

Subject: comments 820 a.m.
From: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-15, 8:18 a.m.
To: Denise ANDRE <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <Brenda.Wilson@ocsb.ca>

FB comments

[Redacted] his is EXACTLY why Catholic schools should NOT be publically funded.

7

Like · Reply · 10m

[Redacted] if it's the relationship content that they find inappropriate (and not the LGTBQ content), then all Disney books should also be banned. Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, etc., are all based on romantic relationships, are they not?

Not to mention, I do believe Judas kisses Jesus to betray him. Perhaps the Bible should also be banned to avoid confusion.

2

Like · Reply · 4m · Edited

[Redacted] So they made a decision as to what is age-appropriate. I don't see this as a big deal.

Like · Reply · 1m

[Redacted] And yet public dollars still support this board...

Like · Reply · 7m

[Redacted] Are you REALLY surprised by this?

1

Like · Reply · 11m

[Redacted] We need to just start protesting in front of Catholic schools, just off the property hand out real info and resources for gay kids to turn to.

2

Like · Reply · 11m

1 Reply

[Redacted] I agree with this decision. I don't care if it is gay or straight, no elementary age kid needs to be reading any content where people are kissing.

1

Like · Reply · 4m

1 Reply

[Redacted] Catholic = conservative = regressive af. We are not in 1950 anymore, if they can't evolve, they should just disappear.

Like · Reply · 2m

[Redacted] The children need to be informed of these aspects of life which might stop Bullying other children with different lifestyles. Anyways look at some of these priests that ABUSED children, there is a long history of this kind of unacceptable behavior especially from a man of this region

1

Like · Reply · 2m

twitter comments, now 4

[Redacted] 30m...

Replying to @CBCOttawa @LauraOsmanCBC
Terrible decision.

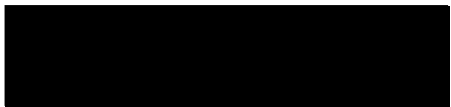
[Redacted] 14s...

Replying to @CBCOttawa @Charlie_Senack @LauraOsmanCBC
Wow

[Redacted] 2m...

Replying to @CBCOttawa @LauraOsmanCBC
"Drama" by Sophie Tilgner. Never heard of it before, but now that it's banned it'll get wide publicity. #StreisandEffect

comments 820 a.m.



28m...

Replying to @CBCOttawa @LauraOsmanCBC

Any other religious schools carry this book for kids? Or just Catholic schools removed it?

--

Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

Office: [613-224-4455](tel:613-224-4455) ext. 2326 | Mobile: [613-294-3946](tel:613-294-3946)

Facebook: [Ottawa Catholic Schools](https://www.facebook.com/OttawaCatholicSchools) | Twitter: [@OttCatholicSB](https://twitter.com/OttCatholicSB)

Subject: book
From: Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-15, 8:59 a.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Hi, I had written this to send to p's but Mardi asked I review it with you and see if we want it posted to CLL or just sent to principals or not put in print at this time?
thanks
b

Good Morning:

I asked that our Library Technicians in our elementary schools remove the book Drama by Raina Telgemeier from the stacks after parents of a young child objected to the principal when their daughter brought it home as her library pick before Christmas. In reviewing the book we felt that the story line and content around relationships was more age appropriate for grades 7-12 so we've asked that the books be redistributed.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns. We will take some time at the next CLL to review the process involved in the decision.

Thank you,
Brenda

brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca
Brenda Wilson
Superintendent, **Learning Technologies**
Ottawa Catholic School Board
St. Paul and St. Joseph Families of Schools,
613-224-4455 ext. 2303
www.twitter.com/BrendaWocsb

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Subject: CBC News

From: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 9:10 a.m.

To: Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>

CC: Mardi de-Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>

BCC: Mark Mullan <Mark.Mullan@ [REDACTED]>

Good morning.

You may have heard or read this [story](#) in the news. For a little background, the graphic novel in question, Drama, by Raina Telgemeier, was housed in a number of our elementary school learning commons. It came to our attention when a parent of a Grade 3 student contacted us regarding his concerns with the mature content in the book when his daughter brought the book home. Upon investigating, we decided to remove the book from our elementary libraries and send it to our intermediate/secondary schools. The book is rated by Scholastic as appropriate for "middle school" students (ages 10-14). With most of our elementary learning commons staffed part-time, we felt it was appropriate to house the books with our intermediate school grades.

Clearly someone from or connected to our elementary learning commons staff took issue with the decision, and has shared e-mails from Rob Long with the media. We will review with staff the appropriate channels to pursue when there are concerns with decisions made. If you are approached by the media concerning this matter, feel free to direct them to Mardi. If you have any questions or concerns about our decision, I would be happy to discuss with you.

Thank you,

Denise

Denise Andre
Director of Education
Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272
Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSE](#)
Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

Subject: Re: CBC News
From: Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-15, 9:12 a.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Thanks

Mark Mullan
Chairperson
Ottawa Catholic School Board
Trustee for Zone 8 - Alta Vista - Gloucester - Southgate Wards
613-841-4836 fax: 613-841-8693.
mark.mullan@ocsb.ca

Together We Can Make A Difference in Catholic Education!

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On Tue, 15 Jan 2019 at 09:11, Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

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Thank you,

Denise

Denise Andre
Director of Education
Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Subject: Fwd: book

From: Susan Zientek <susan.zientek@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 10:39 a.m.

To: Andrea Green <andrea.green@ocsb.ca>, Ann Beauchamp <ann.beauchamp@ocsb.ca>, Barry Oliver <barry.oliver@ocsb.ca>, Carole Parent <carole.parent@ocsb.ca>, "Caroline O'Connor" <caroline.o'connor@ocsb.ca>, Cathy Faux <cathy.faux@ocsb.ca>, Chantel Couture-Campbell <chantel.couture-campbell@ocsb.ca>, Chris Risto <chris.risto@ocsb.ca>, Cindy Aldrich-Braddon <cindy.aldrich-braddon@ocsb.ca>, Craig Skinner <craig.skinner@ocsb.ca>, Debbie Lloyd <debbie.lloyd@ocsb.ca>, Deborah Langdon <deborah.langdon@ocsb.ca>, Denise Gotell <denise.gotell@ocsb.ca>, Derek Rodgers <derek.rodgers@ocsb.ca>, Diane Fournier <diane.fournier@ocsb.ca>, Dwight Delahunt <dwight.delahunt@ocsb.ca>, Elizabeth Dean <elizabeth.dean@ocsb.ca>, Gerry Proulx <gerry.proulx@ocsb.ca>, Heather MacPhee <heather.macphee@ocsb.ca>, Jeannie Armstrong <jeannie.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Jennifer Grant <jennifer.grant@ocsb.ca>, Jennifer Prichett <jennifer.prichett@ocsb.ca>, Joanne Blackburn <joanne.blackburn@ocsb.ca>, Jody Prevost <jody.prevost@ocsb.ca>, Joseph Cinanni <joseph.cinanni@ocsb.ca>, Julie Kerr <julie.kerr@ocsb.ca>, Karen Wilson <karen.wilson@ocsb.ca>, Katherine OBrien <katherine.obrien@ocsb.ca>, Kim Izsak <kim.izsak@ocsb.ca>, Kimberly Hutchinson <kimberly.hutchinson@ocsb.ca>, Kimberly MacDonald <kimberly.macdonald@ocsb.ca>, Laura Shanahan <laura.shanahan@ocsb.ca>, Laurie Dilabio <laurie.dilabio@ocsb.ca>, lise powell <lise.powell@ocsb.ca>, Luce Paradis <luce.paradis@ocsb.ca>, Lynne Charette <lynne.charette@ocsb.ca>, Marcia Lynch <marcia.lynch@ocsb.ca>, Margarita Zirolto <margarita.zirolto@ocsb.ca>, Mark Bruce <mark.bruce@ocsb.ca>, Martha Palmer <martha.palmer@ocsb.ca>, Martine Mitton <martine.mitton@ocsb.ca>, Mary Murphy-Semenchuk <mary.murphy-semenchuk@ocsb.ca>, "Mary. Ellen MacPhee" <mary-ellen.macphee@ocsb.ca>, Michael Keeler <michael.keeler@ocsb.ca>, Michael Schreider <michael.schreider@ocsb.ca>, Nathalie Roy <nathalie.roy@ocsb.ca>, patricia morden-lahey <patricia.morden@ocsb.ca>, Paul Gautreau <paul.gautreau@ocsb.ca>, Peggy Perrin <peggy.perrin@ocsb.ca>, Penny Zorn <penny.zorn@ocsb.ca>, Renee StJohn <renee.st-john@ocsb.ca>, Richard Chaplinsky <richard.chaplinsky@ocsb.ca>, Rita Graaskamp <rita.graaskamp@ocsb.ca>, Rita Petrocco <rita.petrocco@ocsb.ca>, Roberto Santos <roberto.santos@ocsb.ca>, Rosanne Popp <rosanne.popp@ocsb.ca>, Sean Crookshank <sean.crookshank@ocsb.ca>, Sean McGuire <sean.mcguire@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Montgomery <shelley.montgomery@ocsb.ca>, Shelly Lyonnais <shelly.lyonnais@ocsb.ca>, Sheri Stashick <sheri.stashick@ocsb.ca>, Stephen Gay <stephen.gay@ocsb.ca>, Steve McGarrity <steve.mcgarrity@ocsb.ca>, Tania Gonsalves <tania.gonsalves@ocsb.ca>, Tim Slack <tim.slack@ocsb.ca>, Tracey Jemmeson <tracey.jemmeson@ocsb.ca>, Tracy MacAulay <tracy.macaulay@ocsb.ca>, Tracy Mertz <tracy.mertz@ocsb.ca>, Victoria White <victoria.white@ocsb.ca>, High School Principals Group <hs-principals-group@ocsb.ca>

CC: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, "Tom D'Amico" <thomas.damico@ocsb.ca>, Mary Donaghy <mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca>, Debbie Frendo <debbie.frendo@ocsb.ca>, Manon Seguin <manon.seguin@ocsb.ca>, Lisa Schimmens <lisa.schimmens@ocsb.ca>, Ben Vallati <ben.vallati@ocsb.ca>, Stephen McCabe <stephen.mccabe@ocsb.ca>, Fred Chrystal

<fred.chrystal@ocsb.ca>

Good Morning:

I asked that our Library Technicians in our elementary schools remove the book Drama, by Raina Telgemeier, from their Learning Commons after the parents of a young child objected to the school principal when their daughter brought it home as her library pick before Christmas. In reviewing the book we felt that the story line and content around relationships was more age appropriate for grades 7-12 so we've asked that the books be redistributed. The book was rated as appropriate for middle school.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns. We will take some time at the next CLL to review the process involved in the decision.

Thank you,

Brenda

brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca

Brenda Wilson

Superintendent, **Learning Technologies**

Ottawa Catholic School Board

St. Paul and St. Joseph Families of Schools,

613-224-4455 ext. 2303

www.twitter.com/BrendaWocsb

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Subject: Re: CBC News
From: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-15, 11:25 a.m.
To: Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>
CC: Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>
BCC: Mark Mullan <[REDACTED]>

Hi Jeremy. We can chat about the Board response tomorrow at agenda planning - I have limited time for a meeting before then as I am interviewing this afternoon for the ONFE CEO position, have school visits tomorrow, etc. I have responded to Spencer and would encourage anyone to call me to discuss.

Denise

Denise Andre
Director of Education
Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272
Twitter: @DeniseAndreOCSB
Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 10:33 AM Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning Denise,

Thank you for the update. Spencer and I have spoken about this issue and have some concerns with the way this matter has been dealt with. We would like to find a time in the near future to discuss. We would also welcome any other trustees to participate if they wish.

The essence of our concern is that this represents a bigger issue beyond just the book, as well, the perception this sends within our school communities and constituencies.

When might a good time be to discuss?

Thank you,
Jeremy

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 9:11 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning.

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Thank you,

Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](#)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

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Jeremy Wittet

Vice-Chair of the Board

Trustee - Zone 7 (Kitchissippi/Bay)

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Tel: 613-721-2376

Email: Jeremy.Wittet@ocsb.ca

Twitter: [@OCSBWittet](#)

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Subject: Re: CBC News

From: Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 11:28 a.m.

To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

CC: Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>, Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Mardi de-Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>

Hi Denise,

I would like to be included in any discussions however, I do not return until Jan 22.

Joanne

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 7:11 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning.

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Thank you,

Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

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--

Joanne M MacEwan

Trustee Zone 5

Beacon Hill-Cyrville/Innes

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Joanne.MacEwan@ocsb.ca

613-842-0166

@JoanneMacEwan

"Care deeply about one another, share generously and help willingly"

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Subject: Re: CBC News

From: Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 11:52 a.m.

To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

CC: Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>, Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Mardi de-Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, Steve McCabe <stephen.mccabe@ocsb.ca>

Thanks Denise. I would prefer to have this discussion as a group for those who wish to join, when there is time. Joanne Texted me and would like to be invoked as well.

Jeremy

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 11:23 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning, Spencer.

The book has a lot of content focused on teen romantic relationships and is rated appropriate for middle school ages. The decision to place the book in our intermediate school learning commons was based on age appropriateness. Many of our elementary learning commons use self check-out for books.

Please give me a call if you would like to discuss this further.

Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: @DeniseAndreOCSEB

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 10:50 AM Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Denise,

Thanks for sharing the background on this decision. Having looked at the book online, it does say that this book is 'a coming-of-age children's book'. Having watched the preview of the book on youtube, it also appears to be a children's book. The decision to move this to a middle school seems reactive considering only one parent has complained about it and the book has been around since 2012. It disappoints me that we are making reactive decisions like this when it comes to LGBTQ2S. I had the impression based on our discussions in the past

that we were moving in the direction of supporting and being inclusive for our students and staff. This optically doesn't give that impression, nor does it show we as a board are aligned with supporting our school community around LGBTQ2S.

I would like to request to have presented to the Board of Trustees the plan for 2019/20 to build support and inclusiveness to our LGBTQ2S students and staff. I'd like to also recommend placing this book back in the elementary schools. I received an email from a parent who was disappointed it was removed.

Thanks,
Spencer

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 9:11 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:
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Denise

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Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)
Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

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Subject: OCSB - follow up statement re: graphic novel 'Drama'. - 1

From: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 12:15 p.m.

To:

Jennifer Beard <jennifer.beard@cbc.ca>

BCC: denise.andre@ocsb.ca

This graphic novel has been made available in the learning commons (libraries) where it is age-appropriate and can be accessed by middle school/senior elementary and high school students.

The graphic novel "Drama" focuses on the production of a school play by teenagers and has many references to teen romantic relationships. All but one of our 67 elementary schools have students grades Kindergarten to Grade 6 only. The book is recommended by Scholastic for middle schools students. In most of our elementary libraries (grades K-6), students can self-checkout materials from the library. We felt it was appropriate to house the books with our intermediate and high school grades (grades 7-12).

Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

Office: [613-224-4455 ext. 2326](tel:613-224-4455) | Mobile: [613-294-3946](tel:613-294-3946)

Facebook: [Ottawa Catholic Schools](https://www.facebook.com/OttawaCatholicSchools) | Twitter: [@OttCatholicSB](https://twitter.com/OttCatholicSB)

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Subject: Re: CBC News

From: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 12:34 p.m.

To: Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>

CC: Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>, Mardi de-Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>, Steve McCabe <stephen.mccabe@ocsb.ca>

I can assure you that the parent's concerns were about teen romantic relationships and not specific to the twin brothers.

We can certainly bring an update to the Board about all we doing to ensure that our schools are inclusive and welcoming to all.

Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSE](#)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 12:10 PM Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Thanks Denise for the quick response. So what I'm hearing is that the decision to remove the book from elementary is solely based on the teen romance portion and nothing to do with the twin brothers who are gay? What was the actual complaint from the parent that raised this concern; was it around the romance or around the LGBTQ2S? I'd prefer to have the conversation as a board, for those who want to participate.

Also, touching on my other question, are we able to be presented the plan for 2019/20 with changes towards being inclusive and how we support our school community with regards to LGBTQ2S.

Thanks,
Spencer

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 11:23 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning, Spencer.

The book has a lot of content focused on teen romantic relationships and is rated appropriate

for middle school ages. The decision to place the book in our intermediate school learning commons was based on age appropriateness. Many of our elementary learning commons use self check-out for books.

Please give me a call if you would like to discuss this further.

Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 10:50 AM Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Denise,

Thanks for sharing the background on this decision. Having looked at the book online, it does say that this book is 'a coming-of-age children's book'. Having watched the preview of the book on youtube, it also appears to be a children's book. The decision to move this to a middle school seems reactive considering only one parent has complained about it and the book has been around since 2012. It disappoints me that we are making reactive decisions like this when it comes to LGBTQ2S. I had the impression based on our discussions in the past that we were moving in the direction of supporting and being inclusive for our students and staff. This optically doesn't give that impression, nor does it show we as a board are aligned with supporting our school community around LGBTQ2S.

I would like to request to have presented to the Board of Trustees the plan for 2019/20 to build support and inclusiveness to our LGBTQ2S students and staff. I'd like to also recommend placing this book back in the elementary schools. I received an email from a parent who was disappointed it was removed.

Thanks,
Spencer

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 9:11 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning.

You may have heard or read this [story](#) in the news. For a little background, the graphic novel in question, Drama, by Raina Telgemeier, was housed in a number of our elementary school learning commons. It came to our attention when a parent of a Grade 3 student contacted us regarding his concerns with the mature content in the book when his daughter brought the book home. Upon investigating, we decided to remove the book from our elementary libraries and send it to our intermediate/secondary schools. The book is rated

by Scholastic as appropriate for "middle school" students (ages 10-14). With most of our elementary learning commons staffed part-time, we felt it was appropriate to house the books with our intermediate school grades.

Clearly someone from or connected to our elementary learning commons staff took issue with the decision, and has shared e-mails from Rob Long with the media. We will review with staff the appropriate channels to pursue when there are concerns with decisions made. If you are approached by the media concerning this matter, feel free to direct them to Mardi. If you have any questions or concerns about our decision, I would be happy to discuss with you.

Thank you,

Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](#)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

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--

Spencer Warren, PMP
Trustee, Zone 4 - Barrhaven | Gloucester | South Nepean
Ottawa Catholic School Board
Spencer.Warren@ocsb.ca
T: 613-692-5949
Twitter: [@OCSBWarren](#)

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Subject: RE: [External] Follow-up to media
From: Mark Mullan <Mark.Mullan@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-15, 12:43 p.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Thanks

Mark Mullan
[Redacted] representative

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From: Denise Andre [mailto:denise.andre@ocsb.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 12:42 PM
To: Brian Coburn; Joanne MacEwan; John Curry; Mark Mullan; Sandra Moore; Spencer Warren; Jeremy Wittet; Shelley Lawrence; Glen Armstrong
Cc: Mardi de-Kemp; Hilary Close
Subject: [External] Follow-up to media

Good afternoon,
To keep you in the loop... we have responded to follow-up media queries regarding the book Drama as follows:

This graphic novel has been made available in the learning commons (libraries) where it is age-appropriate and can be accessed by middle school/senior elementary and high school students.

The graphic novel "Drama" focuses on the production of a school play by teenagers and has many references to teen romantic relationships. All but one of our 67 elementary schools have students grades Kindergarten to Grade 6 only. The book is recommended by Scholastic for middle schools students. In most of our elementary libraries (grades K-6), students can self-checkout materials from the library. We felt it was appropriate to house the books with our intermediate and high school grades (grades 7-12).

Subject: Re: CBC News

From: Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 12:54 p.m.

To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

CC: Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>, Mardi de-Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>

Good Afternoon,

Having just read the article online I would like to discuss at an appropriate time.

Thank you,

Sandra

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019, 9:11 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning.

You may have heard or read this [story](#) in the news. For a little background, the graphic novel in question, Drama, by Raina Telgemeier, was housed in a number of our elementary school learning commons. It came to our attention when a parent of a Grade 3 student contacted us regarding his concerns with the mature content in the book when his daughter brought the book home. Upon investigating, we decided to remove the book from our elementary libraries and send it to our intermediate/secondary schools. The book is rated by Scholastic as appropriate for "middle school" students (ages 10-14). With most of our elementary learning commons staffed part-time, we felt it was appropriate to house the books with our intermediate school grades.

Clearly someone from or connected to our elementary learning commons staff took issue with the decision, and has shared e-mails from Rob Long with the media. We will review with staff the appropriate channels to pursue when there are concerns with decisions made. If you are approached by the media concerning this matter, feel free to direct them to Mardi. If you have any questions or concerns about our decision, I would be happy to discuss with you.

Thank you,

Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](#)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

Subject: Re: Follow-up to media

From: Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 12:57 p.m.

To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

CC: Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Mardi de-Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>

Thanks for the update, Denise.

I would also imagine that Scholastic's recommendation has to do with the reading level for students as well, not just content. It seems that only "content" has taken front and center stage here. As we know, many aspects for the use of educative materials go into these recommendations.

Thanks

Sr. Shelley Lawrence, RSCJ
Trustee for Zone 9
Ottawa Catholic School Board
Ward 16 - River & Ward 17 - Capital
613-978-2644

List of Schools:

Immaculata High School
Corpus Christi Elementary
Holy Cross Elementary
Holy Family Elementary
St. Pius X High School
St. Augustine Elementary
St. Elizabeth Elementary

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 12:42 PM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon,

To keep you in the loop... we have responded to follow-up media queries regarding the book

Drama as follows:

This graphic novel has been made available in the learning commons (libraries) where it is age-appropriate and can be accessed by middle school/senior elementary and high school students.

The graphic novel "Drama" focuses on the production of a school play by teenagers and has many references to teen romantic relationships. All but one of our 67 elementary schools have students grades Kindergarten to Grade 6 only. The book is recommended by Scholastic for middle schools students. In most of our elementary libraries (grades K-6), students can self-checkout materials from the library. We felt it was appropriate to house the books with our intermediate and high school grades (grades 7-12).

Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

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Subject: Fwd: Removal of 'Drama' from elementary libraries
From: Director Director <Director@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-15, 1:22 p.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 1:18 PM
Subject: Removal of 'Drama' from elementary libraries
To: <director@ocsb.ca>

Hello Ms André,

As a parent I am very concerned about the removal of the award winning graphic novel 'Drama' from the elementary school libraries. As the board has stated this is not an issue with LGBT content but rather other mature relationship themes, can you let me know what other elementary aged appropriate books are in our school libraries that include LGBT content? I would like to make sure that our schools remain safe, inclusive and accepting. Showing LGBT relationships as a normal aspect of society is a part of this accepting atmosphere that we must all strive to create and reinforce.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

[REDACTED]
(parent of student at Convent Glen Catholic School)

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Subject: Drama

From: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 1:32 p.m.

To: Denise ANDRE <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <Brenda.Wilson@ocsb.ca>, "jon.juane@ocsb.ca" <jon.juane@ocsb.ca>, Kelly McKibbin <kelly.mckibbin@ocsb.ca>

Patronizing comment from the American author on our twitter feed

Raina Telgemeier

@goraina

Follow @goraina

Yes, DRAMA got banned in Ottawa's Catholic elementary schools. And all this time we thought Canada was our most progressive sibling!

I'm sad for the kids who need this book but can't access it.

--

Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

Office: [613-224-4455](tel:613-224-4455) ext. 2326 | Mobile: [613-294-3946](tel:613-294-3946)

Facebook: [Ottawa Catholic Schools](https://www.facebook.com/OttawaCatholicSchools) | Twitter: [@OttCatholicSB](https://twitter.com/OttCatholicSB)

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Subject: Item for Next Board Meeting

From: Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-15, 3:38 p.m.

To: Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, "Tom D'Amico" <thomas.damico@ocsb.ca>

Good afternoon Colleagues,

After a number of emails back and forth on today's news article related to the book "Drama" in our elementary libraries, there has been requests made for this to discussion to come to the board table at the next meeting. I will raise the issue tomorrow during agenda planning and work with Mark to have it included on the agenda in the appropriate place.

I am not sure what the item would be called at this time, but if there are questions related to the staff decision or information you want to see staff bring forward, please let us know so they can research/include all inquires in the report to the board.

Thanks,
Jeremy

--

Jeremy Wittet

Vice-Chair of the Board

Trustee - Zone 7 (Kitchissippi/Bay)

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Tel: 613-721-2376

Email: Jeremy.Wittet@ocsb.ca

Twitter: @OCSBWittet

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Subject: Re: CBC News
From: Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-15, 7:12 p.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Thanks for the update Denise!

Glen

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 9:11 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning.

You may have heard or read this [story](#) in the news. For a little background, the graphic novel in question, Drama, by Raina Telgemeier, was housed in a number of our elementary school learning commons. It came to our attention when a parent of a Grade 3 student contacted us regarding his concerns with the mature content in the book when his daughter brought the book home. Upon investigating, we decided to remove the book from our elementary libraries and send it to our intermediate/secondary schools. The book is rated by Scholastic as appropriate for "middle school" students (ages 10-14). With most of our elementary learning commons staffed part-time, we felt it was appropriate to house the books with our intermediate school grades.

Clearly someone from or connected to our elementary learning commons staff took issue with the decision, and has shared e-mails from Rob Long with the media. We will review with staff the appropriate channels to pursue when there are concerns with decisions made. If you are approached by the media concerning this matter, feel free to direct them to Mardi. If you have any questions or concerns about our decision, I would be happy to discuss with you.

Thank you,

Denise

Denise Andre
Director of Education
Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272
Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)
Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

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Subject: Re: Drama
From: Brian Co urn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-15, 10:00 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
CC: denise.andre@ocsb.ca, mark.mullan@ocsb.ca

Thank you for your email I appreciate your feedback.
The rationale from senior administration was that they did not feel it was age appropriate for elementary schools.
We are currently reviewing this decision and will respond in due course.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 15, 2019, at 6:34 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

I just heard that Drama, a graphic novel by Raina Telgemeier, has been, or will be, removed from elementary schools in our board. As a parent of a child in grade six I would like an explanation as to why censorship is being practiced in our schools. Graphic novels are very popular at this age and we all want our children to read more. Could I have a better explanation as to why it is not acceptable?

Thank you.
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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Subject: Re: Catholic school board pulls book
From: Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 7:46 a.m.
To: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>
CC: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Hi, I'm scheduled for school visits at 8:30 and then 11:00 and back at the Board for a 2:00 - also speaking to SEAC tonight about leveraging digital at 7:00.

Have my cell [REDACTED] and can chat anytime - but can also just come into the Board office if that would work best this morning :)

thanks

b

brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca
Brenda Wilson
Superintendent, Learning Technologies
Ottawa Catholic School Board
St. Paul and St. Joseph Families of Schools,
613-224-4455 ext. 2303
www.twitter.com/BrendaWocsb

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:42 AM Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca> wrote:
<https://www.ledroit.com/actualites/ottawa/une-conseillere-dottawa-fait-don-de-10-exemplaires-du-livre-drama-3070a6958e9a50e8bbfac71fa4b1ab9b>

m

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:41 AM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:
FYI

Denise Andre
Director of Education
Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272
Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)
Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:37 AM

Subject: Re: Catholic school board pulls book
To: Brian Co urn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>
Cc: <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>

Thank you again for getting back to me.

A couple considerations for your review:

- I believe there are 10 and 11 year olds in grades 5 and 6 so that argument doesn't apply.
- are you planning to remove all books that Scholastic rates 10-14?

No need to reply - I just felt I needed to make these points.

Thanks very much for considering my concerns.

Ps - I bought and read this book last night and determined that I would have been happy to have my son read it when he was in elementary school.

[REDACTED]

On Jan 16, 2019, at 5:11 AM, Brian Co urn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca> wrote:

[REDACTED]

According to senior administration the book is rated by Scholastic for ages 10-14 hence the decision to remove the book from elementary schools.

Again we are reviewing this decision and will get back to parents in due course.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 15, 2019, at 10:13 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you very much for getting back to me.

I would appreciate seeing the criteria for "age appropriate." I have a Masters degree in Library Science and understand the principles of library collection development so certainly expect you must have a policy and assessment criteria to support the decision.

It's very important that I'm able to help my son understand this decision.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
On Jan 15, 2019, at 10:03 PM, Brian Co urn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Thank you for your email I appreciate your comments.

The decision was made by senior administration because they felt it was not age appropriate at elementary schools.

We are currently reviewing the decision and will respond in due course.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 15, 2019, at 8:55 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Mr. Coburn.

I am writing to you in your capacity as school board trustee in reaction to the CBC news story I heard today about the OCSB pulling a book from elementary school libraries.

I feel I have to let you know how much I disagree with this decision. I am very disappointed that the school board would choose to do something that appears to be a big step back from the strides made towards inclusion and representation for LGBTQ people.

The majority of the online reactions to the CBC story do a very good job summing up what some of these issues are - link attached, which I'm sure you've seen.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawans-react-lgbt-book-1.4979032>

I have two requests:

1. Could you please advise what the decision making process was to take this measure? I am the parent of a child in the OCSB system and I want to understand the rules that are being set in the environment I send him to everyday. And I need to explain to him why our gay friends are being shown such disrespect.
2. Put the book back on the shelves and allow children to have access to stories about all the people in our society - not just the ones some people deem appropriate.

The Catholic Church has stated:

“Homosexuals have gifts and qualities to offer to the Christian community,” the

passage begins. "Are we capable of welcoming these people, guaranteeing to them a fraternal space in our communities? Often they wish to encounter a Church that offers them a welcoming home. Are our communities capable of providing that, accepting and valuing their sexual orientation, without compromising Catholic doctrine on the family and matrimony?"

<http://time.com/3502522/pope-francis-vatican-catholic-church-homosexuality/>

I think we are capable of accepting. Put the book back in the library to show it.



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Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

Office: [613-224-4455](tel:613-224-4455) ext. 2326 | Mobile: [613-294-3946](tel:613-294-3946)

Facebook: [Ottawa Catholic Schools](https://www.facebook.com/OttawaCatholicSchools) | Twitter: [@OttCatholicSB](https://twitter.com/OttCatholicSB)

Subject: Re: more for your info
From: Mary Donaghy <mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 8:48 a.m.
To: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>
CC: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

I like this. It is a good compromise and shows we are listening to all parents. I will not share this with the parents contacting me yet but I like the direction in which we are moving.

Thanks,

Mary

Mary Donaghy
Early Years Lead
Superintendent of Elementary Student Success, Numeracy (K-12) and
Lester B Pearson and St Francis of Xavier Families of Schools
phone 613-224-4455 ext. 2345
fax 613 224-3932

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 8:42 AM Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca> wrote:
here is the latest statement we are considering

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, stakeholders & ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools.

still waiting on final approval

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 8:33 AM <mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Denise,

I also received an email from a St Jerome parent (copied to Spencer) asking me to reconsider pulling the book. I was going to email her and thank her and say we would take her suggestions under consideration.

A couple of principals have been contacting me as well.

Thanks,

Mary

On Jan 16, 2019, at 6:58 AM, Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Mary.

See tweet by parent [REDACTED] below. You may want to give Kim a heads up. Book not "banned" so don't make issue. It's not about LGBTQ content - more about teen romantic rel'ship so if the student brings in book ok to share etc. Kim may want to reach out to parent as well to reassure.

Call me on my cell if you have any questions.

Denise

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mardi de Kemp** <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

Date: Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 6:24 AM

Subject: Fwd: more for your info

To: Denise ANDRE <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <Brenda.Wilson@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>

Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Office: 613-224-4455 ext. 2326

Mobile: 613-294-3946

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Juane** <jon.juane@ocsb.ca>

Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019, 10:43 PM

Subject: more for your info

To: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

<Screen Shot 2019-01-15 at 10.41.30 PM.png>

<Screen Shot 2019-01-15 at 10.37.32 PM.png>

JONATHAN JUANE

Engagement Specialist

Ottawa Catholic School Board | Communications Department

Phone: 613-224-4455 Ext 2503 |Twitter: [@JJuaneOCSB](https://twitter.com/JJuaneOCSB)

Subject: Fwd: the war on kids
From: Director Director <Director@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 9:05 a.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 5:57 PM
Subject: the war on kids
To: <Ben.Vallati@ocsb.ca>, <Director@ocsb.ca>

news of the book Drama being removed from elementary schools is very grave and it's time I spoke up. this war on children by the conservatives needs to end. I'm disgusted by the school board doing this. this is the capital of Canada, where our own Prime Minister walks in pride parades. I'm looking to move my STRAIGHT daughter to the public school board where she will learn to love and accept all people, like Jesus constantly urged us to.

this is unacceptable. and Lord only knows the resources that went into this ignorant, hateful stupidity. if you've got money to burn, consider stronger screening (or is there even any?) for the pedophiles, or rather, the priests currently being protected by the church that work with our kids in school right here in Ottawa.

I'm ashamed to have my kid in your school board.

[REDACTED]

--

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt only

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Subject: Fwd: Disappointment over Drama decision
From: Director Director <Director@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 9:07 a.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 10:05 PM
Subject: Disappointment over Drama decision
To: <Mary.Donaghy@ocsb.ca>, <director@ocsb.ca>, <Spencer.Warren@ocsb.ca>

Good evening to you all,

It was with much shock and dismay today that I saw that the OCSB had made the unfortunate decision to pull the book "Drama" from the elementary school libraries. As someone who has children attending an OCSB school, St. Jerome, I wholeheartedly disagree with this decision.

My children have friends who attend the school who have parents in a same-sex relationships. Pulling content that could make them feel as though they are in a safe, supportive environment is a mistake. It is important to be inclusive and supportive of LGBTQ relationships so that children will see this as normal, and not something to be hidden or ashamed of. Allowing our children access to many different diverse groups is crucial to their development into compassionate and caring adults.

Please reconsider this decision and reinstate the book as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Subject: Fwd: Removal of the Graphic Novel Drama
From: Director Director <Director@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 9:09 a.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 11:03 PM
Subject: Removal of the Graphic Novel Drama
To: rosanne.popp@ocsb.ca <rosanne.popp@ocsb.ca>, info@ocsb.ca <info@ocsb.ca>, director@ocsb.ca <director@ocsb.ca>, Associate.Director@ocsb.ca <Associate.Director@ocsb.ca>, stephen.mccabe@ocsb.ca <stephen.mccabe@ocsb.ca>
Cc: goldie.ghamari@pc.ola.org <goldie.ghamari@pc.ola.org>, letters@ottawacitizen.com <letters@ottawacitizen.com>, George.Darouze@ottawa.ca <George.Darouze@ottawa.ca>, Chantiry@ottawa.ca <Chantiry@ottawa.ca>, Matt.Luloff@ottawa.ca <Matt.Luloff@ottawa.ca>, Laura.Dudas@ottawa.ca <Laura.Dudas@ottawa.ca>, jan.harder@ottawa.ca <jan.harder@ottawa.ca>, Jenna.Sudds@ottawa.ca <Jenna.Sudds@ottawa.ca>, Glen.Gower@ottawa.ca <Glen.Gower@ottawa.ca>, Theresa.Kavanagh@ottawa.ca <Theresa.Kavanagh@ottawa.ca>, Rick.Chiarelli@ottawa.ca <Rick.Chiarelli@ottawa.ca>, Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca <Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca>, Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca <Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca>, Tim.Tierney@ottawa.ca <Tim.Tierney@ottawa.ca>, Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca <Mathieu.Fleury@ottawa.ca>, Tobi.Nussbaum@ottawa.ca <Tobi.Nussbaum@ottawa.ca>, Catherine.Mckenney@ottawa.ca <Catherine.Mckenney@ottawa.ca>, Jeff.Leiper@ottawa.ca <Jeff.Leiper@ottawa.ca>, Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca <Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca>, capitalward@ottawa.ca <capitalward@ottawa.ca>, Jean.Cloutier@ottawa.ca <Jean.Cloutier@ottawa.ca>, Stephen.Blais@ottawa.ca <Stephen.Blais@ottawa.ca>, Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca <Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca>, Carolanne.Meehan@ottawa.ca <Carolanne.Meehan@ottawa.ca>, Allan.Hubley@ottawa.ca <Allan.Hubley@ottawa.ca>, Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca <Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca>

Dear Mrs. Popp and the Ottawa Catholic School Board,

In light of the news that the OCSB has decided to pull the graphic novel 'Drama' from their libraries; as they feel the book is inappropriate; I felt extremely obligated to write this letter to express not only my frustration but my complete and utter disbelief.

Before I begin on explaining myself I'd like to provide you with some facts about myself and what it is that I do. [REDACTED]

committee. I have been an active member for the last 14 years and have worked vigorously to ensure that Ottawa is and will remain an inclusive city. I also am a very big advocate for Youth and LGBTQ2 persons and have demonstrated that through my volunteering and assisting with clothing drives and food drives for YSB. So you could say this has put a very large dent in my trust with the OCSB.

My daughter [REDACTED] This year she walked along side with me at the Ottawa Pride parade. I have done everything I have could to teach her that some boys like boys, some girls like girls, some persons like whoever they want and some persons choose to be with just themselves. Whatever that person decides they want in a relationship then it's their choice. Everyone deserves to be happy!!

I'd like to provide you with some information in regards to LGBTQ2 youth;

24% of homeless youth in Ottawa identify as LGBTQ2

- 33% of LGB youth have attempted suicide in comparison to 7% of youth in general (Saewyc 2007).
- Over half of GLB students (47% of GB males and 73% of LB females) have thought about suicide (Eisenberg & Resnick, 2006).
- In 2010, 47% of trans youth in Ontario had thought about suicide and 19% had attempted suicide in the preceding year (Scanlon, Travers, Coleman, Bauer, & Boyce, 2010).
- LGBTQ youth are 4 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2009).
- Adolescent youth who have been rejected by their families for being LGB are over 8 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers (Ryan, Huebner, Diaz, & Sanchez, 2009).
- A study in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario revealed that 28% of transgender and Two Spirit people had attempted suicide at least once (Taylor, 2006).
- Both victims and perpetrators of bullying are at a higher risk for suicide than their peers. Children who are both victims *and* perpetrators of bullying are at the highest risk (Kim & Leventhal, 2008; "Suicide and bullying: Issue brief," 2011).
- While suicide is never the result of one cause, bullying can have a long-lasting effect on suicide risk and mental health. The relationship between bullying and suicide is stronger for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth than for their heterosexual peers (Kim & Leventhal, 2008):
 - 68% of trans students, 55% of LB students and 42% of GB students reported being verbally harassed about their perceived gender identity or sexual orientation.
 - 20% of LGBTQ students reported being physically harassed or assaulted about their perceived gender identity or sexual orientation.
 - 49% of trans students, 33% of lesbian students and 40% of gay male students have experienced sexual harassment in school in the last year (Taylor et al. 2011).

(<https://egale.ca/background-er-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>)

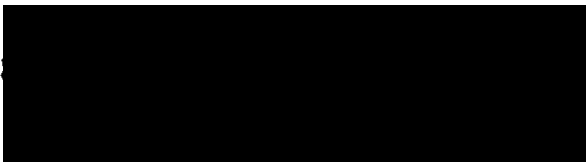
Now that's a lot of information to take in. But taking away a harmless graphic novel because a boy in a dress kissed another boy leads to these incidents. Be part of the solution not the problem.

Some children can't be themselves at home. Be a safe space. Making these resources readily available, having a rainbow sticker, having contact information for YSB, CHEO, etc available for these children. This digs deeper than a graphic novel.

I have purchased a copy of Drama for [REDACTED] since she has asked for it, and I have encouraged her to take it to school with her to read with her friends. Do not seize this book from my child. Do not make comments about this book to her. She is an inclusive child who believes that every person; male, female, non binary is perfect the way they are and they do not need people to tell them how to live their lives.

I ask that you please return these books to the shelves of your library. It may save a child's life one day.

Regards,



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Subject: OCSB giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up.

From: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-16, 9:48 a.m.

To: "Branch, Sylvie" <sbranch@ledroit.com>, "Miller, Jacquie (ott)" <jmiller@postmedia.com>, "Laucius, Joanne" <jlaucius@postmedia.com>, JOSHUA OSTROFF <joshua.ostroff@cbc.ca>, Leah Larocque <leah.larocque@bellmedia.ca>, josee.guerin@radio-canada.ca, nigel.newlove@citytv.rogers.com, Jennifer Beard <jennifer.beard@cbc.ca>, Amanda Pfeffer <amanda.pfeffer@cbc.ca>, martin.robert@radio-canada.ca, Bryan Mullan media Global National News <Bryan.Mullan@globalnews.ca>, CJOH News ctv ottawa <ottawanews@ctv.ca>, CBC News OTTAWA media radio tv <cbcnewsottawa@cbc.ca>, Ottawa Citizen - copydesk <Copydesk@ottawacitizen.com>

BCC: denise.andre@ocsb.ca

Good morning,

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, parents, stakeholders & ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic (publisher) and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools. -30-

Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board
6132244455 ext. 2326

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Subject: Re: OCSB giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up.
From: mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca
Date: 2019-01-16, 9:54 a.m.
To: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>
CC: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Thanks Mardi. Is this being sent to school principals by someone so that they know and can tell their Library Techs and use in handling parent inquiries?

I will share with the 2 principals I have who are handling parent concerns around this.

Thanks,

Mary

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Subject: Re: OCSB giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up.
From: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 10:00 a.m.
To: mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca
CC: Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>, Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

Brenda is messaging.

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:54 AM <mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca> wrote:

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Subject: OCSB giving access to 'Drama' for readers ages 10 and up. (@info responses to 7 parents, 2 elected officials)
From: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 10:09 a.m.
To: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>
BCC: denise.andre@ocsb.ca

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Mardi de Kemp

--

Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

Office: [613-224-4455 ext. 2326](tel:613-224-4455) | Mobile: [613-294-3946](tel:613-294-3946)

Facebook: [Ottawa Catholic Schools](https://www.facebook.com/OttCatholicSchools) | Twitter: [@OttCatholicSB](https://twitter.com/OttCatholicSB)

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Subject: Learning Commons Press Release Update

From: Susan Zientek <susan.zientek@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-16, 10:20 a.m.

To: Jennifer Oake <jennifer.oake@ocsb.ca>, Joan Barry <joan.barry@ocsb.ca>, Julie Mathe <julie.mathe@ocsb.ca>, Nicola Benton <nicola.benton@ocsb.ca>, Philip Capobianco <philip.capobianco@ocsb.ca>, Andrea Green <andrea.green@ocsb.ca>, Ann Beauchamp <ann.beauchamp@ocsb.ca>, Barry Oliver <barry.oliver@ocsb.ca>, Carole Parent <carole.parent@ocsb.ca>, "Caroline O'Connor" <caroline.o'connor@ocsb.ca>, Cathy Faux <cathy.faux@ocsb.ca>, Chantel Couture-Campbell <chantel.couture-campbell@ocsb.ca>, Chris Risto <chris.risto@ocsb.ca>, Cindy Aldrich-Braddon <cindy.aldrich-braddon@ocsb.ca>, Craig Skinner <craig.skinner@ocsb.ca>, Debbie Lloyd <debbie.lloyd@ocsb.ca>, Deborah Langdon <deborah.langdon@ocsb.ca>, Denise Gotell <denise.gotell@ocsb.ca>, Derek Rodgers <derek.rodgers@ocsb.ca>, Diane Fournier <diane.fournier@ocsb.ca>, Dwight Delahunt <dwight.delahunt@ocsb.ca>, Elizabeth Dean <elizabeth.dean@ocsb.ca>, Gerry Proulx <gerry.proulx@ocsb.ca>, Heather MacPhee <heather.macphee@ocsb.ca>, Jeannie Armstrong <jeannie.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Jennifer Grant <jennifer.grant@ocsb.ca>, Jennifer Prichett <jennifer.prichett@ocsb.ca>, Joanne Blackburn <joanne.blackburn@ocsb.ca>, Jody Prevost <jody.prevost@ocsb.ca>, Joseph Cinanni <joseph.cinanni@ocsb.ca>, Julie Kerr <julie.kerr@ocsb.ca>, Karen Wilson <karen.wilson@ocsb.ca>, Katherine OBrien <katherine.obrien@ocsb.ca>, Kim Izsak <kim.izsak@ocsb.ca>, Kimberly Hutchinson <kimberly.hutchinson@ocsb.ca>, Kimberly MacDonald <kimberly.macdonald@ocsb.ca>, Laura Shanahan <laura.shanahan@ocsb.ca>, Laurie Dilabio <laurie.dilabio@ocsb.ca>, lise powell <lise.powell@ocsb.ca>, Lynne Charette <lynne.charette@ocsb.ca>, Marcia Lynch <marcia.lynch@ocsb.ca>, Margarita Zirollo <margarita.zirollo@ocsb.ca>, Margie Butler <margie.butler@ocsb.ca>, Mark Bruce <mark.bruce@ocsb.ca>, Martha Palmer <martha.palmer@ocsb.ca>, Martine Mitton <martine.mitton@ocsb.ca>, Mary Murphy-Semenchuk <mary.murphy-semenchuk@ocsb.ca>, "Mary. Ellen MacPhee" <mary-ellen.macphee@ocsb.ca>, Michael Keeler <michael.keeler@ocsb.ca>, Michael Schreider <michael.schreider@ocsb.ca>, Nathalie Roy <nathalie.roy@ocsb.ca>, Paul Gautreau <paul.gautreau@ocsb.ca>, Peggy Perrin <peggy.perrin@ocsb.ca>, Penny Zorn <penny.zorn@ocsb.ca>, Renee StJohn <renee.st-john@ocsb.ca>, Richard Chaplinsky <richard.chaplinsky@ocsb.ca>, Rita Graaskamp <rita.graaskamp@ocsb.ca>, Rita Petrocco <rita.petrocco@ocsb.ca>, Roberto Santos <roberto.santos@ocsb.ca>, Rosanne Popp <rosanne.popp@ocsb.ca>, Sean Crookshank <sean.crookshank@ocsb.ca>, Sean McGuire <sean.mcguire@ocsb.ca>, Shelly Lyonnais <shelly.lyonnais@ocsb.ca>, Sheri Stashick <sheri.stashick@ocsb.ca>, Stephen Gay <stephen.gay@ocsb.ca>, Steve McGarrity <steve.mcgarrity@ocsb.ca>, Tania Gonsalves <tania.gonsalves@ocsb.ca>, Tim Slack <tim.slack@ocsb.ca>, Tracey Jemmeson <tracey.jemmeson@ocsb.ca>, Tracy MacAulay <tracy.macaulay@ocsb.ca>, Tracy Mertz <tracy.mertz@ocsb.ca>, Victoria White <victoria.white@ocsb.ca>, Alex Belloni <alex.belloni@ocsb.ca>, Andre Potvin <andre.potvin@ocsb.ca>, Brent Hopkins <brent.hopkins@ocsb.ca>, Brid McDonald <brid.mcdonald@ocsb.ca>, Carrie Bowie <carrie.bowie@ocsb.ca>, Deborah Kealey <deborah.kealey@ocsb.ca>, Don Murphy <don.murphy@ocsb.ca>, Geoffrey Edwards

<geoffrey.edwards@ocsb.ca>, Gerard Stephenson <gerard.stephenson@ocsb.ca>, John Pedari <john.pedari@ocsb.ca>, Lisa Cameron <lisa.cameron@ocsb.ca>, Michael Curry <michael.curry@ocsb.ca>, Sean Kelly <sean.kelly@ocsb.ca>, Sean Power <sean.power@ocsb.ca>, William Walsh <william.walsh@ocsb.ca>

CC: Bèn Vallati <ben.vallati@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <brenda.wilson@ocsb.ca>, Fred Chrystal <fred.chrystal@ocsb.ca>, Lisa Schimmens <lisa.schimmens@ocsb.ca>, Mary Donaghy <mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Montgomery <shelley.montgomery@ocsb.ca>, Stephen McCabe <stephen.mccabe@ocsb.ca>, "Tom D'Amico" <thomas.damico@ocsb.ca>, Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Please see message from Brenda Wilson below.

Good Morning:

You will see that Mardi has sent a press release this morning clarifying our stance and next steps with regard to the book DRAMA. We wanted to let you know that we will be meeting with our Learning Commons staff on the Jan. PD Day (25th for elementary and the 30th for high schools), to get their input and review our process, etc. for book selection and monitoring for the Learning Commons materials (our literacy leads and religious ed. leads will be included). Could you please have a conversation with your Learning Common staff to let them know.

Also, we will have this on our CLL agenda next month and it will be a discussion item with the Board of Trustees next week.

Thank you in advance for supporting this work and if you have concerns, questions or require further information please feel free to call or email me.

Brenda

Sue

Susan Zientek

Executive Assistant to Brenda Wilson

Superintendent of Learning Technologies and

St. Joseph & St. Paul Families of Schools

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Tel: 613-224-4455 ext 2303

susan.zientek@ocsb.ca

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Subject: Re: more for your info

From: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-16, 10:37 a.m.

To: Mary Donaghy <mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <Brenda.Wilson@ocsb.ca>

CC: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

we are now sharing - ONLY BY EMAIL - with the parents (about 14), stakeholders that contacted us in the last 3 days and giving them the simple message only:

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, parents, stakeholders & ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic (publisher) and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools.

We are not posting on social media, they'll know soon enough

m

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 8:49 AM Mary Donaghy <mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca> wrote:

I like this. It is a good compromise and shows we are listening to all parents. I will not share this with the parents contacting me yet but I like the direction in which we are moving.

Thanks,

Mary

Mary Donaghy

Early Years Lead

Superintendent of Elementary Student Success, Numeracy (K-12) and

Lester B Pearson and St Francis of Xavier Families of Schools

phone 613-224-4455 ext. 2345

fax 613 224-3932

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Hi Mary.

See tweet by parent [REDACTED] below. You may want to give Kim a heads up. Book not "banned" so don't make issue. It's not about LGBTQ content - more about teen romantic rel'ship so if the student brings in book ok to share etc. Kim may want to reach out to parent as well to reassure.

Call me on my cell if you have any questions.

Denise

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mardi de Kemp** <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

Date: Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 6:24 AM

Subject: Fwd: more for your info

To: Denise ANDRE <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <Brenda.Wilson@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>

Mardi de Kemp
Manager of Communications
Ottawa Catholic School Board
Office: 613-224-4455 ext. 2326
Mobile: 613-294-3946

Subject: CBC online piece, more expected from CBC news, CTV news etc.

From: Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-16, 10:50 a.m.

To: Denise ANDRE <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Brenda Wilson <Brenda.Wilson@ocsb.ca>, Robert Long <robert.long@ocsb.ca>, Mary Donaghy <Mary.Donaghy@ocsb.ca>, Debbie Frendo <debbie.frendo@ocsb.ca>, Trustee Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@enbridge.com>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, Hilary Close <hilary.close@ocsb.ca>

Headline:

Catholic school board changes mind, allows book depicting 2 boys kissing back in libraries

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/drama-graphic-novel-catholic-library-1.4980153>

--

Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

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Facebook: [Ottawa Catholic Schools](https://www.facebook.com/OttawaCatholicSchools) | Twitter: [@OttCatholicSB](https://twitter.com/OttCatholicSB)

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Subject: Re: [Board of Trustees] Re: CBC online piece, more expected from CBC news, CTV news etc.

From: Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-16, 12:51 p.m.

To: Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>, Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, "Tom D'Amico" <Thomas.D'Amico@ocsb.ca>

Good morning,

You are right Spencer.

I was involved in this release, I assumed this was being sent to all Trustees this morning, my mistake, I appoligize..

Here is what was sent out.

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, parents, stakeholders & ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic (publisher) and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools.

Thank You

Mark Mullan
Chairperson
Ottawa Catholic School Board
Trustee for Zone 8 - Alta Vista - Gloucester - Southgate Wards
613-841-4836 fax: 613-841-8693.
mark.mullan@ocsb.ca

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On Wed, 16 Jan 2019 at 12:43, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Denise,

I'd like to thank you and your team for the reversal of your decision to remove this book from

the Elementary Schools. However, I am disappointed that we didn't hear this reversal from you, but rather through the media. Given the level of discussion that took place yesterday, I would've thought you'd send us a quick FYI update, as a courtesy.

Thanks,
Spencer

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 10:51 AM Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Headline:

Catholic school board changes mind, allows book depicting 2 boys kissing back in libraries

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/drama-graphic-novel-catholic-library-1.4980153>

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Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

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Facebook: [Ottawa Catholic Schools](#) | Twitter: [@OttCatholicSB](#)

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--

Spencer Warren, PMP

Trustee, Zone 4 - Barrhaven | Gloucester | South Nepean

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Spencer.Warren@ocsb.ca

T: 613-692-5949

Twitter: [@OCSBWarren](#)

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Subject: Re: Disappointment over Drama decision
From: Mary Donaghy <mary.donaghy@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 1:46 p.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Hi Denise,

Yes - no problem. This was the parent I was referring to earlier today and I have given the Principal a heads up.

Thanks,

Mary

Mary Donaghy
Early Years Lead
Superintendent of Elementary Student Success, Numeracy (K-12) and
Lester B Pearson and St Francis of Xavier Families of Schools
phone 613-224-4455 ext. 2345
fax 613 224-3932

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 1:21 PM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Mary - could you please respond to this parent with our press release, and any reassurances you feel appropriate - - as Spencer was copied, please include him in the reply.

Thanks!

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Director Director <Director@ocsb.ca>
Date: Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:08 AM
Subject: Fwd: Disappointment over Drama decision
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 10:05 PM

Subject: Disappointment over Drama decision

To: <Mary.Donaghy@ocsb.ca>, <director@ocsb.ca>, <Spencer.Warren@ocsb.ca>

Good evening to you all,

It was with much shock and dismay today that I saw that the OCSB had made the unfortunate decision to pull the book "Drama" from the elementary school libraries. As someone who has children attending an OCSB school, St. Jerome, I wholeheartedly disagree with this decision.

My children have friends who attend the school who have parents in a same-sex relationships. Pulling content that could make them feel as though they are in a safe, supportive environment is a mistake. It is important to be inclusive and supportive of LGBTQ relationships so that children will see this as normal, and not something to be hidden or ashamed of. Allowing our children access to many different diverse groups is crucial to their development into compassionate and caring adults.

Please reconsider this decision and reinstate the book as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Subject: Fwd: Book Drama
From: Stephanie Dunne <stephanie.dunne@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 1:55 p.m.
To: Denise Andre <Denise.Andre@ocsb.ca>

Stephanie Dunne
Executive Assistant to Denise Andre
Director of Education
Ottawa Catholic School Board
570 West Hunt Club Road
Ottawa, ON K2G 3R4
Phone: (613) 224-4455 ext. 2272
Fax: (613) 228-4158

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Finance Department <finance@ocsb.ca>
Date: Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 1:48 PM
Subject: Fwd: Book Drama
To: Stephanie Dunne <stephanie.dunne@ocsb.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 6:24 PM
Subject: Book Drama
To: <finance@ocsb.ca>

Dear Sir / Madam

As a retired TDSB educator and with gay family members I find it very disheartening that your board has pulled the book Drama from elementary school shelves which shows two males kissing . I thought Canada was really open to LGBTQ2 society, but you have proven me wrong . Your motto is " Inspired education. Inspiring students " . Let the individual student make the choice to read it , or not to read it .This is not Orwellian 1984, but an inspired 2019 society where each individual Canadian can make his / her choices .

Cloudy Ways :=(

[REDACTED]
Retired educator TDSB

Markham, Ontario
most diverse ,inclusive city in Canada

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Subject: Re: [Board of Trustees] Re: CBC online piece, more expected from CBC news, CTV news etc.

From: Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-16, 2:36 p.m.

To: Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>

CC: Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Brian Coburn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>, "Tom D'Amico" <Thomas.D'Amico@ocsb.ca>

Thanks Mark.

I received the statement at around 10 a.m. this morning. I didn't look at who it went out to and have since deleted my trash box.

Shelley

**Sr. Shelley Lawrence, RSCJ
Trustee for Zone 9
Ottawa Catholic School Board
Ward 16 - River & Ward 17 - Capital
613-978-2644**

List of Schools:

**Immaculata High School
Corpus Christi Elementary
Holy Cross Elementary
Holy Family Elementary
St. Pius X High School
St. Augustine Elementary
St. Elizabeth Elementary**

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 12:52 PM Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca> wrote:

| Good morning,

You are right Spencer.

I was involved in this release, I assumed this was being sent to all Trustees this morning, my mistake, I appolgize..

Here is what was sent out.

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, parents, stakeholders & ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic (publisher) and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools.

Thank You

Mark Mullan
Chairperson
Ottawa Catholic School Board
Trustee for Zone 8 - Alta Vista - Gloucester - Southgate Wards
613-841-4836 fax: 613-841-8693.
mark.mullan@ocsb.ca

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On Wed, 16 Jan 2019 at 12:43, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Denise,

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Thanks,
Spencer

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 10:51 AM Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Headline:

Catholic school board changes mind, allows book depicting 2 boys kissing
back in libraries

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/drama-graphic-novel-catholic-library-1.4980153>

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Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

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--

Spencer Warren, PMP

Trustee, Zone 4 - Barrhaven | Gloucester | South Nepean

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Spencer.Warren@ocsb.ca

T: 613-692-5949

Twitter: [@OCSBWarren](https://twitter.com/OCSBWarren)

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Subject: Re: the war on kids
From: Ben Vallati <ben.vallati@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-16, 3:00 p.m.
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Hi Denise

A response has been provided to this email, with a bcc to Stephanie.

Thank you
Ben

Ben Vallati
Superintendent of Continuing and Community Education
St. Mother Teresa and Notre Dame Families of Schools
St. Nicholas Adult School
Ottawa Catholic School Board
613-224-2222 ext 2501

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 1:22 PM Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Ben - please respond - you could share the statement we issued and provide any reassurances you feel appropriate.

Thanks!
Denise

Denise Andre
Director of Education
Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272
Twitter: @DeniseAndreOCSB
Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Director Director <Director@ocsb.ca>
Date: Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:05 AM
Subject: Fwd: the war on kids
To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 5:57 PM
Subject: the war on kids
To: <Ben.Vallati@ocsb.ca>, <Director@ocsb.ca>

news of the book Drama being removed from elementary schools is very grave and it's time I spoke up. this war on children by the conservatives needs to end. I'm disgusted by the school board doing this. this is the capital of Canada, where our own Prime Minister walks in pride parades. I'm looking to move my STRAIGHT daughter to the public school board where she will learn to love and accept all people, like Jesus constantly urged us to.

this is unacceptable. and Lord only knows the resources that went into this ignorant, hateful stupidity. if you've got money to burn, consider stronger screening (or is there even any?) for the pedophiles, or rather, the priests currently being protected by the church that work with our kids in school right here in Ottawa.

I'm ashamed to have my kid in your school board.

[REDACTED]

--

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt only

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Subject: Drama

From: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-16, 3:41 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Good morning, [REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing your concerns. This morning we released the following statement:

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, parents, stakeholders & ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic (publisher) and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for entrusting your child to the care of our staff at Convent Glen Catholic School.

Regards,
Denise

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

Subject: Re: Catholic school board pulls book

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 2019-01-16, 3:48 p.m.

To: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

CC: Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>, Brian Co urn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>

Thanks very much for your reply and for trying to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all. That's the goal!

[REDACTED]

On Jan 16, 2019, at 1:16 PM, Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon, [REDACTED]

Currently some of our schools have an age 10+ section (or Gr. 5-6) in the learning commons, which would house age-appropriate reading selections. We will work with staff to put something like this in place in all of our elementary schools. I trust this answers your question.

Regards,
Denise Andre

Denise Andre

Director of Education

Phone: 613-224-4455 x 2272

Twitter: [@DeniseAndreOCSB](https://twitter.com/DeniseAndreOCSB)

Blog: ocsb.ca/directorblog

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 11:21 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you very much Mr. Mullen. Dennytely the right decision.

I do have a follow-up question: does the same policy apply to every book rated ages 10 and up?

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

On Jan 16, 2019, at 11:12 AM, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning,

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, parents, stakeholders &

ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic (publisher) and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools.

Mark Mullan
Chairperson
Ottawa Catholic School Board
Trustee for Zone 8 - Alta Vista - Gloucester - Southgate Wards
613-841-4836 fax: 613-841-8693.
mark.mullan@ocsb.ca

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On Wed, 16 Jan 2019 at 07:37, [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you again for getting back to me.

A couple considerations for your review:

- I believe there are 10 and 11 year olds in grades 5 and 6 so that argument doesn't apply.
- are you planning to remove all books that Scholastic rates 10-14?

No need to reply - I just felt I needed to make these points.

Thanks very much for considering my concerns.

Ps - I bought and read this book last night and determined that I would have been happy to have my son read it when he was in elementary school.

[REDACTED]
On Jan 16, 2019, at 5:11 AM, Brian Co urn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca> wrote:

[REDACTED]
According to senior administration the book is rated by Scholastic for ages 10-14 hence the decision to remove the book from elementary schools.

Again we are reviewing this decision and will get back to parents in due course.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 15, 2019, at 10:13 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you very much for getting back to me.

I would appreciate seeing the criteria for "age appropriate." I have a Masters degree in Library Science and understand the principles of library collection development so certainly expect you must have a policy and assessment criteria to support the decision.

It's very important that I'm able to help my son understand this decision.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

On Jan 15, 2019, at 10:03 PM, Brian Co urn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Thank you for your email I appreciate your comments.

The decision was made by senior administration because they felt it was not age appropriate at elementary schools.

We are currently reviewing the decision and will respond in due course.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 15, 2019, at 8:55 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Mr. Coburn.

I am writing to you in your capacity as school board trustee in reaction to the CBC news story I heard today about the OCSB pulling a book from elementary school libraries.

I feel I have to let you know how much I disagree with this decision. I am very disappointed that the school board would choose to do something that appears to be a big step back from the strides made towards inclusion and representation for LGBTQ people.

The majority of the online reactions to the CBC story do a very good job summing up what some of these issues are - link attached, which I'm sure you've seen.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawans-react-lgbt-book-1.4979032>

I have two requests:

1. Could you please advise what the decision making process was to take this measure? I am the parent of a child in the OCSB system and I want to understand the rules that are being set in the environment I send him to everyday. And I need to explain to him why our gay friends are being shown such disrespect.
2. Put the book back on the shelves and allow children to have access to stories about all the people in our society - not just the ones some people deem appropriate.

The Catholic Church has stated:

“ “Homosexuals have gifts and qualities to offer to the Christian community,” the passage begins. “Are we capable of welcoming these people, guaranteeing to them a fraternal space in our communities? Often they wish to encounter a Church that offers them a welcoming home. Are our communities capable of providing that, accepting and valuing their sexual orientation, without compromising Catholic doctrine on the family and matrimony?””

<http://time.com/3502522/pope-francis-vatican-catholic-church-homosexuality/>

I think we are capable of accepting. Put the book back in the library to show it.



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Subject: Re: [Board of Trustees] Re: CBC online piece, more expected from CBC news, CTV news etc.

From: Brian Co urn <brian.coburn@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-16, 4:53 p.m.

To: Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca>

CC: Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca>, Jeremy Wittet <jeremy.wittet@ocsb.ca>, John Curry <john.curry@ocsb.ca>, Sandra Moore <sandra.moore@ocsb.ca>, Glen Armstrong <glen.armstrong@ocsb.ca>, Joanne MacEwan <joanne.macewan@ocsb.ca>, Shelley Lawrence <shelley.lawrence@ocsb.ca>, Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>, Tom D'Amico <Thomas.D'Amico@ocsb.ca>

Thanks Mark good decision.

Would like an update on process for these decisions at the next board in-camera meeting.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 16, 2019, at 12:51 PM, Mark Mullan <mark.mullan@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Good morning,

You are right Spencer.

I was involved in this release, I assumed this was being sent to all Trustees this morning, my mistake, I appolgize..

Here is what was sent out.

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, parents, stakeholders & ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic (publisher) and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools.

Thank You

Mark Mullan

Chairperson

Ottawa Catholic School Board

Trustee for Zone 8 - Alta Vista - Gloucester - Southgate Wards

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mark.mullan@ocsb.ca

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On Wed, 16 Jan 2019 at 12:43, Spencer Warren <spencer.warren@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Hi Denise,

I'd like to thank you and your team for the reversal of your decision to remove this book from the Elementary Schools. However, I am disappointed that we didn't hear this reversal from you, but rather through the media. Given the level of discussion that took place yesterday, I would've thought you'd send us a quick FYI update, as a courtesy.

Thanks,
Spencer

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 10:51 AM Mardi de Kemp <mardi.dekemp@ocsb.ca> wrote:

Headline:

Catholic school board changes mind, allows book depicting 2 boys kissing back in libraries

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/drama-graphic-novel-catholic-library-1.4980153>

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Mardi de Kemp

Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board

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Subject: Re: LGBTQ2S+ representation at [REDACTED]
From: Shelley Montgomery <shelley.montgomery@ocsb.ca>
Date: 2019-01-17, 7:32 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
CC: Denise Andre <denise.andre@ocsb.ca>

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and your request for information regarding the CBC article. I am hopeful that you did see the OCSB media release from yesterday and that it offers you some clarification:

The Ottawa Catholic School Board has listened to educators, parents, stakeholders & ratepayers and is giving access to 'Drama' in elementary libraries for readers ages 10 and up. This is also the recommendation of Scholastic (publisher) and Common Sense Media. We remain fully committed to having safe, inclusive, and accepting schools.

Please be rest assured that at OCSB it is our priority to ensure our students feel safe and inclusive. It is also of great importance that we honour the dignity of all students we serve.

Coincidentally, I actually visited [REDACTED] yesterday. What a lovely school!

Please do not hesitate to contact me again or if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Shelley Montgomery

Shelley Montgomery
Superintendent of Leading and Learning
Sacred Heart and Lester B. Pearson
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613-224-4455 ext 2313
Be Well, Be Community, Be Innovative
Twitter Handle: @ShelleyMontgo16

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love." Mother Teresa.

On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 2:27 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon Mrs. Montgomery,

I am forwarding you the following request for information on behalf of my child at [REDACTED] school as the principal has said you might have more information for me at this time. I have Also CC'd Mrs. Andre in the event, that perhaps she may also be of assistance in clarifying this matter.

Please see my original message below,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 1:54 PM
Subject: LGBTQ2S+ representation at [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Hello Mr. [REDACTED]

I recently came across this article
<https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.4977546>

I would like clarification of what [REDACTED] plans to do with this book and the school's stance on LGBTQ2S+ representation in literature at the elementary level.

[REDACTED] a member of your community who is bravely discovering themselves and being open and honest about the process. Removing books like these and declaring them taboo topics sends the message that their experience is somehow inappropriate or wrong. That LGBTQ2S+ experiences only begin at [REDACTED] years of age. That the children mocking them on the yard, telling them they are irregular/abnormal or plain wrong, have reason and the support of the adults in your school and greater Catholic community in their reasoning.

[REDACTED] deserves the opportunity to see themselves represented in all areas of their community and the Catholic school board has a responsibility to support their right to expression, representation and SAFETY.

How can you claim that all are welcome and safe, while censoring the experiences of LGBTQ2S+ children?

I would like to add that as a bookworm, they will certainly note the change. We have spoken

about these books already before and how fun they are. This author is fabulous and has a keen understanding of youth experiences and honors a great amount of diversity in her books (even beyond LGBTQ2S+ representation).

What am I supposed to say when they learn the books have been taken away? What reason do I give that won't shame them for their experiences?

I would really appreciate the opportunity for some dialogue on this topic. Perhaps the need for positive parent support is required to help elevate the positive impact of this book beyond the fears of inpropriety that have been raised so far. I would love to support [REDACTED] community and that of the wider school board in making sure all voices are heard.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

– Martin Luther King Jr., A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches

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Subject: Re: CBC News :

From: Elaine McMahon <elaine.mcmahon@ocsb.ca>

Date: 2019-01-17, 8:26 a.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Thank you [REDACTED] for your email. I am no longer affiliated with the Board. The new Chair is Mark Mullan. The trustee for a Zone 6 is Glen Armstrong. My personal response would be that it was one complaint that lead to the removal so I believe the decision to reverse the removal was appropriate.

Take care.

Elaine

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 16, 2019, at 1:15 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

This is something that makes me upset.
Why doesn't the board stay strong on the decisions they make?
They sway on their decisions because of a few loud and annoying people?
This is very disappointing.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/drama-graphic-novel-catholic-library-1.4980153>

Thank you for your time
Sent from my iPhone

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http://ocsb.ca/?utm_source=ocsbstaff&utm_medium=email_footer&utm_campaign=awareness*

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