

Date: September 15, 2022  
To: ImagineIF Libraries Board of Trustees  
From: ImagineIF Libraries Review Committee

ImagineIF Board of Trustees:

In September 2022, a resident completed a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form, requesting that the library remove the book Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness by Anastasia Higginbotham from our holdings.

The complainant is:

- Michele Taylor

Upon receipt of the complaint, Library Director Ashley Cummins assembled a committee of four professional librarians to read the book in question, and judge the application of the library's Collection Development Policy on that book.

After carefully considering the work as a whole, the committee unanimously agrees that the book fits ImagineIF Library's collection, and should remain available to the people of Flathead County in the Juvenile Nonfiction Collection, where it has been cataloged since it was acquired in 2019. This memo is intended to detail the committee's consideration of the title, and explain the reasoning behind this recommendation.

First, the title fulfills all of the Selection Criteria laid out in the library's Collection Development Policy. The committee would like to note that the Collection Development Policy does not require that an item meet all of the criteria listed below, nor does meeting any of these criteria necessarily require the library to select an item. The selection criteria included in the policy are:

- Customer demand and interest
- Critical reviews
- Presentation and readability
- To provide alternative or opposing perspective on a topic or issue
- Author's reputation and significance as a writer
- Reputation and standing of the publisher
- Local or national significance
- Availability of the material or information elsewhere
- Quality of the physical format
- Reasonable cost
- Avoidance of any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct that is or appears to be a minor

Second, as part of the library's collection, this and all other titles are protected by the policy's statements on Censorship and Selection, which states that the library's collections should represent the needs and interests of a diverse population, and therefore may contain materials that individuals may find unacceptable or disturbing.

The Censorship and Selection section of the Collection Development Policy further states that:

ImagineIF Libraries holds censorship to be a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to personally reject materials of which he or she does not approve, he or she may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others.

For this reason, selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that materials may be accessible to minors. Cataloging and classification should in no way represent a value judgement of the materials and as such items are not labeled to show approval or disapproval, nor to subjectively identify certain philosophies. No items are sequestered except to protect them from damage or theft.

ImagineIF Libraries does not act In Loco Parentis, and as such, responsibility for materials selected and read by children and adolescents rests with their parent or legal guardians.

The Library Board of Trustees acknowledges that occasional objections to resources will be made despite the care taken and the procedures followed in their selection. The Library Board and library staff are prepared to defend the principles of freedom to read and access information. Objections to particular language or point of view of material cannot be used as justification for the exclusion of materials.

Therefore, based on a review of the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form, a review of the work as a whole, and the application of the Library's Collection Development Policy, the review committee unanimously recommends that Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness by Anastasia Higginbotham remain available to interested users of Flathead County. The committee also reiterates that professional staff assistance is available to help any library user navigate the library's collection and find materials that suit their interests.