

Central High School and Career Magnet Academy_1 130 West Chestnut Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40203 502-485-8226

Ms. Stovall,

Thank you for reaching out to me to discuss the books Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe and All Boys Aren't Blue by George Johnson. After careful consideration, I have decided to keep the above title in circulation.

Central High School has selected titles for the library through the recommendations of the Jefferson County Public School Library Media Specialists (LMS) as well as guidance from our school librarian. Our school librarian takes into consideration the unique make-up of our diverse school population and chooses titles based on the academic, social, and personal needs of our students. As a school, we want to offer our students multicultural titles and titles that are culturally responsive. Our librarian will spend hours reading journals, specifically those from Library Journal and American Library Association. These journals include lists of books, including young adult titles that are being recognized as books that young adult readers find relatable. Book reviews from professional journals are also utilized when making decisions about what we offer our students from our library. Our librarian has 23 years of experience in education.

The titles in circulation mirror our diverse population. As educators we know that the personal interest

identities play a vital role in the students' academic success. If students cannot make personal connections to what they are learning or cannot see themselves portrayed through media representation, we know that their academic success is affected. It is important for student success to have access to environments that promote a positive image of the student's self-identity. The materials in question are available to help affirm students of diverse backgrounds to create a foundation for a healthy, inclusive, and safe learning environment.

Pulling a book from circulation and/or setting limitations on who can access certain titles is not something I take lightly. I strongly believe in intellectual freedom that is inherent in the 1st Amendment of the United States, as well as the right of access to information.

As discussed per our phone conference, these titles are in our special selection

category which means in order to access them, students must check them out directly with the librarian. My focus in making this decision is what is best for my students.

Thank you,

Dr. Tamela Compton Central High School MCA, Principal

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