

Rapides Parish Library
Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee of the Board of Control
June 25, 2025

Minutes

A meeting of the Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee of the Rapides Parish Library Board of Control was held at the Huie-Dellmon House, 430 St. James Street, Alexandria, LA.

Committee members present were Ms. Irene Hobbs (Chair) and Ms. Le'Anza Jordan. Ms. Dana Cox was absent. Also present were Board President Suelynne Mickey (Ex-Officio), Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, Assistant Director of Support Services Wes Saunders, and Administrative Assistant Kendra Bertrand.

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

Agenda

Ms. Jordan motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Mickey seconded, and the motion passed.

Review of Material for Reconsideration

The novel *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen was presented for reconsideration based on a completed Request for Reconsideration Form submitted to the library. The request submitter requested that the item be moved from the Teen Fiction section to the Adult Fiction section of the library based on a passage describing an attempted sexual assault.

The committee read the passage in question and discussed whether the material could be considered sexually explicit by the standards set forth in LA R.S. 25:225. They noted that the book's parent-recommended age rating on Common Sense Media is listed as fourteen and up, and that the book has won an award in the category of young adult literature. They concluded that, while the passage may be disturbing to some readers, it does not meet the criteria to be considered sexually explicit as defined by state law and is appropriately placed in the Teen section of the library.

Ms. Jordan moved that the book remain in the Teen section and a response be issued to the request submitter. Ms. Mickey seconded, and the motion passed. The committee's recommendation will be brought before the Board of Control at the regular meeting on July 15.

With no further business before the committee, Ms. Jordan motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Mickey. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Irene Hobbs
Committee Chair