

Ms. Stovall,

I received your written challenge to the Jeffersontown High School library's copy of *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel. When we met on February 25, 2022 you shared the following concerns:

- *Fun Home* contains graphic cartoon depiction of oral sex and other nude images in the book.
- *Fun Home* contains references to the father committing suicide because he supposedly liked little boys.
- In summary you characterized the literary piece as pornography

After listening to your concerns and reading the book in question, I have decided to continue to offer the book in the Jeffersontown High School Library. This book was selected by the Jeffersontown High School Librarian in accordance with the JCPS Selection of Instructional Materials handbook. Two criteria are listed below:

D. Materials shall have aesthetic, academic, literary and/or social value.

G. Materials shall foster respect for all people, especially minority and ethnic groups, and shall represent a pluralistic society.

It is important to note that the Jefferson County Board of Education supports principles of intellectual freedom inherent in the first amendment and expressed in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association and the Students' Right to Read of the National Council for Teachers of English. The function of the library is to collect and make available a wide variety of information and resources representing a vast range of human thought and experience. All library users have the right to borrow, read, view, and listen to materials. This has been affirmed through Supreme Court rulings.

During our conversation you referenced that access to online materials in the library could not be hindered or addressed. However, you did mention that you cannot monitor what your daughter checks out and that it would not be feasible for the librarian to contact parents each time a book is checked out. We agree that parents and guardians are essential to academic success and may guide the literary choices of their child. However, I believe that granting your challenge would infringe upon the rights of other parents to make literary choices for their students. Therefore, *Fun Home* will remain in circulation in the Jeffersontown High School Library as it meets the guidelines of the JCPS Selection of Instructional Materials handbook.

Respectfully,

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