

Laura Z. Garcia

April 17, 2024

Library Director

Corpus Christi Public Libraries

Dear Director Garcia,

I appreciate you and your committee's thoughtful efforts to address my concerns about the book, *Doing It Right* by Bronwen Pardes. However, for the reasons listed below I am appealing your decision as this outcome is not in the best interests of the citizens of Corpus Christi.

In fact, prior to going into the details of my objection to your decision on this book, I wish to point out three areas in your library system's operation that the decision on this book highlights the need for reform as soon as possible. This is not to say your overall operation of the library is not good. It is in almost all respects. However, there appears to be a myopia on the part of you and your professional staff in the following areas of concern.

First, the current process for reviewing books that the public finds objectionable is hopelessly conflicted and non-transparent. You have the very people who selected the books that citizens find objectionable decide if these books are objectionable or not. It is not a fair process for either the public or the staff. This whole process could be easily put into the hands of a group of volunteers that the Library Board could appoint. This would make the process much fairer and more transparent.

Second, the process and selection criteria used by which books are selected for purchase and inclusion in the library is extremely ideological. The overall purpose of the library is to provide knowledge to the public. This purpose has been almost totally captured by an ideologic agenda that can be characterized as “woke” or “leftist.” Thus, the materials selected and included on library shelves by an overwhelming majority reflect this ideology. The criteria and selection process need to be reformed to reflect two things: a more balanced choice of viewpoint in materials and a realization that it is not the mission of the public library of Corpus Christi to implement societal change regardless of the viewpoints of the staff of the library.

Third, the current system used to check out of materials, is one whereby the burden of protecting children from inappropriate material in the library is totally abdicated by the City of Corpus Library. Parents sign a waiver at the time they get a library card for their children without any disclosure of the type of materials that exist in the library. Currently, any person with a library card can check out materials from any section of the library. The Corpus Christi Library should partner with parents. They can do this by creating Children’s library cards that restrict checkout to only children and young adult sections. A parent would have to sign a form to override this restriction with full disclosure of the type of materials in the adult sections that some parents find objectionable.

Now on to the main reasons that the decision of library staff to retain in the Corpus Christ Library the book *Doing It Right* by Bronwen Pardes is not in the best interest of the citizens of Corpus Christi.

1. The Library staff's decision stated that the book should be removed from the Young Adult section and placed in the Adult section. This indicates that Staff acknowledges that this book is objectionable to some degree. This book was written for young adults. I have attached a page from this book. It is obvious from the style and vocabulary that this book was written for minors. If this is a book that will actually contribute to the well-being of the citizens of Corpus Christi it should be left in the young adult section.
2. Throughout the reasons that Staff cites to justify their decision to keep this book on library shelves, three times staff cites the role of "parents or trusted adults" with whom children should consult in regard to sexual decisions. In our society the role of parents in their children's decision processes in this area is well established. The role of "trusted adults" is not. A pedophile can certainly be thought of by a child as a "trusted adult." In my objection to this book, I basically stated that this book is a pedophile's delight for children to read. The citing of "trusted adult" by the book itself and in the staff's reasoning about this book is a direct example of the capture of staff by an ideological basis that I referred to earlier. I do not think many parents in Corpus Christi think it is appropriate for their children to be making sexual decisions of the kind graphically illustrated by this book on the advice of "trusted adults" that they likely do not know. However, as the Staff's written opinion indicates, they have the ideology that such action whereby children engage in sexual activity on the advice of "trusted adults" is perfectly acceptable and further that the library

should be promoting such action by having this book on their shelves.

For these reasons and others involving simple moral clarity this book, which was written for children with the express purpose of sexualizing children, should never have been purchased and should be removed from the library. People that wish to can buy this book from a wide variety of sources. The City's taxpayers' dollars should not be used to subsidize the sexualization of our children.

Sincerely,

Shawn Flanagan
4218 Herndon ST
Corpus Christi, TX 78411