



2/11/2020

Dear Members of the School Committee of Ludlow Massachusetts:

I hope this letter reaches you before you have discussed policy statement IJLAA - RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, adopted May 23rd, 2017 and the temporary waiver of certain provisions of that policy statement which were voted in on January 28th in open session.

The Massachusetts Library Association Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibilities Committee views with concern deviations from established policy which were voted in at the meeting on January 28th, and also views with concern the description of past practice at odds with that policy statement.

While we are not experts in Massachusetts Public Meeting Law, and can't comment on whether it was legal for the School Committee to do so, criticism from a few constituents does not comprise an "exigent circumstance". We maintain that it was improper and capricious that the School Committee chose to vote to even temporarily waive their adopted policy without announcement to the public beforehand.

It was mentioned in open session on January 28th that the principal of the Baird Middle School had been in the practice of removing books from the library collection prior to any final review by a reconsideration committee. No details were given about when exactly in the past that had been the practice, but we sincerely hope it ceased when the School Committee adopted policy statement IJLAA - RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.

We respect the rights of members of the community to object to educational materials and to seek their reconsideration and removal through duly established processes and procedures, and we hope that these well-founded policies will always remain fully in force in Ludlow.

Respectfully,

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On behalf of the Massachusetts Library Association Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibilities Committee