

**Rapides Parish Library
Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee
of the Board of Control
December 8, 2023**

Minutes

A meeting of the Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee of the Rapides Parish Board of Control was held at the Main Library, 411 Washington Street, Alexandria, LA.

Committee members present were Ms. Irene Hobbs (Chair), Ms. Dana Cox, and Mr. Ralph Roach. Also present were Board President Le’Anza Jordan, Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, Assistant District Attorney Greg Jones, and three members of staff.

Ms. Hobbs called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Agenda

Ms. Cox motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Roach seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Policies and Forms

Mr. Jones updated the committee regarding the proposed amendments to the Materials Circulation Policy, Collection Development Policy, and Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form, which were sent to the State Library and the Attorney General’s office for review. The State Library’s written response and a verbal response given to Mr. Jones by the Attorney General’s office via telephone confirmed that the documents were in compliance with LA R.S. 25:225 regulations and goals.

The timeline for implementation of the new statute requires compliant policies to be in place by January 1, 2024. Libraries will then have until June 1, 2024 to implement the changes. Mr. Jones verified that the updates to the Materials Circulation Policy will require parents or guardians to choose one of three new card types for minors in their care as part of that implementation.

Ms. Cox motioned to accept and recommend to the full board the revised Collection Development Policy. Ms. Hobbs seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Cox motioned to accept and recommend to the full board the revised Request for Reconsideration of Materials form. Mr. Roach seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Roach motioned to accept and recommend to the full board the revised Materials Circulation Policy. Ms. Cox seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Library Card Applications for Minors

The committee reviewed updated application forms for minors, including the standard in-house form and the Cards 4 Kids application distributed to schools. Both applications have been updated to include a statement on parents’ rights to select a card type for their minor child, definitions of “sexually explicit” and “digital content,” and references to LA R.S. 25:225.

Each new minor library card type will be physically identifiable, and the library's ILS system will be programmed to reject material check-outs of restricted items based on the card type chosen. Books deemed sexually explicit by the Board of Control will also be marked by spine labels indicating their status.

Mr. Jones further clarified that, when a book is challenged on the basis of sexually explicit content, the full Board will be asked to consider whether the book should remain the library's collection and, if so, where it should be placed.

Mr. Roach motioned to accept and recommend to the full board the adoption of the updated Cards 4 Kids application. Ms. Cox seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Cox motioned to accept and recommend to the full board the adoption of the updated standard Library Card Application for minors. Mr. Roach seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Irene Hobbs
Committee Chair