

APPROVED

Cromaine District Library
Special Board Meeting
Thursday November 6, 2025

Trustees Present: Jeannine Gogoleski, Nancy Rosso, Becky Basley, Holly Naylor, Dawn Smith, Kim Armstrong

Members Absent: Bill Bolin

Staff Present : Sarah Neidert,

Public Present : list was lost in the shuffle

I. II.	Vice President Gogoleski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance	Pledge of Allegiance
III.	Roll Call Vice President Gogoleski took roll call. Present: Jeannine Gogoleski, Nancy Rosso, Becky Basley, Holly Naylor, Dawn Smith, Kim Armstrong Absent: Bill Bolin	Roll Call
IV.	Discussion/Decision Items Discussion/decision book Challenge Appeal to the Board Trustee Naylor began by asking why this meeting was called at this time, instead of keeping it as an agenda item for the regularly scheduled meeting of November 20 th ? Trustee Smith said she does not know why President Bolin chose this date, as he is not here to speak for himself, but perhaps because this has taken so long, to get things going? Trustee Naylor wanted to clarify the timeline, for the record: April - 1 st pile of challenge forms submitted to staff May- Staff working on them June- Staff almost done- Board changes the policy and tells Director to review via the new policy- looking specifically for graphic violence or sexually explicit material, as defined in the policy. Allows for resetting the clock from the board	

	<p>meeting on June 18, 2025.</p> <p>The Director sent individual letters addressing each book challenged on Thursday, July 31, 2025 (43 days from June 18, 2025).</p> <p>August- The appeal letter was sent to President Bolin on August 9, 2025. We had a board meeting on August 21, when Director Neidert and other board members had heard from President Bolin that there was an appeal, but no one else saw it until August 23, when Vice President Gogoleski emailed it to the board and Director.</p> <p>September- the board meeting was cancelled on the day of the meeting.</p> <p>October 15- first time the board has discussed how to handle the appeal.</p> <p>Nov. 6- Special Board meeting called “because this has been on our agenda and discussion for months” seems inaccurate.</p> <p>Discussion.</p> <p>Trustee Smith- summarized meeting with Challenger about what the appeal was asking for. She is appealing the decisions made about any book that was not removed by weeding or backorder resulting in it not arriving.</p> <p>Clarification- she would like that all remaining books be moved to the adult section, labeled as sexually explicit and an additional label of “gender issues” as well. Trustee Smith clarified that such a label does not exist and is not in the policy.</p> <p>Discussion of process followed.</p> <p>Sheet that was voted on at the October meeting will be filled out for each book, and a copy will be placed into President Bolin’s mailbox, as well as Director Neidert’s. President Bolin will keep track of the sheets and run this process.</p> <p>First there needs to be a decision.</p> <p>Secretary Rosso moved to accept the Director’s decision on each book. Trustee Naylor seconded the motion.</p> <p>A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: Naylor, Rosso -2</p> <p>Nays: Armstrong, Smith, Basley, Gogoleski -4</p> <p>Motion failed.</p>	
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	<p>Trustee Smith moved to have the board read all the books. Trustee Armstrong seconded the motion.</p> <p>Discussion – Trustee Smith worries that the staff ordering the books have a bias and therefore cannot review them without bias. Trustee Gogoleski wants to do due diligence.</p> <p>Director Neidert asked clarification- will they be using the appeal form voted on at the last meeting? Specifically, they will be looking at sexually explicit content, not genre labels, etc.?</p> <p>To clarify- there were 8 books that were weeded or on backorder- not 38. So, the options are moving to another section or placing the labels in the policy regarding sexually explicit content.</p> <p>Trustee Smith moved to have the board read all the books and follow the appeal process.</p> <p>A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: Armstrong, Smith, Basley, Gogoleski- 4</p> <p>Nays: Naylor, Rosso- 2</p> <p>Motion passed.</p> <p>Discussion followed regarding process. The group will start with a mix of 20 books a month. One adult book, three teen books, six youth books and ten picture books. (That will be adjusted as there are only ten picture books).</p> <p>How to place a hold was discussed. It would be best for each trustee to place each book on hold on their personal card.</p> <p>President Bolin will keep track of each paper form submitted and create and maintain a spreadsheet. Once a title has been read and the paper appeal sheet completed by all seven trustees, President Bolin will add that title to the agenda for the next board meeting. This way the public will know which books will actually be discussed, not just a list of potentials.</p> <p>Director Neidert asked that they agree to evaluate the books based on the policy they have today, in the event that they change it in any way, to prevent confusion and delay further, as happened in her review. Each trustee agreed.</p> <p>Trustee Gogoleski made a motion to extend the time to an undetermined duration to review all the books. Trustee Smith seconded the motion.</p> <p>A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: , Armstrong, Smith Basley, Gogoleski, Naylor, Rosso- 6</p> <p>Nays: None Motion passed.</p>	
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V.	<p>Call to the Public</p> <p>Brent spoke to the board</p> <p>Elaine C. spoke to the board.</p> <p>Amber from Hartland Village wrote:</p> <p>I want to begin by expressing concern about how this meeting was scheduled. It was announced at the last minute, held off the regular schedule, and placed in a small room with limited capacity—after the last meeting drew strong community engagement. That is deeply troubling. The library board serves the public, and its meetings should be accessible to the public. Choosing a space that restricts community participation gives the appearance of avoiding input, which undermines trust and transparency.</p> <p>The people in this room—and many who could not be here tonight—care deeply about our library. Please meet that engagement with openness, not exclusion.</p> <p>Next, the efforts to censor or segregate the challenged books amounts to viewpoint discrimination and undermine the principles of intellectual freedom and the First Amendment. Our public library exists to provide access to a broad range of ideas so that individuals—not governing boards—can decide what is right for themselves and their families.</p> <p>I urge the board to trust the professional expertise and ethical standards of our library director and staff, who are trained to curate collections that reflect the diversity and needs of the entire community. The role of the library board is to support that mission, uphold transparency, and represent the public interest—not to impose personal beliefs or preferences on what others may read or access.</p> <p>If there are perspectives or topics someone feels are underrepresented, the solution is simple: request more books that reflect those viewpoints. That’s how a public library grows—by adding voices, not silencing them.</p> <p>I also want to oppose the ideas raised at the last meeting to create a “parent review committee” or require permission slips for certain books. These proposals would allow one group’s values to dictate access for everyone. Every parent has the right to guide their own child’s reading—but no parent, and no board member, has the right to decide what other families can access.</p> <p>Our library’s duty is to provide open access to ideas and information for all—not to police which perspectives are acceptable. Censorship, however it’s framed, undermines intellectual freedom and the democratic principles on which public libraries stand.</p>	

	<p>Ideas do not corrupt people—they expand understanding. Shielding readers from difference doesn’t protect them; it limits them.</p> <p>I urge the board to respect the professional expertise of librarians, to uphold transparency in all decisions, and most importantly, to protect the right of every community member—to read freely and think for themselves.</p> <p>Our library must remain a place where everyone can see themselves reflected, explore freely, and feel welcome.</p> <p>I also want to ask how library staff who are educated and trained are considered [by the board] to be too biased to review the challenged books, whereas the board that plans to re-review these books and is looking into hiring an Alliance Defending Freedom lawyer is not?</p> <p>Barbara spoke to the board.</p> <p>Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Basely, seconded by Kim Armstrong. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.</p>			
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Nancy Rosso, SECRETARY
Cromaine District Library Board