

2021 - 2022 NJLA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee Minutes November 3, 2021

Attendees: Peter Coyl (Chair), Kate Jagers (NJLA President), Juliet Mackie (NJLA Executive Director), Kiersten Paine, Judith Pissano (Vice-Chair), Eileen Palmer, Leah Kloc, Kate McGiven, Carol Phillips, Barbara Pickell

Old Business:

- Patron privacy for front line staff - need to develop a tips sheet for library staff.
- Self censorship - soft challenges, when a director or other library staff ask you not to order a particular title.
 - Need a way to report, keep track of this information

Kate Jagers:

- North Hunterdon County - current challenges in school library - Lawn Boy and Gender Queer.
- Adriana Mamay read a statement from NJLA at school board meeting
- Letter to school board was not shared with review committee - YS is part of the review committee

NJLA Challenge form: how to report challenges. Who receives the form? Need to clarify.

Juliet Mackie:

- What we are doing connects with ALA
- Need to create a toolkit - how to respond to challenges
- Need to be proactive - prepare libraries on how to respond in case they are targeted

Eileen Palmer:

- Committee had a First Amendment Attorney at one time to help address concerns, Frank Corrado, South Jersey.
- Eileen will send Juliet the information

Toolkit contents:

- Thank you letter template for libraries / schools that allow programs such as Drag Queen storytime.
- Create a one page sheet with at least 5 weblinks to resources - Judith
- Prepare libraries to grow their own grass roots support in case they are targeted - establish community partnerships.