

2021 – 2022 NJLA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2021

Attendees: Peter Coyle (Chair), Jen Fitzgerald, Richard Kearney, Kiersten Paine, Kate McGivern, David Sastre, Judith Pissano

Meeting frequency: Peter suggested a monthly meeting; Thursday afternoons work well.

Old Business:

- Training front line staff/ patron privacy – Judith will work on a one-page document for review.
- Self-censorship: discussion regarding library staff choosing to exclude certain titles.
- #Metoo author issues (Art vs. Artist): Issues around choosing authors. Richard along w/ALA team is working on a FAQ that will be added to the ALA website. We could use this as our guide.
- Trademark (**Choose Your Own Adventure**): Jen brought this to the team. Library wanted to use this title for programming; commonly used phrase, should not trademarked. After further investigation, discovered that **Choose Your Own Adventure** is trademarked and libraries and staff should select a different title for programming. Respect intellectual rights of individuals. Trademark and copyright understanding possible program idea.
- Collection Development tools, gaps, etc.: Are the policies in line with Equity, Diversity and Inclusion? Hard to find titles in other languages and B&T has very limited supply.
- ALA Radical Empathy: Information on ALA website.

Programs: have until the end of November to submit conference proposals. Understanding trademark and copyright a possible program idea.

NJLA Policy Statements on Intellectual Freedom: needs to be looked at closely. Information is from 2019. Kate volunteered to start and will share a google doc with team.

New Business:

- Martha Hickson school librarian reached out to Peter. During a school board meeting, Martha's name was called out by an angry parent regarding her Banned Book display with the titles **Lawn Boy** and **Gender Queer**.
 - Looking for NJLA to issue a statement in support of the integrity and professionalism of school libraries and school librarians.

- All agreed it is more appropriate for NJASL to issue the statement. If further support is needed, NJLA Intellectual Committee will do so.
- Similar incidents across the country were mentioned.

Other items: Kate mentioned the Meeting Room policy that was started in 2019. Would like us to complete this open item. Peter will look through his notes for any information pertaining to this topic to share so we can complete the task.