenging. You verbally said you didn't have any objections to the books we presented. We also presented a few lists of books with the exact same concerns. You explained how the library has a flow of books coming in and out where some would be filtered out as that is the normal procedure of the library. Next, books were being challenged and forms were filled out for each book and submitted to you. You pulled the book and began the process of reviewing each of the 234.

At a board meeting, it came to everyone's attention that the library board could be open to a lawsuit. A pause was placed on the book review while other local library policies were reviewed and to consult legal counsel so that the Board would be in line with the Constitution and be protected from a lawsuit. While I initially thought to change the wording on #4 for each form and asked you to consider this, I realized after hearing Dawn Smith speak that all new forms would be needed. That new form was approved on June 19, 2025.

I asked for the form twice and you did say you would work on it towards the end of the month. It has now been about 6 weeks since approval. Without seeing the new form, I cannot say how it differs. However, since police were called in because of the near violent protests, one can conclude it must contain important content. However, in your last communication, you were saying the content is much the same.

So, we would like to see this form as soon as possible. As indicated in other board meetings, the issue with books for minors with inappropriate content has been dragging on for several years and other local libraries have successfully labeled their books without delay. It is a concern as patrons to see all these things as delay on the part of the library.

We believe it would be unwise to continue along this path (with the old form) when a new path that is better has opened with the new form. If your review and decisions apply to the new form and it stands, we will all fill out new forms for each and every book and we can all work together with you to finish this batch of books. Is the new form compliant with the old? If the new form changes your decisions, let's talk about it. We do not want to waste anyone's time, yours or ours.

We also do not want the old forms as a public record, for the same reason stated above.

Finally, restating our concerns:

1. Need the new form
2. We don't agree to having the old form as a public record
3. Will new form reviewed by you be exactly as the old form review? Will your review stand?

In the course of writing this, I did see a new email from you. Glanced at it and saw it said you were done.

Thank you and I'll look forward to hearing back from you.



follow up - clarification

1 message

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Fri, Aug 22, 2025 at 9:11 AM

To: Board <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

I wanted to follow up on one item that confused me at the end of the meeting last night- one of the speakers at the call to the public asked if "the updated form" would be published online.

I have received, and responded to requests for this form, from the leader of the challenge group, [REDACTED] as well.

I'm concerned that there may be some confusion about the Policy #3010 vs. the staff form used to make a request for reconsideration. The revised policy is on the website, and has been since it was adopted in June. That policy refers to a form titled "Request for Reconsideration." Patrons wishing to challenge materials are given that form after they have met with me and discussed an individual item of concern.

This form was never on the website, nor do I plan to post it now. It was updated to reflect the changes in the policy. I am attaching it for your reference, but please understand, if someone brings a form to the library without meeting with me first, I will not consider the process followed and will not accept the form without beginning with a meeting about an individual item.

I will be happy to discuss this with the Community Relations Committee in September. I hope this clarifies that comment for you. Please reach out with specific questions or concerns.

Sarah

--

Sarah Neidert
Director, Cromaine District Library
3688 N. Hartland Rd.
Hartland, MI 48353
810-632-5200 x105



Updated STAFF Form - Request for Reconsideration Policy 3010.doc

131K

Book Challenge Letter to the Board

1 message

Jeannine Gogoleski <[REDACTED]> Sat, Aug 23, 2025 at 1:21 PM
To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>, Dawn Smith <[REDACTED]>, Holly Naylor <[REDACTED]>, Kim
Armstrong <[REDACTED]>, Rebecca Basley <[REDACTED]>, Nancy Rosso <[REDACTED]>
Cc: William Bolin <[REDACTED]>

Attached is the book challenge letter addressed to the board.

As discussed in our meeting, this needs to go back to the Community Relations Committee for discussion, then back to the full board to vote.

The committee might need to add a few lines to policy 3010, when a book challenge comes back to the board, after the Director has made the determination, the board shall...it would be up to committee to craft a few sentences .

I do not believe we need to share this publicly yet, since it needs to go back to committee.

Have a great weekend.

 **Library Materials Appeal .pdf**
1327K

To: William Bolin

President, Cromaine District Library Board of Trustees

PO Box 308

3688 N. Hartland Rd

Hartland, MI 48353

From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8/9/25

Re: Age-inappropriate library materials for minors.

rec'd
Sat. 8/23/25
S. Neidert
via J. Gogoleski
email

Dear Board President Bolin,

I am thankful and appreciate our Library Board and all the hard work everyone does.

Please read the summary of the concern.

Initially, we ([REDACTED] and [REDACTED]) had a meeting with Sarah Neidert and presented 3 books that were a good representation of the materials we were concerned about. She did verbally say that she did not see any problem with the books.

Next, we were given a Request for Reconsideration form and decided to pursue and take action about our concern.

That brings us to the reason for this letter. We are on step F which is appeal to the board regarding our concern.

Twelve individuals submitted 222 Book Challenge forms on March 31, 2025. We are not a group but are concerned patrons.

The reason the books were challenged is because of the content. Each person agreed that the book content was age-inappropriate material for minors 18 years of age and under. Some parenting books located in the children's section are also concerning.

We were asking that the books be removed. Removal means from circulation or to another separate shelf or to another area/section of the library.

We used the old book challenge form for each and every book, and were in the process of having the Director evaluate our concern which could take up to 75 days. Then the Library Board became aware of issues which would leave the Board open to a lawsuit. It was decided to halt the evaluation process while a new form was developed and voted on for approval. During the meeting on June 19th, I heard Dawn Smith say the new form would protect the Library Board from a lawsuit. Thankfully, the new form was written and approved on June 19, 2025.

Unfortunately, The Director completed the Book Challenge forms that were originally submitted (old forms). She notified me a few days before completing her evaluation that she would complete the original request forms as written. She completed this work on 8/1/25. I asked for the new approved form twice before she completed the work. Once just after it was approved and the other time later in July. To date, the form has not been made available to me.

The summary of her work (letter included) is as follows: Of the 218 individual materials challenged, 10 were moved to other collections, 8 were removed (weeded), 13 were labeled. In addition, 3 were on order when challenged and were found to be on backorder and then canceled, 4 books were missing.

I and the other Book Challenge form signers are appealing to the board to consider our request for removal for each book for minors. We stand on our request because we believe that these books contain age-inappropriate materials for minors 18 and under. We also understand to move forward we need to use the new library book challenge form and update the language of #4. The original language for #4 is sexualization/exploitation of children. The new language for #4 is age-inappropriate content/material for minors

Questions for the Library Board:

1. Where is the new book challenge form approved June 19th?
2. When will it be available?
3. Why is it not available?
4. Will we be allowed to fill out new Book Challenge forms for each of the 222 books we challenged?
5. Will the new form review by Sarah Neidert be exactly as the old form?
6. Will her review stand?
7. Did Sarah Neidert post the old form as a public record or will she post the new form?

Looking forward to hearing from the Library Board on this important matter.

Thank you, 

Included

List of books that were challenged

Summary of her decision

Communication acknowledgement dated form

Sample of old form submission

My recent letter to Sarah Neidert emailed 7/31/25

3 messages

Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 10:23 AM

To: Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

Good morning Sarah,

I wanted to ask if you plan to or could you put the new book challenge form online?

Thank you,
Sent from my iPhone

Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 2:40 PM

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

To: [REDACTED]

The board has not yet adopted a revised policy. I hope they will at this next meeting. After the policy is revised, I will revise the form to reflect any changes. However, I will not be posting the form itself online, as the first step is to meet with me about any concerns, as you have done.

I realize you didn't ask, but I do not plan to require you to fill out new forms to replace those already in my possession. I understand your objections and wish to complete assessment of your requests as submitted, once I know how the board expects me to evaluate them. Does that sound reasonable to you, or would you like the option to re-submit after the policy is changed?

I hope you enjoy your weekend.
Sarah
[Quoted text hidden]

Mon, Aug 25, 2025 at 11:23 AM

Sarah Neidert <sarah@cromaine.org>

To: [REDACTED]

I just read your appeal letter to President Bolin. I was confused by much of it, and looked back through our emails for clues as to where we had a misunderstanding. I wonder if the email above from June 13 is where we first had a miscommunication? In my response to you on that date, I asked if you would like the option to re-submit after the policy is changed? Hearing nothing, I made the assumption you did not.

I was also confused as to why you thought I was withholding the new form from you- I do not hand that form out to anyone unless they meet with me, as you know. I thought you were asking for the form in order to submit MORE challenges. That is why I repeatedly told you the process, which is outlined in the policy, that you would have to come see me about additional challenges. I have in my notes from our first two meetings that you had more, and that I'd asked you to wait to submit additional forms until the board figured out what to do with these, since the objection was the same.

I can see from reading your recent communications that you may be confusing the new form with the updated Policy #3010 that was adopted on June 19, 2025. That policy has been on the website since June 20th. The portion of the policy that refers to a form did not change (part C of IX. Challenges to Materials) I used the **new policy** to address your challenges. I thought I was saving us both time and effort as you have clearly communicated your issues with the content of these books with me during this process.

I hope that helps clarify the pain points in our communications. I'll admit this has not been smooth, nor expedient. I do, however, believe that I would assess the materials in the same way, even if you changed your wording on an updated form.

Please let me know when you receive this email.

Best,
Sarah Neidert
[Quoted text hidden]