

School Board Members Trenace Riggs, Carolyn Weems and Jessica Owens were assigned to make a recommendation to the School Board Chair regarding the request to have the book *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe (published 2019) removed from school libraries. The working group met on April 6, and May 3, 2022 and makes the following findings and recommendation:

Findings

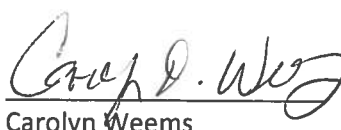
1. The working group reviewed legally acceptable reasons for removing a book from school libraries which included pervasive vulgarity, educational suitability, and advice of staff and literary experts.
2. The working group finds that the book contains many illustrations some of which depict genitalia, bodily functions, and sexual acts which the majority of the group determined were pervasively vulgar.
3. The working group finds that the book does not accurately present information concerning important and necessary health procedures in a manner that is common for most people, therefore raises questions regarding the educational suitability of the book.

Recommendation

1. The working group recommends that *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe be removed from School Division libraries.



Trenace Riggs  
School Board Member



Carolyn Weems  
School Board Member



Jessica Owens  
School Board Member

Dear Colleagues,

Division policy provides a protocol for review of challenged controversial materials that involves a step process for examination of such resources at the School and Division levels. If further action is requested by the complainant once these levels have been exhausted, present Regulation 7-12. 1, Section B(8) states:

*"If the complainant desires further action, the complainant shall submit a request in writing to the Chairman of the School Board within five (5) days of receipt of the decision. The Chairman will determine the review and/or hearing process to be employed by the School Board in each case."*

With respect to the Book *Gender Queer*, I was contacted by the complainant Mrs. Manning with a request to appeal the decision of the Chief Academic Officer. This was the first time in recent memory of such a request to the Chair.

In the absence of any established precedent for this Board, I convened a workgroup of three of our colleagues deemed representative of our collective body. Their charge was to read the book, deliberate, and provide their written findings and recommendation. The workgroup met twice, on April 6 and most recently May 3. Their recommendation has been submitted, and reads as follows:

I as the Chair have accepted the recommendation of this workgroup. I will therefore direct staff to remove the book *Gender Queer* from School Division libraries.

I thank our three colleagues Mrs. Riggs, Mrs. Weems and Ms. Owens for their time and attention to this matter.

In closing, work is underway to assess our policies and regulations pertaining to the matter of challenged controversial materials. If you have any input to share in this regard, kindly reach out to me, Dr. Robertson or Dr. Rogers.

*Respectfully*  
Carolyn Rye