

Hood County Library's Challenged Books and Policies Process

Courtney Kincaid, MLS
Assistant Library Director
North Richland Hills Library

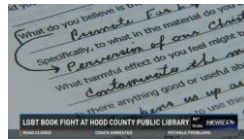
(Former Library Director of Hood County Library, Granbury)



@ckthelibrarian

Agenda

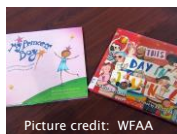
- ▶ Timeline of Events
- ▶ Strategy
- ▶ Open Records Requests
- ▶ Media
- ▶ Policies
- ▶ Social Media
- ▶ How to Handle the Stress Level
- ▶ Professional Career Move



Picture credit: WFAA

Timeline of Events

- ▶ Books and Policies issues – 21 weeks total
 - Began May 15, 2015 – October 13, 2015
 - June 5, 2015 – Library Advisory Board hearing
 - July 14, 2015 – CC hearing regarding books
 - August 25, 2015 – Policies brought to court
 - October 13, 2015 – Policies passed



Picture credit: WFAA

Strategy

- › TLA
- › ALA OIF
- › Library Board
- › Governing Board and Attorney
- › Friends groups
- › Supportive patrons
- › Other librarians – especially in the area
- › American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- › National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC)



Picture credit: Texas Observer

Strategy

- Read books yourself
- Have another staff member read the books
- Let your library board read the books
- Court/Council members – read the books
- How long have books been in the collection?
- Any other requests submitted in the past?
- Publisher reviews
- Do the books fit within your collection development policies?

Open Records Requests

- › Remember:
 - All correspondence may be requested
 - Stay professional, accurate, and courteous



David Wells,
Library Advisory Board, Chairperson
Picture credit: Texas Observer

Media

- ▶ We chose not to go to the paper – we didn't on a previous challenge.
- ▶ News will get ahold of this issue soon – be sure you have everything organized and a prepared statement.
- ▶ News sources typically support the freedom to read/view.
- ▶ Stick with the facts and facts only!



Hood County Court Hearing 7/14/2015
 Picture credit:
 Comic Book Legal Defense Fund

Policies

- ▶ Make certain your policies can handle something of this magnitude.
- ▶ Clear beginning-to-end process.
- ▶ Keep in close contact with your governing and advisory board throughout the process.
- ▶ Remind your boards the role of a PUBLIC library.

Social Media

- ▶ The library/staff do not need to create social media buzz.
- ▶ Supporters created a support the library page.
- ▶ Everything can and will be mentioned at court/council – even the people who “Like” the page...just FYI.
- ▶ I did not comment or post anything on this page during this time. I also asked staff not to post.

Stress

- › Confide in family, friends, fellow librarians.
- › This is a big ordeal and you need someone you can reason with and vent.
- › Although it may seem like this will never end - it will.
- › Try to do things away from work that will help you de-stress and relax.



Afterwards..

- › 2015 "I Love My Librarian" Award for Outstanding Community Service.
- › My governing board was the Commissioners' Court - who are elected individuals.
- › Assistant Director for North Richland Hills Library



 @ckthelibrarian
