



**Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda
for the Samuels Library Board of Trustees
September 11, 2023**

1. Call to Order, Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2023 Meeting
3. Citizen's Time (5 person limit, 3 minutes for each speaker)
4. President's Time
5. Library Interim Director and Manager's Report
6. Finance Committee Report
 - a. Investment Account Overview – Scott Ball, Trust
 - b. FY2023 Financial Update
7. Development Committee Report
8. Strategic Planning Committee Report
9. Ad-Hoc Appeals Committee Report
 - a. Recommendation for *Prince & Knight*
 - b. Recommendation for *Cheer Up! Love & Pom Poms*
10. FOSL Report
11. County Update
12. Old Business
13. New Business
14. Adjourn – Next Meeting Date will be November 13, 2023

Meeting packet available to view at

<https://www.samuelslibrary.net/images/about/board-of-trustees/230911-SPL-Board-Packet.pdf>

Samuels Public Library
Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees

July 10, 2023
5:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Mack Hobgood, President; Melody Hotek, Vice President; Pete Walker, Treasurer; Katie Carr, Secretary; Celeste Brooks, At-Large; Kim Emerson, Frank Brugh, Madeline Hickman, Joan Richardson, Mary Kim Waddell, Michelle Leasure, Daniel Pond, Vicky Cook, County Representative; Michelle Ross, Library Director; Eileen Grady, Director of Operations; Melanie Mullinax, Development Administrator; Cheryl Harrison, Circulation Supervisor; Danielle Furr, Assistant Circulation Supervisor.

Absent: Lisa Cobb, Shane Goodwin.

With a quorum present Maj. Gen. Hobgood called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of July 11, 2022 were presented. Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Ms. Waddell seconded, passed unanimously.

Ms. Brooks presented the report from the Committee on Trustees. Ms. Brooks recognized the following outgoing Board members:

Completing her third term ending FY2023 is Kim Emerson. Ms. Brooks thanked Ms. Emerson for her nine years of service.

Completing their first term of service and opting to step down:

Frank Brugh
Shane Goodwin
Mary Kim Waddell

Renewing members for their third and final term, the Committee on Trustees recommends:

Celeste Brooks
Madeline Hickman

Motion made from Committee, Ms. Carr seconded, passed unanimously.

The Committee on Trustees has reviewed the following applications from the following individuals and proposes inviting them to serve on the Board of Trustees for Samuels Public Library from 2023 to 2026:

Michael Whitlow
Lewis Moten
Lori Girard
Ed Richards

Daniel Pond – Mr. Pond completed the remaining term of Ms. Way and is eligible to complete three full terms of service. The 2023 to 2026 term will be counted as his first term of service.

Motion made from Committee, Ms. Waddell seconded, passed unanimously.

The Committee on Trustees proposed the following slate of officers for 2023 to 2024:

Melody Hotek, President
Lisa Cobb, Vice President
Pete Walker, Treasurer
Katie Carr, Secretary
Maj. Gen. Hobgood, Member-at-Large

Motion made from Committee. Ms. Emerson seconded, passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Ms. Leasure motioned to adjourn the Annual Meeting. Ms. Richardson seconded, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Carr, Secretary

Samuels Public Library Bi-Monthly Meeting
of the Board of Trustees

July 10, 2023
5:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Melody Hotek, President; Pete Walker, Treasurer; Katie Carr, Secretary; Maj. Gen. Hobgood, At-Large; Celeste Brooks, Madeline Hickman, Joan Richardson, Frank Brugh, Michelle Leasure, Daniel Pond, Lori Girard, Lewis Moten, Ed Richards, Michael Whitlow, Chris Estes, FOSL President; Vicky Cook, County Representative; Michelle Ross, Library Director; Eileen Grady, Director of Operations; Melanie Mullinax, Development Administrator; Cheryl Harrison, Circulation Supervisor.

Absent: Lisa Cobb, Vice President.

Ms. Hotek welcomed the new Board of Trustee members to join the table. Ms. Hotek introduced herself, acknowledged the unusually large attendance, and welcomed everyone.

With a quorum present, Ms. Hotek called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the Bi-Monthly May 8, 2023, were presented. Ms. Richardson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Hickman seconded and passed unanimously.

Citizen's Time:

Ms. Hotek recognized the citizens present. Ms. Hotek requested that everyone be considerate to the speakers and attendees and that we have no profanity. The bylaws allow five speakers three minutes each. Time limits will be monitored. Ms. Hotek encouraged those unable to speak this evening to share their thoughts by writing a letter to the Board of Trustees. The following citizens spoke:

1. Colleen McCrum – Front Royal, Va.
Ms. McCrum yielded her remaining time to Maria O'Brien – Front Royal, Va.
2. Mark Egger – Front Royal, Va.

Ms. Hotek reminded Mr. Egger his three minutes were for public comment, not discussion, and his time had begun. Following Mr. Egger's three minutes, Ms. Hotek stated we are all neighbors and this is our community; therefore, let's be kind to each other.

3. Tina Johnson – Front Royal, Va.

Following Ms. Johnson's three minutes, Ms. Hotek again asked the crowd to keep it down and be respectful.

4. Steve Foreman – Front Royal, Va.
5. Colleen Snyder – Linden, Va.

President's Time:

Ms. Hotek asked fellow Board members to return their completed conflict of interest forms to Library management. Ms. Hotek briefly introduced herself, emphasizing the importance of the Library and how we can improve what we do.

Library Director's Report:

Ms. Ross reviewed May and June 2023 highlights from the Directors' report.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Walker presented the Financial Report. Mr. Walker referred to the revised operating budget for FY2024. The budget was revised by the Finance Committee when the Final County Budget for FY2024 reflected flat funding for the Library. As Finance Committee chair, Mr. Walker made a motion out of Committee that the revised budget be accepted as presented. Mr. Pond seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker reviewed the Budget vs. Actual report for July 2022 through June 30, 2023. The following four items are of note:

- Line Item 6410 – Special Projects
- Line Item 6430 – Adult Programs
- Line Item 6900 – Computer Equipment
- Line Item 6955 – Library Automation System

The Board approved these four expenditures to update our computer equipment and maintain relevance. Ms. Grady has provided detailed footnotes for these variances. Mr. Walker stated that overall, our income was 111%, and expenses 113%. All-in-all, a good job. Addressing new Board Members, Ms. Grady wished to footnote that the large expenditures such as special projects, computer equipment, and the Library automation system were brought to the full Board of Trustees for approval. Maj. Gen. Hobgood complimented Ms. Grady, Ms. Ross, and the staff on managing the budget during a difficult year.

The current account balances are:

- Operating Account = \$48,245.95
- Reserve Account = \$46,454.94
- Investment Account = \$934,285.38 (Consists of \$55,830.33 in the endowment accounts and \$878,455.05 in the regular investment account.)

Mr. Walker reported that as of May 31, 2023, the Community Foundation balances were:

- Samuels Public Library Fund = \$6,567.41
- Samuels Public Library Endowed Fund = \$6,202.79

Mr. Walker stated that the Finance Committee had two motions to make:

The Library be empowered to increase its budget for legal counsel by \$15,000.00. Maj. Gen. Hobgood seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

The Library be authorized to spend \$10,000.00 for a communication consultant. Ms. Brooks seconded. Discussion ensued. The vote passed unanimously.

Ms. Grady asked Mr. Walker if a motion was needed to take the 3% withdrawal. Mr. Walker confirmed that no motion was needed as this is handled through the Fund Policy.

Development Committee:

Ms. Mullinax gave the Committee report. Ms. Mullinax reported that we have exceeded our fundraising goals for FY2023 by 17%. Meeting the FY2023 goal, two new Planned Giving commitments were made in FY2023. Two items of note on the Grant Tracking Report are applying to the Community Foundation of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Annual Grant to support the Winter Reading Club. Grants are awarded in August. Samuels Public Library was invited to apply for a Mellon Foundation grant. The invitation resulted from Adult Supervisor Erin Rooney's work setting up a Memory Lab. Ms. Mullinax made the first application on June 24th, and the Library will find out on July 24th whether we get to move on to the second stage.

Ms. Mullinax shared that the fourth annual Donor Appreciation event is scheduled for September 22, 2023, and the final FY2024 Development Plan will be presented at the September Board of Trustees meeting.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Ms. Richardson stated that Nan Carmack, Ed.D., M.L.S., the director of Library Development and Networking for the Library of Virginia, was the guest speaker at the Committees' June meeting. Ms. Carmack reviewed our current strategic plan and was complimentary of our plan. She felt a strategic plan should include the mission, vision, and values statements. She shared suggestions to help us consider improvements for the next five-year plan.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2023.

Bylaws Committee:

Mr. Pond reported that the Committee met to review additions to the Patron Registration Policy and the addition of Rights & Responsibilities: Samuels Public Library under The Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Two additional Library Card types have been added to the Patron Registration Policy:

1. Juvenile Limited Card
2. Young Adult Limited Card

Mr. Pond reviewed the additions to the Patron Registration Policy and the creation of the FOIA Policy. Discussion ensued. Ms. Ross stated that she and Ms. Grady would pursue additional training applicable to FOIA Officers.

Ms. Hotek requested that the policies be presented as two motions. Mr. Pond moved that the Registration Policy be amended to include the Juvenile Limited Card and Youth Adult Limited Card. Ms. Carr seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Pond moved that the Board accept the new FOIA Policy. Ms. Hickman seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Ms. Hotek stated that the staff has been working diligently on setting up the new card types and they would be available as of tomorrow.

Ad-Hoc Appeals Committee Report:

Ms. Carr reported that the Committee has reviewed the following three titles:

“I Am Jazz”

“This Is Why They Hate Us”

“Ana on the Edge”

Following the Committee's recommendation, Ms. Carr motioned to retain *“I Am Jazz”* and *“Ana on the Edge”* in their current location. *“This Is Why They Hate Us”* will be moved to the “New Adult” collection, which includes all books for ages 16 years and up. Maj. Gen. Hobgood seconded.

Discussion ensued. A citizen spoke out of turn. Ms. Hotek requested the individual speak to them after the meeting, there is a motion on the table. Mr. Walker asked whether the three titles would be voted on collectively or individually. Ms. Ross recommended voting on each book individually. Ms. Cook asked for clarification on the titles and placements of each book. She then asked what criteria the Committee follows to determine what happens to each book. Ms. Hotek replied that three to four staff members read the books in their entirety. Five members of the Board read the books in their entirety with the guideline in mind of the Library Collection Development Policy and the Freedom to Read Statement. Based on the content and following the policy, recommendations are made. Ms. Ross explained that there is a form that each member of the review team completes.

Ms. Carr moved that *“I Am Jazz”* remain in its current location as per the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee. Ms. Richardson seconded. Discussion ensued. This title resides in the Juvenile Non-Fiction section for ages 6 to 12 years. Mr. Walker expressed his concerns by reading a statement.

Ms. Hotek addressed those in the crowd speaking out of turn to maintain decorum. Ms. Hotek asked for further discussion. Mr. Pond stated he had not reviewed these books and was not comfortable making a vote. Ms. Hotek called for who was in favor of this motion moving forward:

Twelve in favor, two opposed, the motion carried. Ms. Hotek confirmed there would be no more appeals on this book. Ms. Hotek again addressed persons in the crowd speaking out of turn and asked them to take it outside.

Ms. Carr moved that *“This Is Why They Hate Us”* be moved to the “New Adult” section as per the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee. Ms. Hickman seconded. Discussion ensued. The vote passed unanimously.

Ms. Carr moved that *“Ana on the Edge”* remain in its current location as per the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee. Ms. Richardson seconded. Discussion ensued. Twelve in favor, two opposed, the motion carried.

Ms. Cook asked if a FOIA request was needed to view the Committee’s comments. Ms. Ross confirmed that was correct.

FOSL Report:

Mr. Estes, FOSL President, reported that on July 6, two funding requests were approved for the Library:

1. Hoopla = \$2,000.00
2. SamiCon 2023 = \$2,000.00

County Update:

Ms. Cook wanted people to know that she and Ms. Ross were working together to come to a compromise to satisfy all the people. Ms. Cook views her job as serving everybody and respecting the United States Constitution. Ms. Cook applauds the Board of Trustees for changing these policies. The County and Library will be working together to create a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) since the former MOA expired. Ms. Cook confirmed that new carpet was budgeted for the Capital budget in FY2024. Ms. Cook did not have the actual budgeted amount but would contact us with the actual number.

Ms. Hotek acknowledged two other county supervisors in the audience. Mr. Mabe thanked everyone for their time and efforts. Change takes time, effort, and understanding, and he appreciates the work being done.

Mr. Butler also voiced his appreciation for the Library and for the steps the Library is taking.

Old Business:

No business to report.

New Business:

No new business to report.

Ms. Hotek stated that all documents discussed in the minutes are on the Library website. The Library continues to be as transparent as we can.

Ms. Hotek called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maj. Gen. Hobgood motioned to adjourn. Mr. Walker seconded.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Carr
Secretary



Emergency Meeting
Library Board of Trustees

August 3, 2023

In attendance at the meeting were Melody Hotek, Madeline Hickman, Joan Richardson, Lori Girard, Michael Whitlow, Lewis Moten, Mack Hobgood, Michelle Leasure, Lisa Cobb, Katie Carr, Ed Richards, Vicky Wood and Eileen Grady.

With a quorum present, Ms. Hotek called the meeting to order at 5pm.

Ms. Cobb made the following motion: I move that the Samuels Library Board of Trustees go into closed session in accordance with the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711, Subsection (A)(1) for the purpose of "discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body." Ms. Girard seconded the motion. Ms Hotek called for a vote, yeas were unanimous.

CLOSED SESSION CONVENED

The public portion of the meeting was reconvened with the following motion being made by Ms. Richardson: I move that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Act were discussed in the Closed Meeting, and that only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the said Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Samuels Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Hickman seconded the motion, Ms. Hotek called for the vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hickman then made the following motion: I move that the minutes reflect the Board acceptance of the resignation of Michelle Ross as Library Director and direct that the Board President meet with Ms. Grady to discuss and execute a severance package for Ms. Ross as discussed in the closed meeting. Ms. Leasure seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hobgood then made the following motion: I move that the minutes reflect the Board appointment of Eileen Grady as Interim Director of the Library as discussed in the closed meeting and that the Board President be authorized to arrange appropriate salary compensation for Ms. Grady. Mr. Moten seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

Ms. Girard then made the following motion: I move that the Board President shall be tasked with appointing an AD Hoc Search Committee for the purpose of locating a new Library Director. Seconded by Ms. Cobb, passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Cobb made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hobgood. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Carr, Secretary

Samuels Library Board of Trustees



Samuels Library Board of Trustee
Emergency Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2023

In Attendance: Melody Hotek - President, Lisa Cobb - Vice President, Katie Carr - Secretary, Mack Hobgood, Celeste Brooks, Lori Girard, Madeline Hickman, Michelle Leasure, Lewis Moten, Joan Richardson, Ed Richards, Michael Whitlow and Eileen Grady – Interim Library Director. Absent: Daniel Pond and Board of Supervisor’s Representative, Vicky Cook. Via Phone: Pete Walker called in for the closed session to participate in the discussion.

A quorum being present, Ms. Hotek call the meeting to order at 5:15pm. Ms. Cobb then made the following motion:

“I move that the Library Board of Trustees convene a closed session in accordance with the code of Virginia section 2.2-3711, Subsection (A)(29)

29. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.”

The motion was seconded by Lewis Moten, and passed unanimously.

The closed session was then convened.

Ms. Girard made to following motion:

“I move that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the Closed Meeting, and that only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the said Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Samuels Library Board of Trustees.”

Ms. Leasure seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Hotek then asked if any additional motions were to be made. Mr. Moten then made the motion:

“I move that the Samuels Library Board of Trustees reject the Memorandum of Agreement received from Warren County.”

Mr. Whitlow seconded the motion. Ms. Hotek then called for a Roll Call vote. All in attendance voted in favor of the motion.

Ms. Leasure then followed with:

“I move that the Library Board of Trustees adopt the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) developed by the Library Board, Staff and the Library’s Attorney; and that this MOA be forwarded to the Warren County Board of Supervisors by the Library’s Attorney.”



This motion was seconded by Ms. Girard. Ms. Hotek then called for a Roll Call vote. All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Discussion followed, and the Library Board of Trustees requested that Ms. Hotek and Ms. Grady advise the Board of Supervisors, through appropriate channels, that it was the Library's desire to have a final MOA in hand that could be voted on at the Library Board of Trustees September 11, 2023 meeting. The Library Board of Trustees also requested that clarification be obtained concerning the funds appropriated by the Board of Supervisors at their June 2023 meeting for Library funding, and their ability to be disbursed for any other reason, should an agreement not be reached.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Carr, Secretary
Samuels Library Board of Trustees



Interim Library Directors Report – submitted by Eileen Grady

Library Director Michelle Ross resigned, effective August 4, 2023. During the month of July, she coordinated the Annual Board of Trustees Meeting and continued to work diligently on all aspects of the processes involved in the myriad of book challenges. Since Ms. Ross's departure, Melody Hotek has stepped in to help with all aspects of the book challenge – her assistance in this transition has been invaluable. I have been preparing for the Library's Annual Audit, which will begin on September 20th. In the next week I will also begin working on our 401K Annual Audit.

I have met with and spoken to many patrons during the past few weeks – some that have questions and some who just want to reiterate their support for Samuels Public Library. Along with Ms. Hotek, I have attended several Board of Supervisors meetings and all Library Committee meetings since August 1, 2023. Worked with Ms. Hotek to develop a new MOA, in response to the County's MOA proposal.

Adult Department – Submitted by Erin Rooney:

- Adult Summer Reading statistics include 248 new registrants, 1,136 books read, and 936 badges earned. (back to pre-covid numbers)
- We had 86 people for our Shadow in the Big Red Eye program on Bigfoot hunting. Other programs included A Sowing for Winter Harvest presentation by the Master Gardeners, a Documentary showing of "Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat" with Warren County Fire and Rescue, as well as drawing and craft workshops presented by adult reference staff Whitney Waller and Sandra Norman.
- New partnership with Phoenix Project to help promote services for those experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. Phoenix Project will be offering consults at the library once a month.
- Made it to the next stage in the memory lab grant
- Staff member Jeremy Derflinger left and gained new hire, Elena Jaques
- Erin Rooney has compiled several reports for the book review committee and continues to aid in the review process for the initial reconsideration forms by continuing reports, advising committee members, and looking over response letters.
- The adult reference department along with others from circulation and youth are undergoing Samicon preparations. This year the Library's theme is Time Travel (Your Library...the Ultimate Time Machine). Patrons will be able to enjoy multiple activities including an arcade provided by Play Favorites, Escape rooms developed by Circ staff Dani Furr and Maria Hibel, Demos from Historic Miniature Gaming, Demos from a Winchester Live Action Role Play group, presentations from local Magician Kevin Owens and nationally known Local Author/Artist Ben Hatke, Scavenger Hunts, table-top games, coloring tables and more. The staff has been getting decorations and prizes ready with different time periods and franchises in mind such as Doctor Who, Outlander, and Magic Tree House. Staff member Sandra Norman has been constructing a giant Stargate to go over our RFID gates.

Circulation Department Report – Submitted by Cheryl Harrison

- July 26, 2023 - New Teacher Reception – Circulation staff joined the Children’s department to welcome new teachers. Staff handed out information on Library offerings, promotional items, and items from National Geographic.
- August 1, 2023 - Circulation staff and members from Adult reference and the Children’s department attended the National Night Out event at the gazebo. Staff interacted with 591 persons! Staff handed out Library promotional material and lots of free books, magazines, posters, and DVDs from National Geographic.
- August 2023 – Staff spent the month of August preparing for September’s National Library Card Sign-up month accompanied by SamiCon. September is an exciting month for everyone!
- Members of the Circulation team continue to read challenged books and submit reports.

Childrens Department Report

- Hosted two garden programs called "Wee ones in the Garden" provided with our partnership with the master gardeners
- Got children excited about discovering the microscopic world with 2 microscopy programs provided by a local scientist
- Bowman Teen puppeteers put on a fantastic puppet show
- Our local baseball team the Front Royal Cardinals came for several storytimes
- Children learned about Reptiles in our huge hands-on reptile performance
- We partnered with Warren County Parks and Recreation to provide several programs in parks around the county
- 725 children and teens signed up for our SRP program throughout the summer and read almost 24,000 books!

Samuels Library, Inc.
Budget vs. Actual
 July 2023 through Aug 2023
 FY2024

	Jul 23	Budget	Aug 23	Budget	Jul '23 - Jun 24	Budget	% of Budget	
Income								
4000 · Investment Account Funding	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,550.00	0.00	29,550.00	0.0%	3% Fund Disbursement - requested, not received
4011 · County - Misc	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4020 · County Appropriation	256,000.00	256,000.00	0.00	0.00	256,000.00	1,024,000.00	25.0%	Pd Quarterly
4050 · State Aid	49,305.50	49,305.50	0.00	0.00	49,305.50	197,222.00	25.0%	Pd Quarterly
4060 · Other Grants/Reimbursements	0.00	2,000.00	2,212.00	0.00	2,212.00	5,000.00	44.2%	Received E-Rate Reimbursement Funds
4068 · Samuels Fund/Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	46,040.00	0.0%	holding off, awaiting resolution of current funding issues
4110 · Copier Income	856.65	825.00	921.10	825.00	1,777.75	10,000.00	17.8%	
4115 · Capital One Cash Back	0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4120 · Interest Income	151.92	25.00	144.55	25.00	296.47	300.00	98.8%	rise in interest rates
4140 · Donations	4,565.11	600.00	1,351.57	550.00	6,166.68	5,000.00	123.3%	unforeseen donations received for book challenges
4146 · FOSL Donations	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	15,000.00	26.7%	made request./received funding for SamiCon and Hoopla
4147 · Adult Dept Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	
4149 · Community Outreach Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4159 · Thompson Charitable Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4160 · Children's Programs Donations	3,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	83.3%	\$3K from Elk Club, \$1K from Rapp Elec and \$1K from patron for Y/A collection
4163 · StoryWalk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%	
4171 · Book Sales - Amazon	40.05	50.00	37.40	100.00	77.45	2,000.00	3.9%	unpredictable
4175 · Retail Income	163.00	62.50	98.20	62.50	261.20	750.00	34.8%	unpredictable
4190 · Development - from Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4210 · Fines Income	734.58	1,000.00	752.47	1,100.00	1,487.05	12,000.00	12.4%	
4215 · FAX Service	17.50	75.00	56.00	85.00	73.50	1,000.00	7.4%	
4220 · Replacement Costs	648.26	800.00	639.91	800.00	1,288.17	7,500.00	17.2%	
4230 · Nonresident Fees	0.00	20.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	250.00	0.0%	
4250 · Interlibrary Loan Chgs	0.00	15.00	45.00	20.00	45.00	150.00	30.0%	heavier volume than expected
4300 · Interest/Dividends on Investmen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
4400 · Meeting Room Income	76.00	30.00	20.00	20.00	96.00	500.00	19.2%	
4700 · Misc Income	216.44	9.00	-22.36	10.00	194.08	100.00	194.1%	unpredictable
Total Income	319,775.01	310,817.00	8,255.84	42,187.50	328,280.85	1,363,862.00	24.1%	full 1st quarter FY2024 rec'd from State and County

Samuels Library, Inc.
Budget vs. Actual
July 2023 through Aug 2023
FY2024

	Jul 23	Budget	Aug 23	Budget	Jul '23 - Jun 24	Budget	% of Budget	
Expense								
6000 · Salaries	60,953.02	60,666.67	81,436.35	60,666.67	142,389.37	728,000.00	19.6%	overage resulting from payment to departing director
6040 · Retirement Funding/Current	2,855.74	3,000.00	2,572.88	3,000.00	5,428.62	36,400.00	14.9%	
6050 · FICA SS/Med Payroll Tax Expense	4,662.91	4,641.00	6,229.87	4,641.00	10,892.78	55,692.00	19.6%	overage resulting from payment to departing director
6060 · Unemployment Tax Expense	99.30	333.37	70.57	333.33	169.87	4,000.00	4.2%	
6080 · Hospitalization Expense	30,105.50	-758.00	-734.30	29,891.25	29,371.20	113,500.00	25.9%	overall increase of 8% in medical coverage costs for this fiscal year
6090 · Travel/Administrative Costs	0.00	100.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.0%	
6091 · Development Travel/Admin Exp	30.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	80.00	4,000.00	2.0%	
6200 · Books/Materials	5,699.90	7,900.00	5,747.09	7,900.00	11,446.99	95,000.00	12.0%	should pick-up in Sept. - staff was occupied with evaluating all Y/A material
6235 · Databases	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	17,000.00	11.8%	timing
6250 · Subscriptions	596.62	50.00	305.39	900.00	902.01	7,200.00	12.5%	timing
6280 · Library Supplies	314.17	100.00	117.00	500.00	431.17	11,000.00	3.9%	stocked-up at end of FY2023
6300 · Internet Access Charges	400.00	420.00	736.00	420.00	1,136.00	6,000.00	18.9%	included one time annual charge for e-rate consultant
6410 · Special Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.0%	
6411 · Community Outreach	138.48	0.00	1,186.52	200.00	1,625.00	4,000.00	40.6%	Samicon and Nat'l Library Card Month - FOSL donations to offset these expenses
6420 · Childrens/Special Programs	85.61	100.00	0.00	100.00	85.61	6,500.00	1.3%	
6430 · Adult Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%	
6440 · ILL Charge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6505 · Amphitheater Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6610 · Contractual Services	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	60.00	13,000.00	0.5%	
6620 · Maint. Supplies/Small Equip.	1,265.94	750.00	233.85	750.00	1,499.79	9,000.00	16.7%	
6622 · Custodial Services	6,500.00	2,920.00	0.00	2,920.00	6,500.00	35,000.00	18.6%	
6630 · Repair & Replacement	3,894.00	0.00	125.00	200.00	4,019.00	7,500.00	53.6%	repairs to heat relays in AHU1
6639 · Professional Services	4,282.50	0.00	10,977.74	0.00	15,260.24	0.00	100.0%	professional fees related to ongoing book/funding challenge
6640 · Furniture	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6641 · Story Walk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
6710 · Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,200.00	0.0%	
6720 · Utilities	0.00	6,375.00	6,678.22	6,375.00	6,678.22	76,500.00	8.7%	
6810 · Postage	9.95	10.00	109.95	10.00	119.90	2,500.00	4.8%	
6820 · Telephone	244.17	290.00	232.69	290.00	476.86	3,500.00	13.6%	

Samuels Library, Inc.
Budget vs. Actual
 July 2023 through Aug 2023
 FY2024

	Jul 23	Budget	Aug 23	Budget	Jul '23 - Jun 24	Budget	% of Budget	
6830 · Office Expenses/Supplies	607.63	400.00	243.74	300.00	852.67	6,000.00	14.2%	
6840 · PR & Advertising	5.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.12	2,000.00	0.3%	
6850 · Copier Expense	727.73	830.00	899.70	830.00	1,627.43	10,000.00	16.3%	
6860 · Audit Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	0.0%	
6900 · Computer Equipment	727.49	0.00	0.00	200.00	727.49	5,250.00	13.9%	
6905 · Computer Maintenance & Supplies	39.96	0.00	114.61	0.00	154.57	9,750.00	1.6%	timing - software renewals, etc.
6906 · Hot Spots	655.88	375.00	324.95	375.00	980.83	5,280.00	18.6%	
6955 · Library Automation System	21,507.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,507.52	22,500.00	95.6%	annual payment
6962 · RFID	130.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.00	12,750.00	1.0%	new gates install payment of \$130, otherwise this is an annual payment
6963 · SAMS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.0%	annual payment
6964 · SenSource	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	340.00	0.0%	annual payment
6966 · Firewall Hardware/Software	625.00	700.00	145.00	350.00	770.00	6,000.00	12.8%	
6969 · Reading Program Software	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%	annual payment
6970 · Web Calendar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%	annual payment
6971 · Talkingtech	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,900.00	0.00	2,900.00	0.0%	annual payment
6972 · Cloud Storage	139.30	175.00	510.64	275.00	649.94	2,500.00	26.0%	monthly payment - migrated to new service in July 2023, will lower overall costs/yr
6973 · Mobile App	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00	0.0%	annual payment
6974 · Server Partitioned Back-Up	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,800.00	0.0%	annual payment
Total Expense	149,333.44	89,458.04	118,343.46	126,957.25	267,978.20	1,363,862.00	19.6%	salary line, fica, medical costs and library automation sent budget exp.higher - should even out in the next month or two



Development Committee Meeting Minutes August 9, 2023

The Development Committee met on August 9, 2023 at Samuels Library. In attendance were Mack Hobgood, Lisa Cobb, Melody Hotek, Madeline Hickman, Michael Whitlow, Melanie Mullinax and Eileen Grady.

Mack Hobgood called the meeting to order. Mack announced he would be taking over as Chair of the Committee as Lisa Cobb was now serving as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mack welcomed new committee member Michael Whitlow.

The committee accepted the June 21, 2023 meeting minutes.

Fundraising Tracking Report- Melanie Mullinax provided the committee with the FY 23 Year-ending tracking report dated June 30, 2023 showing \$117,833.30 raised in Fiscal Year 2023, 118 percent of the \$100,000 goal. (Updated on 8/15/23) to \$126,676.90, 127 percent of the goal adding in a second Thompson Trust donation, a Rotary Donation and several misc. donations.) Melanie presented the attached FY 2023 Donor Highlight report indicating a 25 percent increase in new donors and a 65 percent donor retention rate.

Melanie then presented the first Fundraising Tracking Report for FY 24 dated August 1, 2023. While this is not normally a fundraising time of year, the report showed \$10,670.60 raised 10 percent of the \$112,000 goal. Melanie stated that these donations include FOSL contributions, a large Elks contribution and many unsolicited contributions supporting the library during due to the book challenges. (As of August 23, 2023, funds raised are \$16, 530.60)

Grant Tracking Report – Melanie presented the grant tracking report. On June 24th, Samuels Library was informed that we were been chosen to move to the second step of the Mellon Foundation Grant to support Memory Labs. The timeline of the grant has changed with recipients being announced in March of 2024 and grant amounts not to exceed \$500,000 over the five-year grant period. The Mellon Foundation grant committee was supportive and said they would work closely with the Samuels Library team to help present a successful grant application. We are awaiting for new deadlines and new processes to move forward. Our Rappahannock Electric Coop has also agreed to once again fund our Holiday Writing Contest with a \$1000 grant. The Community Foundation of the Northern Shenandoah Valley \$2000 grant to fund our Children’s Winter Reading Club will be announced at the end of August. (On August 22, we received notification that we will receive the grant.) In the coming months, Melanie will apply for the annual \$1500 Valley Health grant to support of medical/wellness book collection, \$4000 Walmart Foundation Grant to support 2024 Children’s summer reading, and British Airways Foundation for ticket giveaway for A Taste For Books.

Development Plan FY2024 – The committee discussed the Development Plan for FY2024 planning a 12% increase in fundraising goals, and emphasizing flexibility to meet fundraising challenges and priorities in FY2024. The Committee suggested a few changes to the plan

(highlight page attached) and will share the working plan with the full Board of Trustees at the September meeting.

Donor Appreciation Event – The committee agreed to postpone the Donor Appreciation event planned for September and combine the event with the annual Volunteer Recognition Event set for December 1, 2023. The Dr. Bernard Samuels Legacy Award will be presented at that time.

National Estate Planning Awareness Week October 17- 23, 2023 – Melanie will mail Major Donors letter with information about planned giving. Social media, web page promotion planned.

FOSL Update – Melody Hotek indicated FOSL continues to do well. FOSL made two donations to the Library to support National Night Out and Library Card Sign Up Month.

The next scheduled Development meeting is set for Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 5:00 - 6:00.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.



FY 2024 Development Plan Highlights

- Increase fundraising by income sources in FY 2024 by 12 percent by cultivating new donors, practicing excellent donor stewardship with dedicated Samuels Library donors and providing giving opportunities to meet donor desires.
- Continue and build on successful fundraising campaigns and donor impact events and communications.
- Bimonthly Development Committee meetings changed to 2nd Wednesday of every other month.
- Flexibility in budget/plan to meet possible fundraising challenges in 2024 including amphitheater fundraising and legal fee fundraising, etc.
- Donor Appreciation Event to be combined with Volunteer Recognition event this year December 1, 2023

List of Accomplishments/Goals Met in 2023

- Exceeded fundraising goals by 127 percent
- Applied for 13 grants, Received 8
- Received two new Planned Giving commitments
- Funded many projects on Fundraising Priority List including self-checkout children's department, Reading Programs, Collection Development initiatives, outreach and more.
- Kept Donor Retention Rate high – 65%
- Added 86 new donors to database

Not accomplished worked into plan for FY 24:

- New donor welcome journey
- Donations ease/awareness in Library year round
- Expand planned giving programming



Fiscal Year 2023 Donor Highlights

In FY 2023, 427 donors supported Samuels Library with a donation.

- *Total number including FOSL, GIK, Corporate, Foundation, Community, Individual, Government Donors*

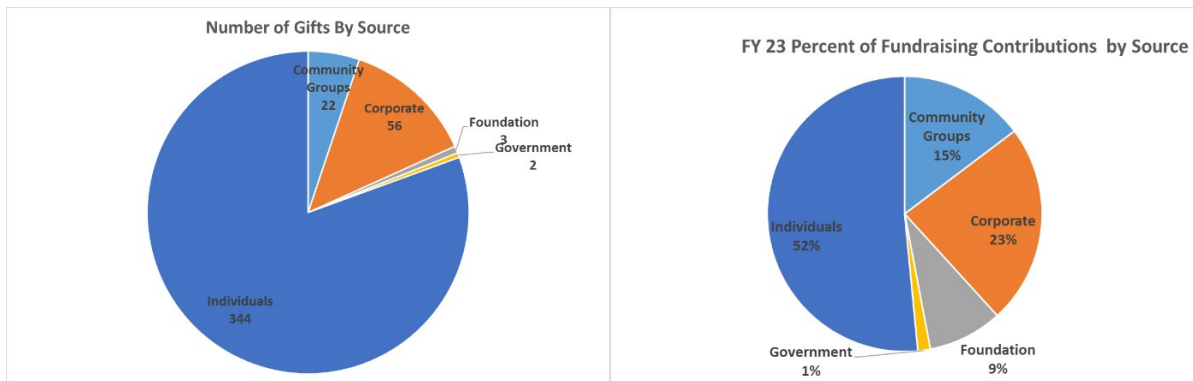
Samuels Library donor database grew by 86 new donors in 2023, a 25% increase over FY 22 (69 new donors) and 51% increase over FY 21(57 new donors).

- **In FY 24 starting July 1, 2023, already added 24 new donors*

Donor retention rate (181 return donors) of 65 percent in FY23.

- *Nationally, nonprofit donor retention rate is 45%.*

In FY 23, Community donated nearly \$27,000 in Gift-in-kind services, auction items, etc.



% of Year Complete: 100%
6/30/2023/ updated 8/15/23

Fundraising Tracking Report FY 23

Category	Goal	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL	Percent Received Against Goal
Annual Appeal/Gifts	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 250.00			\$ 250.00	\$ 12,430.53	\$14,022.53	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00				\$ 28,243.06	134%
Taste for Books	\$ 22,000.00							\$ 1,000.00	\$ 8,810.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 13,575.00	\$990.00		\$ 25,475.00	116%
FOSL	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,250.00		\$ 2,540.00			\$ 6,700.00		\$ 4,300.00		\$ 1,700.00			\$ 16,490.00	110%
Foundations/Grants	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 3,349.68		\$ 16,788.75		\$ 1,500.00				\$ 500.00	\$ 5,125.00	\$ 6,741.30	\$ 34,004.73	170%
Day of Giving	\$ 7,000.00					\$ 3,500.00			\$ 4,350.00	\$ 220.00				\$ 8,070.00	115%
Other Unrestricted	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 65.00	\$ 950.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 150.00		\$ 391.11	\$ 300.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,060.00	\$ 1,954.00	\$ 7,145.11	143%
Special Projects/Other Restrict	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 500.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 150.00					\$ 3,325.00	\$ 164.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,660.00	\$ 7,249.00	72%
Estate Gifts	\$ -													\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,414.68	\$ 3,740.00	\$ 18,238.75	\$ 16,080.53	\$22,222.53	\$ 2,541.11	\$ 17,800.00	\$ 4,870.00	\$ 16,039.00	\$ 9,375.00	\$ 10,355.30	\$ 126,676.90	127%

NOTES: (1) Expenses reflected in budget
(2) Actual funds received excludes pledges

*4/3/23 Dane J. Toler made planned giving commitment and joined Samuels Society

*5/30/23 Maj Gen Henry M. Hobgood & Carolyn R. Hobgood made planned giving commitment and joined Samuels Society

% of Year Complete: 8%
 8/1/2023 (updated 8/23/23)

Fundraising Tracking Report FY 24

Category	Goal	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL	Percent Received Against Goal
Annual Appeal/Gifts	\$ 25,000.00													\$ -	0%
Taste for Books	\$ 25,000.00													\$ -	0%
FOSL	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 4,000.00												\$ 4,000.00	27%
Foundations/Grants	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00											\$ 6,000.00	24%
Day of Giving	\$ 7,000.00													\$ -	0%
Other Unrestricted	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,420.60	\$ 1,540.00											\$ 4,960.60	99%
Special Projects/Other Restrict	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,320.00											\$ 1,570.00	16%
Estate Gifts	\$ -													\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 112,000.00	\$ 10,670.60	\$ 5,860.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,530.60	15%

NOTES: (1) Expenses reflected in budget
 (2) Actual funds received excludes pledges

**Samuels Public Library
Strategic Planning Committee
August, 2023**

In Attendance: Joan Richardson, committee chair; Melody Hotek, SPL Board President; Michelle Leisure, SPL Board member; Jessica Priest-Cahill, FOSL Board representative; Eileen Grady, Interim Library Director; Louis Moten, SPL Board member; Ed Richards, SPL Board member

Introductions: Two new members, Louis Moten and Ed Richards, were in attendance. Committee members introduced themselves and gave some background information about themselves. A brief explanation was given by Joan about the purpose of the committee and the five year strategic plan.

Work process: The committee agreed to review, evaluate and revise the sections of the current strategic plan over the course of four committee meetings with the goal of developing the next five year plan by the beginning of the next fiscal year. Some sections will overlap. A fifth committee meeting will be dedicated to tightening the language of the plan so that it may be presented to the Board of Trustees for further suggestions and or approval at the July Board of Trustees' meeting.

The committee agreed to the following work schedule:

Monday, October 9, 2023 - Review Governance, Financial Resources, Facility, and Public Information sections

Monday, December 11, 2023- Review Public Information, Paid and Volunteer Personnel, Technology, and Collection Development sections

Monday, February 12, 2024 – Review Collection Development, Reference, Interagency Cooperation & Partnerships, and Access sections

Monday, April 8, 2024 – Review Access and Programming sections.

Monday, June 10, 2024 - Clean up the strategic plan and prepare it for presentation at the next board meeting.

Communication: Committee members will communicate their ideas for revisions in advance of each committee meeting via a group email to the planning committee as a whole.

Points to be considered in the review/ revision process:

- Do the sections in the plan contain goals and objectives that are in line with the vision, mission, and values statement?
- Is there evidence that progress has been made towards achieving the goals if they are already contained in the current five year plan? Should the goals remain in the new plan?

- Look for performance indicators that are measurable and can demonstrate the library has met its goals for that section. (i.e. SMART evaluation) *
- Look at developing a measurement plan for the goals in the plan and establish a measurement schedule. *
- Assign accountability for achieving the goals. *

*These Items will be presented in a separate work document that is meant for internal use.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2023 at 5:30 at the library



Request for Reconsideration Form

Any Samuels Public Library cardholder has the right to request reconsideration of Library offerings. Initial requests will be sent to the Library Director. The Library Director will deliver a written response to the request. Appeals will be heard by the Library Board of Trustees.

Name: Jane Elliot

Library Card Number: 824005761690

Phone: 540-636-8656 Email: calligrapherjse@gmail.com

Address: 59 Woodward, FR, 22630

Do you represent yourself or an organization? [X] Self [] Organization

Name of Organization:

Title of Item / Event / Display: Prince & Knight

Author or Creator: Daniel Haack

Format: [X] Book/eBook [] Movie [] Audiobook/eAudio [] Periodical [] Online Resource [] Display [] Event

Please answer the following questions concisely and use additional paper if necessary (this section is continued on back of page).

1. What brought this resource to your attention?

A friend showed me this picturebook,

2. Have you examined the entire resource in full? If not, what sections did you review?

Yes.



3. What concerns you about the resource? Please be specific in citing pages or passages if applicable.

The entire picture book, geared for very young children (toddlers and up) is a grooming instrument to introduce innocent children to deviant lifestyles.

4. Is there anything worthwhile in this material? Please explain.

NO!!! Why has Samuel's Library recently become a promoter of WOKÉ?

5. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?

Tried and true picture books of classic fairy tales.

6. What action are you requesting the Library to consider?

Remove the book.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. After completing the questions on this form, please return the form to any staff member. The Library Director will respond in writing to your concerns within 15 business days of the receipt of this form.

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title:

Prince & Knight

Date added:

3/16/2018

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats):

One

Number of circulations:

Eleven

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals?

Yes.

Kirkus Review

Has the title received any honors or awards?

American Library Association 2019 Rainbow Book List Top Ten
Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Best Picture Books 2018

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely?

Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

The story balances the collection with subjects such as racial diversity, working together to achieve a common goal and love has no boundaries.

Member Recommendation and Comments:

The title is a Picture book for ages 4 to 8. The title is currently cataloged and shelved in the juvenile fiction collection. This is an appropriate location.

Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports

Title: Prince & Knight by Daniel Haack

Date added: March 2018

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): 1

Number of circulations: 15

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes. The title received a starred review from Kirkus and positive reviews from School Library and Booklist.

Has the title received any honors or awards? The title was named one of the best picture books of 2018 by Kirkus, Amazon, and the Chicago Tribune. It was also a 2018 Goodreads Choice Awards Finalist.

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes.

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Yes. The Collection Development Policy states, "Flexibility and open-mindedness are exercised during the evaluation process. Materials are selected to present an array of opinions on a subject and are judged as a whole rather than on isolated passages." Library selectors followed this guidance when choosing *Prince & Knight* for the collection, they also selected this title based on positive reviews and honors.

Member Recommendation and Comments: I recommend retaining the title in its current location, Juvenile Fiction. It meets the requirements of the Collection Development Policy. There is no sexual content in this book. LGBT+ people live and pay taxes in Warren County and deserve access to library materials just like anyone else. Removing a title based solely on the presence of an LGBT+ character would not only go against policy, it would also be discrimination.

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title: *Prince & Knight* by Daniel Haack

Date added: 3/16/2018

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): 1

Number of circulations: 11

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes

- Kirkus starred review
- School Library Journal
- Booklist

Has the title received any honors or awards? Yes

- Rainbow List Top Ten.

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Yes the title *Prince & Knight* fits the guidelines of the library's collection development policy. As per the collection development policy, "The Library's selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews and statistics". This book was positively reviewed by multiple industry sources including Booklist, School Library Journal and kirkus. The collection development policy also states that "Books and materials are selected according to intrinsic merit, subject treatment, community interest, and contribution to a balanced collection in the Library". In order to have a balanced collection subjects and interests of all community members need to be included such as the ones represented in this title.

Member Recommendation and Comments:

This member recommends retaining the title *Prince & Knight* either in its current placement of the juvenile fiction section or easy fiction as it is a picture book. Removing the title would be in violation of the library of bill of rights which the library board endorses as per our collection policy. "Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval". There is no sexual content and as per the Library Bill of Rights and the interpretation in regards to the access of library service by minors, "Libraries and their governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Libraries and their governing bodies shall ensure that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's—and only their children's—access to library resources." This books audience is for ages ranged 4-8 and the library had already made a concession by placing it in the Juvenile fiction section rather than in easy with the rest of the books of that range. It is the responsibility of the parent to limit their child's access to materials that have viewpoints they disagree with.



Date: 6/22/23

Subject: Request for Reconsideration – *Prince & Knight*

Dear Jane Elliot,

This letter is a response to your Request for Reconsideration which was received April 24, 2023 regarding *Prince & Knight* by Daniel Haack.

Per Samuels Public Library's reconsideration procedures, members of the library staff read your thoughtful comments and have considered your concerns. During the review process, staff members read the book in its entirety and consulted the Samuels Public Library Collection Development Policy, the American Library Association's (ALA) Library Bill of Rights, the ALA Freedom to Read statement, the ALA Access to Library Resources and Service for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, book reviews from professional journals, and any honors the title received.

Prince & Knight is a picture book recommended by the publisher for ages 3-6. Since its publication in 2018, the book has received multiple honors and has been applauded by professional reviewers. A starred review from Kirkus called the book, "victorious." School Library Journal proclaimed the story is, "A great addition to any library or classroom..." Booklist also declared it, "An appealing story for parents and children alike." In addition to these positive reviews, *Prince & Knight* was a finalist for a Goodreads Choice Award in 2018. It was also named one of the best picture books of 2018 by Kirkus, Amazon, and The Chicago Tribune. According to WorldCat, *Prince & Knight* is on the shelves of at least 696 public libraries across the United States.

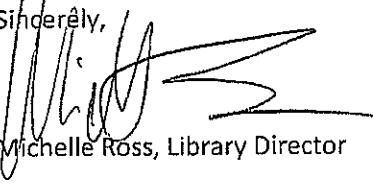
Samuels Public Library's Collection Development Policy states, "The Library's selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews..." The Collection Development Policy also states, "Flexibility and open-mindedness are exercised during the evaluation process." The Collection Development Policy also incorporates the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, which states, "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation."

After considering your request and reviewing the material, the staff review team has concluded that *Prince & Knight* meets the requirements of the Collection Development Policy and should be retained by Samuels Public Library. You may appeal this decision in writing to the Samuels Public Library Board of Trustees.

The Library is currently working through a backlog of reconsideration requests. I will keep you updated about your other reconsideration requests. Your patience is appreciated.

Thank you for your interest in the collections of Samuels Public Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Ross', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Ross, Library Director

July 7, 2023
59 Woodward
Front Royal, VA 22630

Ms. Michelle Ross, Director and
Library Board of Trustees
Samuels Public Library
330 E. Criser Road
Front Royal, VA 22630

Dear Library Director and Trustees:

This letter's intent is to appeal your decision to keep *Prince and Knight* as part of Samuels Library children's collection.

In a letter to the Target Corporation, dated July 5, 2023, six states Attorneys General wrote to the president relative to their Pride Month campaign: "As Attorneys General committed to enforcing our States' child-protection and parental-rights laws" to express their concern regarding the "promotion ... of potentially harmful products to minors, related potential interference with parental authority in matters of sex and gender identity...".

Further, "charged with enforcing state laws protecting and safeguarding parental rights. State child-protection laws penalize the 'sale or distribution ... of obscene matter.' A matter is considered 'obscene' if 'the dominant theme of the matter ... appeals to the prurient interest in sex,' including 'material harmful to minors.' Indiana, as well as other states, have passed laws to protect children from harmful content meant to sexualize them and prohibit gender transitions of children."

This letter further seeks removal of the young adult book, *This is Why They Hate Us*. I join with Mr. Mark Egger in appealing your decision to keep this book in the children's collection. Ms. Hotek was quoted in a Northern Virginia Daily article as emphatically stating there are "no pornographic books" in Samuels Library. If Ms. Hotek reads paragraph three above, she will see that her statement is problematic in the legal realm. Many books promoted to children in Samuels Library are definitely "obscene."

I strongly urge the Trustees to reevaluate their positions on what constitutes potential problems with regard to "child-protection and parental-rights laws," "promotion ... of potentially harmful products to minors, related potential interference with parental authority in matters of sex and gender identity...," "laws to protect children from harmful content meant to sexualize them."

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jane Elliot

Cc: Attorney General Jason S. Miyares, Commonwealth of Virginia

Date: 7/14/23

Subject: Appeal of *Prince & Knight*

Dear Ms. Jane Elliot,

This letter is acknowledge receipt of your appeal of the library staff response to *Prince & Knight*. Your appeal, along with your original Request for Reconsideration form has been forwarded to the Board of Trustees Review Committee. I will send you notification of the Review Committee's meeting date and time once it is scheduled.

At the July 10 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board of Trustees voted on the Review Committee's recommendation in response to Mr. Egger's appeal of *This is Why They Hate Us*. The Board voted to relocate the book to the recently established "New Adult" collection. This collection is located on the adult side of the library, not in the children's collection. The Board also approved policy changes that allow parents to select new card types which will restrict their minor child from being able to check out materials from the Young Adult, New Adult, and Adult collections. The Board's decision is final and no further appeals or Requests for Reconsiderations for *This is Why They Hate Us* will be considered at this time.

Thank you for your interest in the collections of Samuels Library.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ross, Library Director



Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Appeals Committee

August 17, 2023
10am, Meeting Room A

In attendance: Lisa Cobb Chair, Celeste Brooks, Katie Carr, Melody Hotek, Joan Richardson

Ms. Cobb called the meeting to order at 10:05am. She welcomed everyone and thanked the Committee Members for their time. She then reviewed the Library's Mission and Historical Legacy in Warren County.

Ms. Cobb advised that the task of the Committee was to review 2 books: *Prince & Knight* and *Cheer Up! Love & Pom Poms* that were appealed after a Request for Reconsideration forms had been addressed by the staff.

Ms. Cobb began with the book *Prince & Knight* by Daniel Maack. Ms. Cobb asked the Committee Members if they had read the complete contents of the book under discussion and related reviews, notices and awards – Committee Members unanimously confirmed that they had done so. Ms. Cobb also queried the Committee Members about reading the book in question keeping in mind the Library Collection Development Policy, the Library Bill of rights, the Freedom to Read statement and the Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors and Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. And, bearing in mind the outlined goals of the committee to take into account the majority and minority opinions within the scope of the library's selection policy, options to retain, relocate or remove the material and to make a recommendation to the full Board of Trustees meeting for a final vote. Committee Members unanimously replied that they had done so.

Prince & Knight was added to the collection in 2018. The Library owns 1 copy and it has been circulated 15 times to date. It has received positive reviews and has won awards. Ms. Cobb reminded everyone of the goals of the committee. One member noted that this is a picture book and has no sexual content. Another member noted that in the comments, a patron queried "Maybe something by Paul Zelinsky?" and wanted to bring to the committee's attention that "A quick search revealed we already have 20 books of his (some written by him, others he illustrated) within our collection" pointing to its "contribution to a balanced collection." The committee voted, agreeing that the book should remain in the collection in its current location in Juvenile Fiction. The Committee will make this recommendation to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting on September 11, 2023.

The second book in question for the Committee was *Cheer Up! Love & Pom Poms* which is a graphic novel by Crystal Frasier located in the Young Adult collection. The library owns 1 print copy added to the collection in 2021 and is available through the Hoopla app. It has been circulated 6 times to date. All Committee members indicated that they had read the entire contents of the book, along with reviews, notices and awards. Ms. Cobb asked Committee Members if they had reviewed the material in question keeping in mind the Collection Development Policy, and all other criteria previously mentioned. Ms. Cobb again outlined the goals previously mentioned. All replied yes to these queries. This book is for teens aged 14-18 and does not contain any explicit sexual content. The Committee unanimously recommended retaining this title in its current location, and advancing this recommendation to the Library Board of Trustees at the September meeting.

Ms. Cobb noted that the Request for Reconsideration process from receipt to appeal has been timely. She thanked the Committee for their time commitment then adjourned the meeting.

Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Report

Title: *Prince & Knight* by Daniel Maack

Date added: March 2018

Number of copies in the collection: 1

Number of circulations: 15

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals?

Yes

- Kirkus gave *Prined & Kinght* a rating of 4.45 stars out of 5.
- Positively rated by ALA's School Library Journal in 2018

Has the title received any honors or awards? Yes

- *Prince & Knight* was awarded a place in the top ten on the 2019 Rainbow Book List.
- *Prince & Knight* was named one of the best picture books of 2018 by Kirkus.

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer. Yes – Samuels Public Library's Collection Development Policy states that library materials are selected to present an array of opinions." Library selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews and statistics as was done in the case of *Prince & Knight*. The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights states that "Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Samuels Public Library affirms the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services.

Member Recommendation and Comments: *Prince & Knight* should remain part of Samuels Public Library's collection and be maintained in its current location.

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title:

Prince & Knight by Daniel Haack

Date added:

3/16/2018

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats):

One

Number of circulations:

Eleven

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals?

Yes, in Kirkus, the School Library Journal and on Booklist. In addition it has received positive reviews from publications and booksellers.

Has the title received any honors or awards?

This book made the Top 10 on the Rainbow List and was a Nominee for Best Picture Book in 2018, Goodreads Choice Award.

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely?

Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Yes, the book adds to a balanced collection for all members of the community. "Materials are selected to present an array of opinions on a subject and are judged as a whole rather than on isolated passages". "The Library's selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews and statistics".

Member Recommendation and Comments:

Prince & Knight is a fairy tale for young readers starting with "Once Upon a Time" and ending with "Happily Ever After" showing a prince who found love and acceptance. The book has no sexual content and could be properly placed in the juvenile fiction or easy fiction collection. "No individual or group may restrict another person's access or use of Samuels Public Library materials, information, and resources. From the Freedom to Read Statement..." We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend."

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Report**

Title: Prince & Knight by Daniel Haack

Date added: March 2018

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): 1

Number of circulations: 11 (in over five years)

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes, starred review by Kirkus Reviews and School Library Journal.

Has the title received any honors or awards? Nominated for Goodreads "Picture Books of 2018" and was a Rainbow List 2019 Picture Book (American Library Association).

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Yes. The collection development policy states that the collection should reflect "a multitude of ideas" and "a wide range of interests."

Personnel must put aside their personal beliefs to select materials that serve various sectors of the community, to ensure that materials are selected with "flexibility and open-mindedness" and that they "present an array of opinions on a subject."

We must remember that this is one book out of more than 130,200 in the collection.

Recommendation and Comments:

If I were to replace the prince with a princess, this becomes a standard fairy tale. There is no sexual material and thus nothing in this book that will damage a child.

I believe this is an Easy Reader rather than a work of Juvenile Fiction. I assume this placement was intended as a concession to those who have concerns about its content. The recent addition of restricted library cards further limits access to this book.

Regardless of one's feelings about homosexuality, the fact is that we have families in Warren County that include members who are homosexual. It is important that we provide materials that help their parents discuss this top with them. Parents who do not want their children exposed to this material are responsible for limiting the access to it.

The person filing the complaint suggested that we add books by Paul Zelinsky instead. A quick search revealed we already have 20 books of his (some written by him, others he illustrated) within our collection.

4

Ad Hoc Comm

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title: *Prince & Knight*

Date added: 2/16/2018

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): One print book

Number of circulations: 11

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals?

Yes, by Kirkus.

Has the title received any honors or awards?

Prince & Knight was named one of the best picture books of 2018 by Kirkus, Amazon, and the Chicago Tribune.

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. "Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

It is the responsibility of the parent to limit their child's access to materials that have viewpoints they disagree with.

Member Recommendation and Comments: *Prince & Knight* should remain in the collection either in juvenile fiction or in easy fiction with picture books.

5

Ad Hoc Comm

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title: Prince and Knight

Date added: 2018

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): 1

Number of circulations: 11

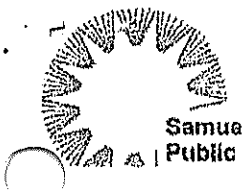
Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes: Kirkus, Booklist; School Library Journal

Has the title received any honors or awards? Yes: American Library Association's 2019 Rainbow List Top Ten; Goodreads Choice Award nominee for Best Picture Book; Best Children's Book of 2018 by Amazon, the Chicago Tribune, Kirkus Reviews, and PopSugar.

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide any justification for your answer. Yes, this title does reflect the guidelines for the Library's Collection Development Policy by providing a "collection [that] reflects a multitude of ideas, and that materials are available in diverse media formats, either fiction or nonfiction."

Member Recommendation and Comments: I think Prince & Knight should remain in the Samuels Public Library collection in its current location. This is a sweet children's book and it is age appropriate. There is no sexual content of any kind.



Request for Reconsideration Form

Any Samuels Public Library cardholder has the right to request reconsideration of Library offerings. Initial requests will be sent to the Library Director. The Library Director will deliver a written response to the request. Appeals will be heard by the Library Board of Trustees.

Name: Mark Egger

Library Card Number: 824001986409

Phone: 636-2209 Email: markmark56@gmail.com

Address: 102 E. 4th St.

Do you represent yourself or an organization? [X] Self [] Organization

Name of Organization:

Title of Item / Event / Display: Cheer Up! Love and Pom-poms

Author or Creator: Crystal Frasier & Val Wise

Format: [X] Book/eBook [] Movie [] Audiobook/eAudio [] Periodical [] Online Resource [] Display [] Event

Please answer the following questions concisely and use additional paper if necessary (this section is continued on back of page).

1. What brought this resource to your attention? I am researching books that indoctrinate children into the lie of "transgenderism".

2. Have you examined the entire resource in full? If not, what sections did you review? Yes



3. What concerns you about the resource? Please be specific in citing pages or passages if applicable.

See attached

4. Is there anything worthwhile in this material? Please explain.

No, it is anti-science /unatic propaganda.

5. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?

Maybe the publisher could put out a sequel in which Bebe (the boy pretending to be a girl) gets his penis chopped off and spirals into a suicidal depression. But that wouldn't fit the narrative of the established

6. What action are you requesting the Library to consider?

Remove this trash from the library

Signature: _____

Date: 4/21/2023

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. After completing the questions on this form, please return the form to any staff member. The Library Director will respond in writing to your concerns within 15 business days of the receipt of this form.

Question No. 3:

Direct quote from the publisher blurb on the back cover of the book:

"Annie is a smart, antisocial lesbian starting her senior year of high school who's under pressure to join the cheerleading squad to make friends and round out her college applications. Her former friend Bebe is a people-pleaser, a trans girl who must keep her parents happy with her grades and social life in order to maintain their support of her transition. Through the rigors of squad training and amped-up social pressures (not to mention micro-aggressions and other queer youth problems), the two girls rekindle a friendship they thought they'd lost and discover there may be other, sweeter feelings springing up between them."

This book is so out-of-touch with reality that the author and illustrator don't even realize that their book could be taken as a satirical spoof of trendy, high-school "transgenderism".

The illustrator has drawn almost all of the characters with an androgynous look, so the reader has no idea who is a girl, a boy, a man, or a woman.

We have a short, fat, ornery lesbian named Annie, who tries out for the cheerleading squad under pressure from her tattooed mother (no mention is ever made of a father) and an androgynous-looking school guidance counselor whom we assume is a woman since her name is Ms. Dupont. But who knows? (Pages 5-8)

Despite her build, short and fat as depicted by the illustrator, Annie is capable of defying physics and can do a backward hand spring. (Page 23)

Then we have Bebe, a boy pretending to be a girl, who was the first "transgender" cheerleader in the state last year. Bebe's parents have agreed to let him pretend to be a girl if he gets good grades. His mother is another one of the many androgynous looking depictions of the illustrator. The cheerleading squad is coached by the afore-mentioned Ms. Dupont, the androgynous guidance counselor.

The cheerleading squad consists of an unlikely cast of characters. (Pages 20-26) Tasha is depicted by the illustrator as very tall and fat. Dani has the common

androgynous look that is depicted throughout the book. Katie is another short, fat cheerleader. Edie is another overweight androgynous looking cheerleader who says, "I'm not a girl, and you all are. But I don't think I'm a boy either." (Page 114). Katrina is a tall, tough, androgynous cheerleader who "will fight you".

Bebe, the boy pretending to be a girl, is drawn exactly like a boy pretending to be a girl. As Bebe herself says, "All my pretty comes out of bottles. Under my clothes and makeup, I still look exactly the same. I can't start hormone therapy until I graduate. I'm just on puberty blockers. But I have to look perfect so people don't get grossed out." (Page 65) So, Bebe really is a boy, and his insane parents have allowed a quack doctor to prescribe puberty blockers. In a sane world, his parents and doctor would be in prison for life.

So, as you can guess, Annie and Bebe end up being a couple – the lesbian and the boy pretending to be a girl. Annie gets elected homecoming queen and her date is Bebe. Wrap your brain around that one. A lesbian, who is not supposed to be interested in boys, is having a relationship with a boy, just because he wears makeup, has long hair, and says he's a girl. And he still has all the boy parts – penis and testicles. So, is Annie really a lesbian or not. Why is she having a relationship with a person with a penis and testicles? At one point, Bebe asks Annie, "Did you want to kiss me last night because I'm not really a girl?" and Annie answers, "Bebe, I like girls. I like you because you're a girl." (Page 73) And Bebe says, "I don't know if I like boys or girls. But I think I like you." (Page 74) What utter nonsense this book is. And the author and illustrator don't even realize they have unwittingly created a satirical spoof of the trendy high-school "transgender" scene. This could possibly be explained by what the author and illustrator are. The author, Crystal Frasier, is a man pretending to be a woman. I'm not sure if he has chopped off his male body parts or not. The illustrator, Val Wise, is a woman pretending to be a man. Again, I'm not sure what self-mutilation she has done. She has a "husband", so assuming he is a man, what we have here is a woman (Val Wise) pretending to be a man, and married to a man. Can you keep track of that insanity?

This book is another one of the many "Young Adult" genre books that the mainstream publishers have been pumping out in the last 2 to 3 years to normalize the lie of "transgenderism" among high-school students. It is anti-science and anti-biology. It should be removed from the library.



Date: 7/11/23

Subject: Request for Reconsideration – *Cheer Up!: Love and Pompoms*

Dear Mark Egger,

This letter is a response to your Request for Reconsideration which was received April 24, 2023 regarding *Cheer Up!: Love and Pompoms* by Crystal Frasier.

Per Samuels Public Library's reconsideration procedures, members of the library staff read your thoughtful comments and have considered your concerns. During the review process, staff members read the book in its entirety and consulted the Samuels Public Library Collection Development Policy, the American Library Association's (ALA) Library Bill of Rights, the ALA Freedom to Read statement, the ALA Access to Library Resources and Service for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, book reviews from professional journals, and any honors the title received.

Cheer Up!: Love and Pompoms, is a graphic novel recommended by the publisher for ages 12 and up. Published in 2021, the book has received glowing reviews and multiple honors. A starred review from Booklist exclaims, "Readers will root for these girls as they navigate the waters of self-confidence, love, and cheerleading." Kirkus Reviews calls the book, "Wholesome and heartwarming." School Library Journal states, "Recommended for all teen collections." In addition to these positive reviews, the title has received several honors. It was a 2021 Cyblis Award winner. The Cyblis Awards, judged by book bloggers and reviewers, works to recognize books written for children and young adults that combine both the highest literary merit and popular appeal. *Cheer Up!* was also a 2021 Goodreads Choice Award finalist, was named a 2022 Top Ten Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers by Booklist, and was selected by New York Public Library as one of the 2021 Best Books for Teens. According to WorldCat, an online database of library catalogs, *Cheer Up!* is in the collections of at least 476 public libraries across the United States.

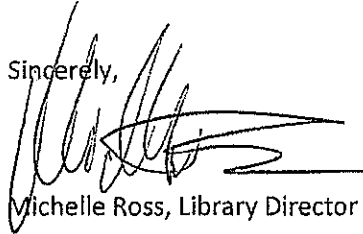
Samuels Public Library's Collection Development Policy states, "The Library's selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews..." The Collection Development Policy also states, "Flexibility and open-mindedness are exercised during the evaluation process. Materials are selected to present an array of opinions on a subject..." The Collection Development Policy also incorporates the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, which states, "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation."

After considering your request and reviewing the material, the staff review team has concluded that *Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms* meets the requirements of the Collection Development Policy and should be retained by Samuels Public Library in the Young Adult collection. You may appeal this decision in writing to the Samuels Public Library Board of Trustees. Parents who would prefer their child not check out Young Adult books are now able to select a Juvenile Limited Card for their minor child. A Juvenile Limited Card is restricted to physical Juvenile materials. This card type is not able to check out Young Adult, New Adult, or Adult materials and will not have access to Hoopla or Libby/Overdrive ebooks.

The Library is currently working through a backlog of reconsideration requests. I will keep you updated about your other reconsideration requests. Your patience is appreciated.

Thank you for your interest in the collections of Samuels Public Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Ross", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Ross, Library Director

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title: *Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms*

Date added: 12/23/21

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): 1 print, 1 Hoopla eBook

Number of circulations: 5

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes. It was positively reviewed by Booklist, Kirkus, School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, Foreward, and Shelf Awareness.

Has the title received any honors or awards? Yes. It was a 2021 Cyblis Award winner, a 2021 Goodreads Choice Award Finalist, named a 2021 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens, and was selected as a 2022 Top 10 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes.

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Yes. The Collection Development Policy states that flexibility and open-mindedness should be applied when choosing materials. It also states that selectors use industry reviews as a tool. The industry reviews were positive for this title and selectors were open-minded in their decision to obtain this title.

Member Recommendation and Comments:

Recommend that this title is retained in the Young Adult collection. The overall themes of identity, friendship, self-confidence, and teamwork are treated sensitively. While the characters are older teens (high school seniors), there is nothing sexually explicit in this book. The presence of LGBTQ+ characters does not make a book explicit and to move or remove a book based solely on the presence of LGBTQ+ characters would be discrimination and a violation of the Library Bill of Rights.

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title:

Cheer Up!: Love and Pompoms

Date added:

12/23/2021

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats):

Two.

One book and one e-book on Hoopla.

Number of circulations:

Six

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals?

Yes.

Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews and School Library Journal.

Has the title received any honors or awards?

Yes.

2021 Goodreads Choice Award Finalist

2021 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens

2021 Cybils Award Winner

2022 GLAAD Media Award Winner

2022 Lambda Literary Award Finalist

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely?

Yes.

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

This work meets many of the qualifications of the Collection Development Policy, community interest, and a balanced collection. Many subjects are addressed; cultural diversity, navigating peer relationships, sportsmanship, LGBTQ persons, and family support. The graphic novel format adds appeal to readers.

Member Recommendation and Comments:

Ages 12 to 17 years. This book is appropriate to remain in the Library's Young Adult Graphic Novels collection.

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title: *Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms* by Crystal Frasier

Date added: 12/23/2021

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): 2

- 1 Physical
- 1 Digital

Number of circulations: 4

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes

- Kirkus
- Publishers Weekly
- Booklist

Has the title received any honors or awards? Yes

- 2022 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Graphic Novel/Anthology category
- 2022 Lambda Literary Award Finalist
- 2021 Cybils Award Winner

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Yes the title *Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms* fits the guidelines of the library's collection development policy. As per the collection development policy, "The Library's selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews and statistics". This book was positively reviewed by multiple industry sources including Booklist, Publishers Weekly and Kirkus. The collection development policy also states that "Books and materials are selected according to intrinsic merit, subject treatment, community interest, and contribution to a balanced collection in the Library". In order to have a balanced collection subjects and interests of all community members need to be included such as the ones represented in this title.

Member Recommendation and Comments:

This member recommends retaining the title *Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms* in the Young Adult Graphic novel section. Removing the title would be in violation of the library of bill of rights which the library board endorses as per our collection policy. "Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval". There is no graphic sexual content and as per the Library Bill of Rights and the interpretation in regards to the access of library service by minors, "Libraries and their governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Libraries and their governing bodies shall ensure that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's—and only their

children's—access to library resources." This book is for ages ranged 14-18 and is appropriately placed in the young adult graphic novel section. It is the responsibility of the parent to limit their child's access to materials that have viewpoints they disagree with.

Michelle Ross

From: Michelle Ross
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 9:11 AM
To: Mark Egger
Subject: RE: Cheer Up appeal

Dear Mr. Egger,

I have forwarded your appeal, along with your original Request for Reconsideration to the Appeals Committee. I will let you know when the date and time of their meeting is set.

Here are the email contacts for the board, going forward Request for Reconsideration forms will be included in board packets when an appeal is to be voted on.

Melody	Hotek	mhotek@samuelslibrary.net
Lisa	Cobb	lcobb@samuelslibrary.net
Pete	Walker	pwalker@samuelslibrary.net
Katie	Carr	kcarr@samuelslibrary.net
Henry	Hobgood	hhobgood@samuelslibrary.net
Chris	Estes	cestes@samuelslibrary.net
Celeste	Brooks	cbrooks@samuelslibrary.net
Lori	Girard	lgirard@samuelslibrary.net
Madeline	Hickman	mhickman@samuelslibrary.net
Michelle	Leasure	mleasure@samuelslibrary.net
Lewis	Moten	lmoten@samuelslibrary.net
Daniel	Pond	dpond@samuelslibrary.net
Ed	Richards	erichards@samuelslibrary.net
Joan	Richardson	jrichardson@samuelslibrary.net
Michael	Whitlow	mwhitlow@samuelslibrary.net

I have reached out to the library's legal counsel regarding the incident with Stevi Hubbard. The library will follow their recommendation and I will reach back out to you when I receive their recommendation. We are also fully cooperating with the Sheriff's Department's investigation of the incident.

Sincerely,
Michelle Ross

From: Mark Egger <markmark56@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:15 PM
To: Michelle Ross <mross@samuelslibrary.net>
Subject: Cheer Up appeal

Dear Ms. Ross,

I have the following three items for you.

First, I am appealing the decision of your anonymous "management team" on my request for Cheer Up. Not a single one of my concerns with this book was answered or even addressed, The Library's process for requests is already pre-determined and is a sham. Please let me know when the Appeals Committee meeting will be held.

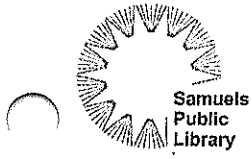
Second, please supply me with email contacts for the 10 members of the Board who are not on the Appeals Committee, so that I can send them my request forms BEFORE they come up for a vote on appeal, since whoever runs your Board meetings refuses to give the full Board ALL the information they need to vote on my appeal and in fact refuses to allow the patron making the request an opportunity to address the full Board on the appeal they are voting on. This is an extremely unfair way to conduct business and shows a complete lack of respect to the patrons of the Library.

Third, during the Board meeting on July 10, a woman by the name of Stevi Hubbard took a picture of me and superimposed it onto KKK robes, made copies in the Library, and along with two other people distributed it on cars in the Library's parking lot. These persons should be banned from the Library. This same woman, Stevi Hubbard, was allowed to interrupt the meeting about eight times with no consequences at all. Another woman was twice allowed to walk up and down the aisle yelling, with no consequences at all. But when I spoke out about the unfair way the appeals vote was being conducted (and I assumed this was allowed since Stevi Hubbard and the other woman were allowed to yell out), an employee of the Library (not the President of the Board) immediately sicced a Sheriff's Deputy on me. The discrimination by the Library against people who refuse to submit to the woke "transgender" agenda was so obvious in the way this meeting was run. Please let me know if Stevi Hubbard will be banned from the Library due to her racist behavior.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mark Egger



Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Appeals Committee

August 17, 2023
10am, Meeting Room A

In attendance: Lisa Cobb Chair, Celeste Brooks, Katie Carr, Melody Hotek, Joan Richardson

Ms. Cobb called the meeting to order at 10:05am. She welcomed everyone and thanked the Committee Members for their time. She then reviewed the Library's Mission and Historical Legacy in Warren County.

Ms. Cobb advised that the task of the Committee was to review 2 books: *Prince & Knight* and *Cheer Up! Love & Pom Poms* that were appealed after a Request for Reconsideration forms had been addressed by the staff.

Ms. Cobb began with the book *Prince & Knight* by Daniel Maack. Ms. Cobb asked the Committee Members if they had read the complete contents of the book under discussion and related reviews, notices and awards – Committee Members unanimously confirmed that they had done so. Ms. Cobb also queried the Committee Members about reading the book in question keeping in mind the Library Collection Development Policy, the Library Bill of rights, the Freedom to Read statement and the Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors and Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights. And, bearing in mind the outlined goals of the committee to take into account the majority and minority opinions within the scope of the library's selection policy, options to retain, relocate or remove the material and to make a recommendation to the full Board of Trustees meeting for a final vote. Committee Members unanimously replied that they had done so.

Prince & Knight was added to the collection in 2018. The Library owns 1 copy and it has been circulated 15 times to date. It has received positive reviews and has won awards. Ms. Cobb reminded everyone of the goals of the committee. One member noted that this is a picture book and has no sexual content. Another member noted that in the comments, a patron queried "Maybe something by Paul Zelinsky?" and wanted to bring to the committee's attention that "A quick search revealed we already have 20 books of his (some written by him, others he illustrated) within our collection" pointing to its "contribution to a balanced collection." The committee voted, agreeing that the book should remain in the collection in its current location in Juvenile Fiction. The Committee will make this recommendation to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting on September 11, 2023.

The second book in question for the Committee was *Cheer Up! Love & Pom Poms* which is a graphic novel by Crystal Frasier located in the Young Adult collection. The library owns 1 print copy added to the collection in 2021 and is available through the Hoopla app. It has been circulated 6 times to date. All Committee members indicated that they had read the entire contents of the book, along with reviews, notices and awards. Ms. Cobb asked Committee Members if they had reviewed the material in question keeping in mind the Collection Development Policy, and all other criteria previously mentioned. Ms. Cobb again outlined the goals previously mentioned. All replied yes to these queries. This book is for teens aged 14-18 and does not contain any explicit sexual content. The Committee unanimously recommended retaining this title in its current location, and advancing this recommendation to the Library Board of Trustees at the September meeting.

Ms. Cobb noted that the Request for Reconsideration process from receipt to appeal has been timely. She thanked the Committee for their time commitment then adjourned the meeting.

①

Ad hoc Com

Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Report

Title: *Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms*

Date added: December 23, 2021

Number of copies in the collection: 1 print, 1 Hoopla eBook

Number of circulations: 6

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes – The novel received positive reviews from:

- Booklist
- Goodreads
- Kirkus

Has the title received any honors or awards? Yes

- 2021 Cybils Award Winner
- Selected as a 2022 Top 10 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer. Yes. Samuels Public Library's Collection Development Policy states that library materials are selected to present an array of opinions." The Library Bill of Rights further states that libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical events. Library selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews and statistics as was done in the case of this book. The library affirms the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own Children's use of the library and its resources.

Member Recommendation and Comments: *Cheer Up: Love & Pompoms* by Crystal Frasier should remain in Samuels Public Library's collection in the young adult graphic novel collection.

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title:

Cheer Up! Love & Pom Poms by Crystal Frasier

Date added:

12/23/21

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats):

2

Number of circulations:

5

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals?

Yes, by numerous publications.

Has the title received any honors or awards?

2021 Goodreads Choice Award Finalist, 2021 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens and
2021 Cybils Award Winner
2022 GLAAD Media Award Winner and 2022 Lambda Literary Award Finalist

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely?

Yes.

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

The Collection Development Policy states; "The Library's selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews and statistics. Books and materials are selected according to intrinsic merit, subject treatment, community interest and contribution to a balanced collection in the Library". "Materials are selected to present an array of opinions on a subject and are judged as a whole rather than on isolated passages. This book fits within the guidelines.

Member Recommendation and Comments:

This graphic novel centers on friendship, teen angst, acceptance, sexual identity issues and reflects sports team interactions and the pressures of high school. There is no sexual content and so it is recommended that this book be retained in its current location in the Young Adult section. To remove the book solely on the presence of LGBT characters would be discrimination.

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Report**

Title: Cheer Up! Love and PomPoms by

Date added: December 2021

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): 1 print, 1 Hoopla ebook

Number of circulations: 5

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes—starred reviews in Booklist and Shelf Awareness, and also positively reviewed in School Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, and Foreword Reviews.

Has the title received any honors or awards?

- 2021 Goodreads Choice Award Finalist
- 2021 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens
- 2021 Cybils Award Winner
- 2022 GLAAD Media Award Winner
- 2022 Lambda Literary Award Finalist

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library’s Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Yes. The policy states “Materials are selected to present an array of opinions on a subject.” In addition, the policy also states, that the collection should reflect “a multitude of ideas, and that materials are available in diverse media formats, either fiction or nonfiction.”

Recommendation and Comments:

We must keep in mind that whether we agree with their lifestyle and choices or not, LGBTQIA+ people do exist, and they are part of our community.

In an effort to address the complainant’s concerns about the “lie of transgenderism,” I looked into a bit of the science. My own conclusion is that we are, as a society, struggling to understand this topic, and it is unfortunately being politicized. It seems labels, traditions, and societal norms are colliding. I do not pretend to have the answers. I know, however, that there are many people in pain, and that only by open, honest, caring conversations can we come to understand each other and bring the truth to light. Rather than causing a young person to become transgender, isn’t it possible that this book might embolden them to speak with trusted adults (hopefully their parents)? I would hope that their parents would respond in love and encourage them to be the person they were created to be. This most certainly should be a family discussion. It is not the library’s place to make the decision about right and wrong in this instance. It is the library’s job to provide a variety of opinions, information, and insight to enable people to gain insight into themselves and empathy for each other.

4

Ad Hoc Comm

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title: *Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms*

Date added: 12/23/21

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats):

One print book and one e-book on Hoopla.

Number of circulations: 5

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals?

Yes, by Kirkus, Publishers Weekly, and Booklist.

Has the title received any honors or awards?

2021 Goodreads Choice Award Finalist

2021 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens

2021 Cybils Award Winner

2022 GLAAD Media Award Winner

2022 Lambda Literary Award Finalist

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide justification for your answer.

Yes, *Cheer Up* fits the guidelines of the Library's Development Policy. Including this book contributes to a balanced collection that "reflects a multitude of ideas." The policy states that "The Library's selectors choose materials for a wide range of interests using industry reviews and statistics. Books and materials are selected according to intrinsic merit, subject treatment, community interest, and contribution to a balanced collection in the Library...materials should not be excluded because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." It is the responsibility of the parent to limit their child's access to materials that have viewpoints they disagree with.

Member Recommendation and Comments: Content related to LGBTQ viewpoints does not provide justification for removing a book from the collection. *Cheer Up: Love and Pom Poms* is recommended for ages ranging from 14-18 and does not contain any explicit sexual content. Therefore, it is appropriately placed in the young adult graphic novel section.

5

Ad Hoc Com

**Request for Reconsideration
Reconsideration Committee Individual Reports**

Title: Cheer Up!: Love and Pompoms

Date added: 12/31/2021

Number of copies in the collection (include all formats): 1 physical and 1 digital

Number of circulations:

Has the title been positively reviewed by professional journals? Yes, Starred Review by Kirkus Reviews; Starred Review by Booklist; Starred Review by Publishers Weekly

Has the title received any honors or awards? Yes: 2021 Goodreads Choice Award Finalist, 2021 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens, 2021 Cybils Award Winner, 2022 GLAAD Media Award Winner, 2022 Lambda Literary Award Finalist, and was selected as a 2022 Top 10 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.

Did you read/view/listen to the title entirely? Yes

Does the title fit the guidelines of the Library's Collection Development Policy? Please provide any justification for your answer. Yes this title does reflect the guidelines for the Library's Collection Development Policy by providing a "collection [that] reflects a multitude of ideas, and that materials are available in diverse media formats, either fiction or nonfiction."

Member Recommendation and Comments: I think Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms should remain in the Samuels Public Library collection in its current location. This is a sweet graphic novel that highlights the complexities of high school experiences for teenagers as well as their parents and teachers. It shows the difficulties of being yourself while trying to fit in. There are a variety of characters reflected in the pages as in a true high school experience. There is no sexual content.