

February 25, 2022

Ms. Stovall,

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

Liberty 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, specifically in the area of English, teaching ESL students, and Library Science.

The titles in circulation mirror our diverse population. As educators we know that the personal interest of our students 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. My focus in making this decision is what is best for my students.

Thank you,

Dr. Stacie Gamble
Liberty High School, Principal