

The Phoenix School of Discovery
502 Wood Road
Louisville, KY 40222
(502) 485-7700



March 2, 2022

Dear Ms. Stovall:

I appreciate you meeting with Ms. Geddes, Dr. Reynolds and Ms. Bloch and me on March 1, 2022. We recognize and thank you for your concern for the students in our school community, as well as your devotion to their education.

This letter is in reply to your recent request for reconsideration of the book Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe published in May 2019 by Oni Press. I am responding to you in my capacity as Principal of The Phoenix School of Discovery based upon the Level 1: Initial Concern protocol described in the JCPS Selection of Instructional Materials Manual.

As you know, at The Phoenix School of Discovery we provide a wide range of materials for students of all ages and beliefs. Opinions, values and interests in our school community are diverse and the collection at The Phoenix is developed to reflect this diversity. Our mission is to engage students in a love of reading in partnership with their families. We respect the role of families in choosing books they feel are best for their children, and always encourage parents to monitor and have discussions around their child's reading selections.

Gender Queer was purchased for The Phoenix because having positive, realistic portrayals of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer characters allow students that are marginalized to see themselves in books, create acceptance, and save lives. Almost 25% of suicides between the ages of 12 and 15 are LGBTQ. Additionally, students are rarely exposed to LGBTQ people and topics and having these topics available produces a heightened sense of safety in their schools.

Based on my review of Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe I have decided to retain this title in the collection for which it was purchased. We will continue to only allow High Schools students to check-out this book.

Please contact me if you have further questions or concerns. If you wish to appeal this decision, please follow the protocol described In Level 2: Written Request for Review and Re-Evaluation described in the JCPS Selection of Instructional Materials Manual.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Moeller".

Principal, The Phoenix School of Discovery
502-485-7700 or email ken.moeller@jefferson.kyschools.us

Jefferson County Public Schools, P.O. Box 34020, Louisville, KY 40232