

“Harmful to Minors” Complaint Resolution Process

This parent or guardian complaint must be submitted in writing to the Principal of the school where the student is enrolled alleging that material, a program, or an event that is “harmful to minors” has been provided or is currently available to the child of the parent or guardian.

“Harmful to minors” is defined in _____ and Policy 08.23.

COMPLAINANT (PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

Complainant Name Amy Yates Date 12/1/23
Home Address _____ Phone _____

Student Name(s) _____
Home Address _____ Phone _____

School Longbranch Elem. Grade Level 4th

COMPLAINT(S)

A reasonably detailed description of the material, program, or event that is alleged to be “harmful to minors,” and how the material, program, or event is believed to be “harmful to minors.” (Use additional sheet if necessary.)

See attached form

A. Yates _____ 12/1/23
Complainant’s Signature Date

LEVEL ONE: SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NAME: Stephaine Stambaugh

Within seven (7) business days of receiving a written complaint, the Principal shall review the complaint and take reasonable steps to investigate the allegations in the complaint, including but not limited to reviewing the material, program, or event that is alleged to be “harmful to minors:”

Per _____, the Principal shall determine whether:

- The material, program, or event that is the subject of the complaint is “harmful to minors;”
- Student access to material that is the subject of the complaint shall remain, be restricted, or be removed;
- A program or event that is the subject of the complaint shall be eligible for future participation by students in the school.
- Within ten (10) business days of receiving the complaint, unless another schedule is mutually agreed to by the parent or guardian and the Principal, the Principal shall confer with the parent or guardian and inform him or her whether the material, program, or event that is the subject of the complaint was determined to be “harmful to minors” and what the resolution will be.

“Harmful to Minors” Complaint Resolution Process

PRINCIPAL’S DETERMINATION (USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.)

Please see my attached resolution and all
attachments.

Principal’s Signature *Stephanie Stambayl* Date *12/14/23*

A parent or guardian not having filed the appeal may request in writing access to the appealed materials, programs, or events for review and shall abide by the school’s and District’s policies and procedures when requesting and reviewing such information.

LEVEL TWO: APPEAL OF THE PRINCIPAL’S DETERMINATION TO THE BOARD

Complainant Name: *Amy Yates*

Date appeal received at this level: _____

The parent or guardian shall make any appeal within ten (10) days. The appeal shall:

- Be subject to full administrative and substantive review by Board and shall not be delegated;
- Include an opportunity for the parent or guardian to provide input during public comment at a Board meeting;
- Be completed within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the written appeal unless another time frame is mutually agreed upon by the parent or guardian and the Board; and
- Be discussed and voted on during a meeting of the Board subject to the open records and open meeting requirements under KRS Chapter 61.

LEVEL TWO: APPEAL OF THE PRINCIPAL’S DETERMINATION TO THE BOARD (CONTINUED)
(USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.)

See attached form

Amy Yates
Complainant’s Signature Date *1/4/24*

“Harmful to Minors” Complaint Resolution Process

LEVEL TWO: APPEAL OF THE PRINCIPAL’S DETERMINATION TO THE BOARD (CONTINUED)
(USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.)

The Board's final disposition of the appeal shall be made in writing and shall state whether the material, program, or event was determined to be “harmful to minors” and whether student access to the material will remain, be restricted, or be removed and whether the program or event shall be eligible for future participation by students in the school.

Within fifteen (15) business days from the date of a final disposition, the title of the material or a description of the program or event submitted for appeal, whether the material, program, or event was determined to be “harmful to minors.” whether student access to the material will remain, be restricted, or be removed or whether the program or event shall be eligible for future participation by students in the school, and the vote cast by each individual Board member shall:

- Be published on the website of the Board where it shall remain available for review; and
- Be published in the newspaper with the largest circulation in the county.

BOARD’S FINAL DISPOSITION (USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.)

Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____
Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____
Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____
Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____
Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____

Board Chair’s Signature

Date

Review/Revised 7/13/2023

HARMFUL TO MINORS COMPLAINT RESOLUTION FORM

The book that is harmful to minors is called "Endlessly Ever After." In this book and throughout each page, the reader can pick from two different scenarios on whether they want to go to one adventure or another. In the book they have a character named Rosie, who is Red Riding Hood. When you read page 56 of the book it states, you (Rosie) head off through the trees again. You track the shouts of rage and find them coming from a kid, a boy about your age. As you see from this statement that Rosie or Red Riding Hood is a kid or a little girl. Now when you read page 42 it then states, you (Rosie) wander up a winding stair, you scamper past a throne, until you find a tiny room, where sleeping like a stone. There are two choices for a child to pick from and in this scenario, it says, Now what Rosie? Are you really going to kiss some strange sleeping women in a frozen castle covered with roses? Seriously?

Option 1- "Yes, life is an adventure!" Turn to page 48.

Option 2- "No, ew! Of course not. Kissing is for teenagers", Turn to page 36.

So, if the child turns to page 48 it then states, "Oh my gosh, you did it! You kissed the princess fair, who softly stirs and yawns at you through endless yards of hair." So, when we look at this scenario in the story, we can see that if the child picks yes then it allows for a child (Red Riding Hood) to kiss a woman (Sleeping Beauty). If the child says no, it declares that kissing is for teenagers. So, you can see that when a child reads this content it is approving for a little girl or even a teenager, which is also a minor, to kiss a grown woman who is a stranger. In the original sleeping beauty, a grown man kissed a grown woman. This book implies that it's ok for a child to kiss a grown adult and a stranger as well. This is suggesting that Pedophilia is acceptable. This book should not be allowed for our children to read and allow for idea to be acceptable. When my daughter brought home this book from the library, we read it not knowing anything about the book and the content that was within the book. My daughter was very confused when she read this part of the story and as a mom, I had to have a conversation with her about this and how this is wrong. I am aware that other students could be checking this book out of the school library and reading it at school or home without their

parents or guardians knowing the content that is in the book. All parents and guardians have the right to know what their children are reading and should be able to approve the book before it's checked out of the library. In this case, due to the nature of this book it should not be allowed in the school library since it is promoting inappropriate material.

Thank you for your time and if you have any other questions, please let me know.

Appeal to the Boone County School Board

I am making an appeal to the Boone County School Board on 1/4/24 per the "Harmful to Minors" Complaint Resolution Process Form. The first step I was told to take was to go through the Reconsideration Committee. After a month I was made aware of their decision to keep the book in circulation at the school. I then proceeded to talk with Jenny Watson at the Boone County School Dept who made me aware of the Harmful to Minors Complaint Resolution Process Form to fill out to escalate to the principal Mrs. Stephanie Stambaugh at Longbranch Elementary. After I submitted the form and complaint, Mrs. Stambaugh got back to me with her decision two weeks later. She had also decided that the book was ok to stay in circulation. I then scheduled an appointment to meet with Mrs. Stambaugh and the school counselor Mrs. Ballou. Per our sit-down conversation, Mrs. Stambaugh stated that she made her decision on the harmful to minors complaint resolution form only on the basis to back up and stand with her reconsideration committee decision. This was not a separate decision that she made based upon her own research but that she wanted to support the committee.

I am now escalating and appealing the principal's determination to the board based upon the harmful aspect of this book. Please see attached form to advise on what is inappropriate in the book *Endless Ever After* that I sent to Mrs. Stambaugh per the harmful to minors complaint resolution form. As you can see from the form, I submitted that this book violates Kentucky's statues on Sexual Exploitation of Minors. Pursuant to KRS 531.010, 531.080 and 531.310 and 531.370 this book should not be distributed in Longbranch Elementary. This book is in violation of promoting sexual conduct by a minor by acts of homosexuality and lesbianism. This is promotion of illegal material to minors. I have also been in contact with our state representative regarding this matter and we are working together on this issue. This is not an issue of opinion but a matter of law and upholding the law. If my daughter hadn't brought this book home, then I would not have known what was in the book. Many other children at Longbranch Elementary are currently reading this book without the knowledge or consent of their parents. We as parents and taxpayers have a right to know what our children are reading and what is in the school libraries. I asked the school board members and superintendent to review all content and uphold the law for minors and protect our children and the rights of the parents.

531.300 Definitions for KRS 531.080 and 531.310 to 531.370.

As used in KRS 531.080 and 531.310 to 531.370:

- (1) "Distribute" means to transfer possession of, whether with or without consideration;
- (2) "Matter" means any book, magazine, newspaper, or other printed or written material or any picture, drawing, photograph, motion picture, live image transmitted over the Internet or other electronic network, or other pictorial representation or any statue or other figure, or any recording transcription or mechanical, chemical or electrical reproduction or any other articles, equipment, machines, or materials;
- (3) "Obscene" means the predominate appeal of the matter taken as a whole is to a prurient interest in sexual conduct involving minors;
- (4) "Sexual conduct by a minor" means:
 - (a) Acts of masturbation, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, sexual intercourse, or deviant sexual intercourse, actual or simulated;
 - (b) Physical contact with, or willful or intentional exhibition of the genitals;
 - (c) Flagellation or excretion for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification; or
 - (d) The exposure, in an obscene manner, of the unclothed or apparently unclothed human male or female genitals, pubic area or buttocks, or the female breast, whether or not subsequently obscured by a mark placed thereon, or otherwise altered, in any resulting motion picture, photograph or other visual representation, exclusive of exposure portrayed in matter of a private, family nature not intended for distribution outside the family;
- (5) "Performance" means any play, motion picture, photograph or dance. Performance also means any other visual representation exhibited before an audience;
- (6) "Sexual performance" means any performance or part thereof which includes sexual conduct by a minor; and
- (7) "Promote" means to prepare, publish, print, procure or manufacture, or to offer or agree to do the same.

Effective: June 25, 2009

History: Amended 2009 Ky. Acts ch. 100, sec. 4, effective June 25, 2009. -- Amended 1986 Ky. Acts ch. 439, sec. 6, effective July 15, 1986. -- Created 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 219, sec. 2, effective June 17, 1978.

531.020 Distribution of obscene matter.

- (1) A person is guilty of distribution of obscene matter when, having knowledge of its content and character, he:
 - (a) Sends or causes to be sent into this state for sale or distribution; or
 - (b) Brings or causes to be brought into this state for sale or distribution; or
 - (c) In this state, he:
 1. Prepares, or
 2. Publishes, or
 3. Prints, or
 4. Exhibits, or
 5. Distributes, or
 6. Offers to distribute, or
 7. Has in his possession with intent to distribute, exhibit or offer to distribute,
any obscene matter.
- (2) Distribution of obscene matter is a Class B misdemeanor unless the defendant has in his possession more than one unit of material coming within the provisions of this chapter, in which case it shall be a Class A misdemeanor.

Effective: January 1, 1975

History: Created 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 406, sec. 266, effective January 1, 1975.

531.030 Distribution of obscene matter to minors.

- (1) A person is guilty of distribution of obscene material to minors when, knowing a person to be a minor, or having possession of such facts that he should reasonably know that such person is a minor, and with knowledge of the content and character of the material, he knowingly:
- (a) Sends or causes to be sent; or
 - (b) Exhibits; or
 - (c) Distributes, or offers to distribute, obscene material to a minor.
- (2) Distribution of obscene materials to minors is a Class A misdemeanor unless the defendant has previously been convicted of violation of this section or of KRS 531.020, in which case it shall be a Class D felony.

Effective: January 1, 1975

History: Created 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 406, sec. 267, effective January 1, 1975.

531.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Distribute" means to transfer possession of, whether with or without consideration.
- (2) "Matter" means any book, magazine, newspaper, or other printed or written material or any picture, drawing, photograph, motion picture, live image transmitted over the Internet or other electronic network, or other pictorial representation or any statue or other figure, or any recording transcription or mechanical, chemical or electrical reproduction or any other articles, equipment, machines, or materials.
- (3) "Obscene" means:
 - (a) To the average person, applying contemporary community standards, the predominant appeal of the matter, taken as a whole, is to prurient interest in sexual conduct; and
 - (b) The matter depicts or describes the sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and
 - (c) The matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
- (4) "Private erotic matter" means an obscene visual image, including a photograph, film, video recording, or digital reproduction, of an identifiable person, depicting sexual conduct or the exposure of uncovered human genitals, buttocks, or nipple of the female breast. A person may be identifiable from the image itself or from information distributed in connection with the visual image.
- (5) "Sexual conduct" means acts of masturbation, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, sexual intercourse, or deviant sexual intercourse; or physical contact with the genitals, flagellation, or excretion for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification.

Effective: July 14, 2018

History: Amended 2018 Ky. Acts ch. 50, sec. 1, effective July 14, 2018. -- Amended 2009 Ky. Acts ch. 100, sec. 3, effective June 25, 2009. -- Created 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 406, sec. 265, effective January 1, 1975.



LONGBRANCH ELEMENTARY

A Leader In Me School Lighthouse School

2805 Longbranch Road
Union, Kentucky 41091
859.384.4500

Stephanie Stambaugh, Principal
Sommer Kidwell, Assistant Principal
Olivia Ballou, School Counselor
Dayne Merkle, School Counselor
Paradise Forbes, Instructional Coach

Dear Ms. Yates,

I received the Harmful to Minors Complaint you provided to the school on December 1, 2023. Pursuant to KRS 158.192, Board Policy 8.23, and 8.23 AP .21, I have conducted an investigation into your Complaint relating to the book, titled "Endlessly Ever After" by Laurel Snyder and Dan Santat ("the Book"). The purpose of this letter is to overview the findings of my investigation and advise on my conclusions as to whether this book is "Harmful to Minors" as defined by law and policy.

I. Background

On October 29, 2023, you emailed me asking for a time to meet and discuss a library book that your daughter checked out from the LBES library which you felt contained "inappropriate content." (See Attachment 1) In response, I provided you with a copy of the LBES Reconsideration Policy. (See Attachment 2) Construing your email to be a formal request for reconsideration of the Book's inclusion in the LBES library, I advised you that I would begin the formal Reconsideration process.

The Book in question is a choose-your-path picture book incorporating several popular children's stories and fairytales. (See Attachment 3) Throughout the book there are references to Little Red Riding Hood; Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs; Mother Goose (and her son Jack); Sleeping Beauty; and Hansel and Gretel. The Book is less than 100 pages and recommended for readers ages 5 - 9, grades K - 3. In your emails to me, you indicated concern that "In one of the scenarios their (sic) is a choice for an 8 year old Red Riding Hood little girl to kiss Sleeping Beauty on the mouth." I relayed this information to the LBES SBDM as a part of your Reconsideration request.

The LBES SBDM Council took up the Reconsideration request at its November 14, 2023 meeting. (See Attachment 4) After careful consideration, the LBES SBDM Reconsideration Committee denied the reconsideration request and voted to keep the Book in circulation. (See Attachment 5) The Committee specifically reviewed the portion of the Book with which you have expressed concern. The first option reads:



You wander up a winding stair; you scamper past a throne,
until you find a tiny room, where sleeping like a stone,

a gentle maiden waits for you. Her eyes are sweetly shut.
Her lips are waiting for a kiss. And so you bend and . . . WHAT?

Now what, Rosie? Are you really going to kiss some strange sleeping woman
in a frozen castle covered with roses? Seriously?

Yes, life is an adventure! Turn to page 48
No, ew! Of course not. Kissing's for teenagers. Turn to page 36

GREAT HABITS
MAKE **great**
LEADERS

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If the reader chooses “Yes, life is an adventure!” he or she is directed to this passage:



OHMYGOSH, YOU DID IT! You kissed the princess fair,
who softly stirs and yawns at you through endless yards of hair.

But then her big eyes widen. She cries, “Oh, no! The queen!”
And sure enough, a woman waits behind you. She looks *mean!*

“You know you should be napping!” the evil queen exclaims.
She conjures up a potion, unstoppers it, and aims—

What next, Rosie? *Are you really going to take on that evil queen?*

To run at that queen and try to grab her potion, turn to page 40

To duck and dodge, while you think up a plan, turn to page 71

However, If the reader chooses “No, ew! Of course not. Kissing’s for teenagers” he or she is directed to this option instead:



This story’s getting kind of odd. You think this kiss can wait.
You’re much too young for kissing. You only just turned eight!

And once beyond the castle walls, you find you’ve left your cake.
So you turn ’round and trot on home. But with each step you take . . .

you wonder at that girl asleep, inside her walls of stone.
And you will wonder all your days at what you *might* have done.



THE END



Relying primarily on the Kentucky Bluegrass Award Master List and Committee’s objectives to provide students with choices in their reading selections, the Committee concluded that the Book’s content was appropriate. In its letter to you, the Committee explained that the Book “clearly states that kissing is for teenagers and . . . is not oversexualized in any way just as it is not in the original version of Sleeping Beauty.”

I advised you of the Council’s decision on November 16, 2023. (See Attachment 6) In response, you advised that you disagreed with the Committee’s decision “because there is intent to normalize a girl kissing another girl for sexual purposes” and that it “does not matter if it’s over sexualized or not.” In my reply, I copied Jenny Watson, the Assistant Superintendent for Learning Support Services, to provide you with additional information.



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In your emails to Dr. Watson, she explained that Kentucky law and Board Policy provides school councils with the authority to oversee the content of the respective school library. And, per

Board Policy, a Reconsideration request cannot be appealed to the Board of Education. However, in your email exchanges, you indicated to Dr. Watson your belief that the Book “promoted gross sexual behavior for children” and includes “inappropriate sexual content that could be harmful in teaching children.” Because of the allegation that the content was not just objectionable, but actually *harmful*, Dr. Watson provided you with a copy with the Harmful to Minors Complaint and accompanying Board Policy. (See Attachment 7)

I received a copy of your Complaint on December 1, 2023. (See Attachment 8) As a part of my investigation and decision-making process, I have reviewed your Complaint, a complete copy of the Book, the Reconsideration Committee’s Decision, and emails exchanged between you, myself, and Dr. Watson.

II. Harmful to Minors Decision

Pursuant to KRS 158.192(a), “harmful to minors” means materials, programs, or events that:

“(a) Contain the exposure, in an obscene manner, of the unclothed or apparently unclothed human male or female genitals, pubic area, or buttocks or the female breast, or visual depictions of sexual acts or simulations of sexual acts, or explicit written descriptions of sexual acts;

(b) Taken as a whole, appeal to the prurient interest in sex; or

(c) Are patently offensive to prevailing standards regarding what is suitable for minors.”

After review of the relevant materials, the subject matter contained within this story does not meet criteria under the statutory definitions for material that could be considered harmful to minors.

First, it is my assessment that “Endlessly Ever After” does not contain or expose the human body, nor does it give any visual depictions of a sexual act or explicit written descriptions of sexual acts. The act of kissing is not inherently sexual and therefore I do not believe the material falls under the definition provided in KRS 158.192(a).

Second, the Book taken as a whole does not appeal to the prurient interest in sex. KRS 158.192(b). “Material appeals to the prurient interest, for instance, only if it is in some sense erotic.” *Ashcroft v. ACLU*, 535 U.S. 564, 579 (2002); *Cf. Erznoznik v. Jacksonville*, 422 U.S. 205, 213, n. 10 (1975). Sleeping Beauty, along with the other fairy tales referenced in the Book, are widely accepted as children’s tales and are not regarded as sexual in any way and are certainly not



“erotic.” The presentation of the Sleeping Beauty narrative contained in this Book is no different. In fact, this Book even provides an option for the reader to say he or she is too young for kissing, which directly cuts against any argument that the Book is overtly appealing “to the prurient interest of sex.”

Finally, the material, subject matter, characters, and themes contained in the Book are not patently offensive. *See* KRS 158.192(c). The “prevailing standards regarding what is suitable for minors” is not defined by law nor is it explained in commentary to the statute. So, to determine these standards, I look to other sources in the community. To that end, I think it is important to acknowledge that the LBES SBDM – which is primarily composed of parents in the LBES community – voted to keep this Book in circulation, finding it appropriate for children (their own included). While I acknowledge your concern related to the age of the main character (8 years old), I do not believe this book is inappropriate since the themes contained in the book are based on a well-known fairytale.

It is important to note that, if it is determined that this kiss between “Rosie” and “Sleeping Beauty” is deemed harmful to minors, every book in the library that in any way references or depicts a kiss between characters would likewise need to be removed from circulation. This could amount to *hundreds* of books being removed from the LBES library. Due to First Amendment considerations, and keeping with the LBES policy, I am unable to consider the context of this kiss (between Rosie and Sleeping Beauty) to differentiate why this kiss would be considered “patently offensive to prevailing standards” while another kiss would not be considered as such. Kissing is not offensive, nor is it sexual. As such, I do not find that the Sleeping Beauty storyline in the book “Endlessly Ever After” is harmful to minors as defined by law or board policy.

III. Conclusion

This letter serves as notice that pursuant to KRS 158.192 (2)(d)-(e) and the applicable Board policies, I have determined that the book “Endlessly Ever After” is not harmful to minors and the book shall remain available for check out at the school library. However, as discussed in our previous conversations, I have flagged the Book in your child’s library account so that your child will be unable to check out the Book in the future.

If you have any questions or would like to meet and discuss my decision, do not hesitate to reach out so we can schedule a time most convenient for you. Here at LBES, we want all of our student to have access to programs and materials that will enable them to ACHIEVE beyond expectation, LEAD with great character, and positively IMPACT our community. And importantly, we want students and their parents to feel safe and comfortable with the learning environment we have created. Although the book will stay in the library, I am happy to discuss additional ways we can work with you to facilitate the best learning environment for your child.



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You have a right to appeal my determination to the Board of Education. You have ten (10) days to appeal this decision and may do so by submitting your Complaint to the Board Secretary, Michelle Ashley in hard copy at Central Office or via email to: michelle.ashley@boone.kyschools.us.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stambaugh

Stephanie Stambaugh

Principal

Attachments

From: [Stambaugh, Stephanie](#)
To: [Amy Yates](#)
Subject: RE: Library Book

Thank you for the information. Please feel free to drop the book back at school instead of sending it with Ava. The book is the property of Boone County Schools and Longbranch Elementary. Once the 30 day review is over, we will let you know the findings.

Thank you for the information.

Mrs. Stambaugh

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Yates <>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 4:06 PM
To: Stambaugh, Stephanie <stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us>
Subject: Re: Library Book

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

In the book there are many possibilities for different fairy tale stories and their endings. In one of the scenarios their is a choice for an 8 year old Red Riding Hood little girl to kiss Sleeping Beauty on the mouth. I don't even want Ava to bring this book back to school because this shouldn't be exposed to other children. Let me know if you need anything else from me or handwritten statement.

Thank you,
Amy

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 20, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Stambaugh, Stephanie <stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us> wrote:
> The purpose of the policy is for a committee to review the book and determine as a committee if the book should be pulled from circulation. You can let me know of your specific concerns in writing. Through this email is perfect and I will share concerns with the committee.

>
>
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Amy Yates <>
> Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 3:40 PM
> To: Stambaugh, Stephanie <stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us>
> Subject: Re: Library Book

>

> EXTERNAL MESSAGE

>

> Thank you for the information Mrs. Stambaugh. How does this work since I haven't given you any information on what is in the book? The book is called Endlessly Ever After. I would be happy to do a sit down to review with you the inappropriate content.

>

> Thank you,
> Amy

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Oct 20, 2023, at 3:07 PM, Stambaugh, Stephanie <stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us> wrote:

>>

>> Hello Mrs. Yates,

>>

>> Thank you for you message. I have added the link for our school's reconsideration policy. I can take this as your formal request to have the book looked at. Please let me know the name of the book and that you wish to have the item reconsidered and we will start this process.

>>

>> Thank you,

>>

>> Mrs. Stambaugh

>>

>> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Asfol4IEQrhgzBAgKS7OarGNx3Jg5eCpqQNyrvp5M/edit?usp=sharing>

>>

>>

>>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Amy Yates <

> Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2023 9:44 PM

> To: Stambaugh, Stephanie <stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us>

> Subject: Library Book

>>

> EXTERNAL MESSAGE

>>

> Hi Mrs. Stambaugh,

>>

> I wanted to see if you would have time to meet tomorrow or next week to talk about my daughter's library book that she checked out last week. There was some inappropriate content in it that you may not be aware of and I wanted to sit down with you so you could see it as well so other kids would not be exposed.

>>

> Thank you,

> Amy Yates

>>

> Sent from my iPhone

LONGBRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

POLICY TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Reconsideration Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The media centers of Boone County Schools fully support the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, and the concept of intellectual freedom. Our school media centers do not support any one idea, philosophy, or perspective. Using the terms described in each school's Selection/Collection Development Procedures, every effort is made to include items in the library's collection that meet the needs of the school and students. Every individual has the right to seek information from all points of view without restriction. The responsibility for the individual choice of reading materials by minors rests with the parent or legal guardian.

We have established procedures for the reconsideration of materials in the library collection. We welcome our school community to discuss with us our selection procedures when a question arises concerning resources in the school media center. All inquiries about library materials or challenges to library materials will be recorded by the school principal for reference purposes.

Individuals wishing to formally challenge materials for reconsideration must read/view the material in its entirety before following the steps below.

STEPS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL OR CLASSROOM LIBRARY COLLECTION

1. A Request for Reconsideration of Library Collections Form must be requested from the school principal by a Boone County resident who provides proof of residency AND has a student currently enrolled at Longbranch Elementary. The challenged material will remain in circulation until the process is complete.
2. Upon the completion of the Request for Reconsideration of Library Collections Form is complete, the principal will inform the Assistant Superintendents of Learning Support Services of the request for formal reconsideration.
3. The school principal will form a reconsideration committee. This committee shall consist of: an administrator, two (2) teachers from the appropriate grade levels, and two (2) objective community members/parents.
4. The committee will review the Reconsideration Form and seek input from the Library Media Specialist as to how the material supports the library collection based on the selection procedure considerations.

5. A meeting of the committee will be held within 30 working days after the form is submitted. The committee will read the Request for Reconsideration of Library Collection, as well as review the material(s) in question.
6. Committee members form an opinion on the material(s) as a whole and reach a consensus decision to retain or remove the material(s). In the case that a consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken and majority rules.
7. The school principal will complete a report of the committee procedures and decision. This will be submitted to the Assistant Superintendents of Learning Support Services and the complainant.
8. Once a material has been reviewed, the decision of the committee will stand for one calendar year regardless of other Reconsideration Requests made for that material. A new committee will not be formed for subsequent Reconsideration Requests.

Reconsideration Committee Members Responsibilities:

- Based on the First Amendment, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy. Allow these principles and the [freedom to read](#) to guide your decision rather than in defense of individual materials.
- Read or view all materials referred to you including the full text of the material in question, available, reviews, and notices of awards, if applicable. Consult standard evaluation aides and the Boone County Selection policy.
- Review the Boone County Schools Library Mission Statement, materials selection, and reconsideration policies, and professional guides, such as the [Intellectual Freedom Manual](#).
- Passages or parts of the work in question should not be pulled out of context. The values and faults should be weighed against each other and the opinions based on the materials as a whole.
- While it may be prudent to state what area/role a committee member represents in the makeup of the committee (i.e., teacher, librarian, community members, administration, parent, etc.), the personal identification of each member should remain anonymous to protect the objectivity of the deliberation.
- The reconsideration committee meeting may be closed depending on state law and local practice. While public comments may be useful, these comments should be directed to the school principal.
- The committee's recommendation is to be an objective evaluation of the material within the scope of a library's selection policy.
- The committee's report, presenting both majority and minority opinions, should be presented to the school principal as directed in the reconsideration process, with a recommendation to retain the material in its original location or to remove the material. The report may differ depending on the type of resource that is being challenged, such as library material, display, reading list, etc.
- The committee will communicate its decision to the school principal, who then communicates the decision to the person who made the challenge as well as to the Assistant Superintendents of Learning Support Services.



First Read:
5/9/2023

Second Read: 10/10/23

Date Reviewed or **Revised** ____ Council Chairperson's Initials ____

SBDM MINUTES

Longbranch Elementary SBDM Council

November 14, 2023

Called to order at 4:32pm. In attendance: Stephanie Stambaugh, Lyndsey Phillips, Katie Reynolds, Antoine Smith -Rouse, Melinda Earsing, Michelle Piatt and Stefanie Daniele.

Audience of citizens – Mary Ann Rankin, Ryan Barger, Chantel March and Ady Holscher.

Opening Business:

1. Agenda approval – S. Daniele motioned to approve agenda. K. Reynolds seconded, and the motion passed by consensus.
2. Approval of prior minutes – M. Earsing motioned to approve prior minutes. M. Piatt seconded, and motion passed by consensus.

District Liaison Report

Given by Ms. Maryann Rankin and appointed by Superintendent Turner – Longbranch is the 7th largest school in the district and the largest elementary (941). KSA data was shared with the public.

Budget Review:

1. SBDM Budget Review – Second allocation of KETS funds will be distributed early next year.

Policy Review:

2. Assignment of Instructional and non-instructional staff time - Reviewed
3. Committees Policy - Reviewed

New Business:

1. Posting position for upcoming teacher allocation – Sped one year only
2. Review of KSA data- Kentucky Summative Assessment including reading and mathematics for grades 3-5.
 - Students exceeded our KDE goal and our CSIP goal in reading 71%
 - Students exceeded our KDE math goal 64.7% but slightly lower on CSIP
 - Students exceeded our CSIP goal in Social Studies 63%
 - Students met our CSIP goal in Writing 63%

In one year we increased our overall score ranking from an 81.1 to a 92.0.

3. Book Reconsideration – Reconsideration committee met to discuss parent request for a book.

Closed session - None

Adjournment – A. Smith- Rouse motioned to adjourn at 5:17 pm. K. Reynolds seconded, and the motion passed by consensus.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ellen Vollet, Council Secretary
Next Regular Meeting: December 12,2023

APPROVED



LONGBRANCH ELEMENTARY

A Leader In Me School Lighthouse School

2805 Longbranch Road

Union, Kentucky 41091

859.384.4500

Stephanie Stambaugh, Principal

Sommer Kidwell, Assistant Principal

Olivia Ballou, School Counselor

Dayne Merkley, School Counselor

Paradise Forbes, Instructional Coach

Mrs. Yates,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to inform you of the decision reached by the Book Reconsideration Committee regarding the book in question, which was the subject of your recent request for reconsideration.

After careful consideration and review, the committee has decided to uphold the inclusion of the book in our library collection. The decision was made following a thorough evaluation of the book's content and alignment with the Kentucky Bluegrass Award (KBA) Master List. As you may know, the KBA committee relies on professional review sources from educators who work with Kentucky children to curate the list. The committee was me, our media specialist, two parents, one 3rd grade teacher, and one 4th grade teacher.

The School Media Specialist, who plays a crucial role in selecting materials for our library, chose this book based on its positive reception and endorsement from these educational professionals. The KBA Master List serves as a valuable resource in ensuring that the materials available in our library are both engaging and educationally enriching for our students.

It is important to note that our committee highly values the principle of providing students with choices in their reading selections. The book in question, a choose-your-own-adventure narrative, aligns with this principle by placing the power in the readers' hands to determine how the story will progress and ultimately end. This interactive text engages readers in a unique literary experience, where their actions have consequences, sometimes leading to positive outcomes and at other times to more challenging and thought-provoking consequences. The committee agreed that IF students chose the path and ends up reading the kissing portions, that we agreed that it follows the story of Sleeping Beauty. The book clearly states that kissing is for teenagers and the committee agrees that the kiss in the book is not oversexualized in any way just as it is not in the original version of Sleeping Beauty.

If you would like to be certain that your student does not check out this author, we can add a note to our check out system. We are happy to do that. If you do not agree with the reconsideration committee's decision, I can connect you with our Assistant Superintendent of Learning Support.

Thank you,

Mrs. Stambaugh and the Reconsideration Committee of Longbranch Elementary

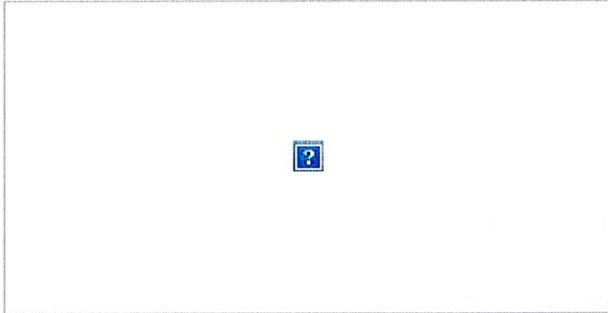
From: [Stambaugh, Stephanie](#)
To: [Amy Yates](#)
Subject: RE: Book Reconsideration
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mrs. Yates,

I received it. Thank you. I will be in contact with you regarding the outcome by or before December 15th.

Before I get started on this work, I wanted to check with you to be certain that the resolution of adding a comment to Ava's library check out account that she cannot check out this book is not an adequate solution to you. Please do let me know.

Thank you,



From: Amy Yates
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Stambaugh, Stephanie <stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us>
Subject: Re: Book Reconsideration

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thank you! I got it dropped off to the office
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 1, 2023, at 11:48 AM, Amy Yates <> wrote:

Hi Mrs. Stambaugh,

I talked with Jenny and she sent me the Harmful to Minors compliant resolution process form. Can you let me know a good time to meet with you and I can give you these forms.

Thank you,

Amy

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2023, at 9:05 AM, Amy Yates < wrote: Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 16, 2023, at 7:36 PM, Stambaugh, Stephanie
<stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us> wrote:

Goodness, my apologies for leaving that off. She is copied on this email. Yes, Mrs. Watson can explain that process.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Amy Yates <>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:07 PM
To: Stambaugh, Stephanie
<stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us>
Subject: Re: Book Reconsideration

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Yes, I understand the approval process on what you are referencing but I meant if a parent wants to dispute a book that the school board has the final say. Can you please attach her email? I do not see it copied on this email.

Thank you,
Amy

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 16, 2023, at 4:39 PM, Stambaugh,
Stephanie
<stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us>
wrote:

Mrs. Yates,

I have copied out Assistant Superintendent of Learning for the Elementary Level, Mrs. Watson. If you would like to connect with her about next steps that you may take, you can reach out to her. The superintendent approves all curriculum used for instruction in the school building, but that does not include the library. The students have choice to check out a book or not, it is not content delivered from the teacher. I hope that clarification helps.

Thank you,
Mrs. Stambaugh

<image001.png>

From: Amy Yates <> **Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:47 PM **To:** Stambaugh, Stephanie
<stephanie.stambaugh@boone.kyschools.us>
Subject: Re: Book Reconsideration

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hello Mrs. Stambaugh,

Thank you for your response. It is my understanding by law that the school board gets to determine what books can stay and go in the school library not the principal, media specialist, a couple parents and teachers. I do disagree with the conclusion because there is intent to normalize a girl kissing another girl for sexual purposes. It does not matter if it's over sexualized or not. These are elementary children.

Thank you,
Amy
Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 16, 2023, at 3:02 PM,
Stambaugh, Stephanie
<[stephanie.stambaugh@boone.ky
schools.us](mailto:stephanie.stambaugh@boone.ky
schools.us)> wrote:

Mrs. Yates,

The reconsideration committee
has completed your book
reconsideration request. Please
see attached letter.

Thank you,
Mrs. Stambaugh

<image001.png>

<Yates-Book Reconsideration
23.24.docx>

“Harmful to Minors” Complaint Resolution Process

This parent or guardian complaint must be submitted in writing to the Principal of the school where the student is enrolled alleging that material, a program, or an event that is “harmful to minors” has been provided or is currently available to the child of the parent or guardian.

“Harmful to minors” is defined in _____ and Policy 08.23.

COMPLAINANT (PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

Complainant Name Amy Yates

Date 12/1/23

Home Address _____

Phone _____

Student Name(s) _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____

School Longbranch Elem.

Grade Level 4th

COMPLAINT(S)

A reasonably detailed description of the material, program, or event that is alleged to be “harmful to minors,” and how the material, program, or event is believed to be “harmful to minors.” (Use additional sheet if necessary.)

See attached form

Amy Yates

Complainant's Signature

12/1/23

Date

LEVEL ONE: SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NAME: Stephaine Stambaugh

Within seven (7) business days of receiving a written complaint, the Principal shall review the complaint and take reasonable steps to investigate the allegations in the complaint, including but not limited to reviewing the material, program, or event that is alleged to be “harmful to minors:”

Per _____, the Principal shall determine whether:

- The material, program, or event that is the subject of the complaint is “harmful to minors;”
- Student access to material that is the subject of the complaint shall remain, be restricted, or be removed;
- A program or event that is the subject of the complaint shall be eligible for future participation by students in the school.
- Within ten (10) business days of receiving the complaint, unless another schedule is mutually agreed to by the parent or guardian and the Principal, the Principal shall confer with the parent or guardian and inform him or her whether the material, program, or event that is the subject of the complaint was determined to be “harmful to minors” and what the resolution will be.

“Harmful to Minors” Complaint Resolution Process

PRINCIPAL’S DETERMINATION (USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.)

Please see my attached resolution and all

attachments.

Principal’s Signature *Stephanie Hornbush* Date *12/14/23*

A parent or guardian not having filed the appeal may request in writing access to the appealed materials, programs, or events for review and shall abide by the school's and District's policies and procedures when requesting and reviewing such information.

LEVEL TWO: APPEAL OF THE PRINCIPAL’S DETERMINATION TO THE BOARD

Complainant Name: _____

Date appeal received at this level: _____

The parent or guardian shall make any appeal within ten (10) days. The appeal shall:

- Be subject to full administrative and substantive review by Board and shall not be delegated;
- Include an opportunity for the parent or guardian to provide input during public comment at a Board meeting;
- Be completed within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the written appeal unless another time frame is mutually agreed upon by the parent or guardian and the Board; and
- Be discussed and voted on during a meeting of the Board subject to the open records and open meeting requirements under KRS Chapter 61.

LEVEL TWO: APPEAL OF THE PRINCIPAL’S DETERMINATION TO THE BOARD (CONTINUED)

(USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.)

Complainant’s Signature

Date

“Harmful to Minors” Complaint Resolution Process

LEVEL TWO: APPEAL OF THE PRINCIPAL’S DETERMINATION TO THE BOARD (CONTINUED)
(USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.)

The Board's final disposition of the appeal shall be made in writing and shall state whether the material, program, or event was determined to be “harmful to minors” and whether student access to the material will remain, be restricted, or be removed and whether the program or event shall be eligible for future participation by students in the school.

Within fifteen (15) business days from the date of a final disposition, the title of the material or a description of the program or event submitted for appeal, whether the material, program, or event was determined to be “harmful to minors.” whether student access to the material will remain, be restricted, or be removed or whether the program or event shall be eligible for future participation by students in the school, and the vote cast by each individual Board member shall:

- Be published on the website of the Board where it shall remain available for review; and
- Be published in the newspaper with the largest circulation in the county.

BOARD’S FINAL DISPOSITION (USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY.)

Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____
Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____
Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____
Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____
Board Member Name:	_____	Vote:	_____

Board Chair’s Signature

Date

Review/Revised: 7/13/2023

HARMFUL TO MINORS COMPLAINT RESOLUTION FORM

The book that is harmful to minors is called "Endlessly Ever After." In this book and throughout each page, the reader can pick from two different scenarios on whether they want to go to one adventure or another. In the book they have a character named Rosie, who is Red Riding Hood. When you read page 56 of the book it states, you (Rosie) head off through the trees again. You track the shouts of rage and find them coming from a kid, a boy about your age. As you see from this statement that Rosie or Red Riding Hood is a kid or a little girl. Now when you read page 42 it then states, you (Rosie) wander up a winding stair, you scamper past a throne, until you find a tiny room, where sleeping like a stone. There are two choices for a child to pick from and in this scenario, it says, Now what Rosie? Are you really going to kiss some strange sleeping women in a frozen castle covered with roses? Seriously?

Option 1- "Yes, life is an adventure!" Turn to page 48.

Option 2- "No, ew! Of course not. Kissing is for teenagers", Turn to page 36.

So, if the child turns to page 48 it then states, "Oh my gosh, you did it! You kissed the princess fair, who softly stirs and yawns at you through endless yards of hair." So, when we look at this scenario in the story, we can see that if the child picks yes then it allows for a child (Red Riding Hood) to kiss a woman (Sleeping Beauty). If the child says no, it declares that kissing is for teenagers. So, you can see that when a child reads this content it is approving for a little girl or even a teenager, which is also a minor, to kiss a grown woman who is a stranger. In the original sleeping beauty, a grown man kissed a grown woman. This book implies that it's ok for a child to kiss a grown adult and a stranger as well. This is suggesting that Pedophilia is acceptable. This book should not be allowed for our children to read and allow for idea to be acceptable. When my daughter brought home this book from the library, we read it not knowing anything about the book and the content that was within the book. My daughter was very confused when she read this part of the story and as a mom, I had to have a conversation with her about this and how this is wrong. I am aware that other students could be checking this book out of the school library and reading it at school or home without their

parents or guardians knowing the content that is in the book. All parents and guardians have the right to know what their children are reading and should be able to approve the book before it's checked out of the library. In this case, due to the nature of this book it should not be allowed in the school library since it is promoting inappropriate material.

Thank you for your time and if you have any other questions, please let me know.