



Drag Queen Story Hour

1 message

Emily Burkland <emily@communityartgarden.com>
To: whitinglibrary1@gmail.com

Thu, May 19, 2022 at 8:52 AM

To the Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my support for the Drag Queen Story Hour event. This sort of inclusive and diverse programming is what I want to see happening in my town and especially through the library. So often we discount the power of children's programming to make a big change. We are fundamentally changing the future when we can give children the lens to see the world as a diverse and inclusive for all people. This starts with making pride month a celebration and this includes things like drag queen story hour, parades, and fostering LGBTQIA safe spaces.

We frequented the library when my child was little always bringing home stacks of books. It's a small library but there is a sweet community within. I have been encouraged and drawn in again to the Whiting Library under the directorship of Deirdre Doran and Carrie King. I ask that you trust their professional judgment and support their work in creating a safe space where young readers can find a safe space to discover the diverse world outside of Chester and give them a window into what is possible when we have unbiased knowledge.

As a business owner with a stake in providing inclusive and safe spaces for all children in my community I support our library staff and ask that the individual(s) who caused this rift between Deirdre Doran and the library be held accountable. It is time for the resignation forced or voluntary of Robert Nied. He has demonstrated that he lacks the ability to conduct himself in a way befitting the best interests of the library and our community. There is a large group of Chester residents supporting Doran's choices and we stand with both of our library directors here. I implore you to make this choice today to remove Robert Nied with a vote of no confidence if he will not voluntarily step down. He has done extensive damage to our community library in his stay. Let's hope that his removal will be enough to encourage Deirdre Doran to resume her position.

Lastly why are there meetings happening off the public record? I want to see that the meeting minutes and recordings be released to the public for anything happening with Whiting Library.

Thank you,
Emily Burkland

Emily Burkland
Community Art Garden
[287 Main Street, Chester, Vermont](https://www.communityartgarden.com)
www.communityartgarden.com
(802)289-3071



Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Drag Queen Story Hour

1 message

Rachel Anderson <rlegace@gmail.com>
To: whitinglibrary1@gmail.com

Thu, May 19, 2022 at 8:18 AM

I was appalled to read in the Telegraph the other day about Drag Queen Story Hour being censored and the library director putting in her resignation. I grew up in Vermont and have recently moved back from the Midwest to escape some of the backward thinking and hate that is rampant throughout our country. I thought Vermont was more progressive than that. I'd expect this type of story out there, but not here.

As a parent to a young child who has recently started asking questions that pertain to gender identity, I look forward to programs like Drag Queen Story Hour. It's about showing our kids, that they matter, that they are in the stories! Any arguments saying that it's sexual or it's programming, are invalid. Our kids have feelings, we are doing nothing more than giving our children the words needed to express themselves.

Gender identity, drag, sexual orientation are not something new. Throughout history there have been people that don't fall into what is considered patriarchal society's rigid adherence to the gender binary. When will we be civilized enough to accept everyone, regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation? We start today, we start in Chester. We put on Drag Story Hour.

Thank you for your time.
Rachel



Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Drag Queen Storyhour

1 message

meg minehan <mminehan5@gmail.com>
To: whitinglibrary1@gmail.com

Wed, May 18, 2022 at 11:42 AM

To the Board of Trustees of the Whiting Library:

I am writing to express my support for the Drag Queen Story Hour event. One of the biggest challenges I've faced as a parent and educator living in rural Vermont is finding ways to access enriching and age appropriate programming which opens minds and hearts. When my children reached school age, we joined the Springfield Library to access their wide collection and variety of onsite programming. The monthly book Golden Dome Book Clubs were a formative aspect of my kids' education. I am grateful they had access to the diverse literature, group discussions, and mentors who helped open their hearts and minds to become more compassionate humans. I am so impressed by the programming I've seen advertised at the Whiting Library these past several months under the leadership of Deidre Doran and Carrie King. Please trust their professional judgement and support their work in creating a safe space where young readers can celebrate kindness, diversity, and inclusion.

Thanks,
Meg Minehan
Andover, Vermont



Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Please forward to Board of Trustees

1 message

Bob Behr <bobbehr@hotmail.com>
To: Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Thu, May 19, 2022 at 6:58 AM

To: Members of the Whiting Library Board of Trustees

I am a regular library user and a financial contributor to the library. The library and its staff are an important part of my life. It is my belief that all decisions about library acquisitions and public programming should be entrusted to the staff.

Robert Behr
Andover

public record

2 messages

Brett Mastrangelo <brettm335@gmail.com>
To: whitinglibrary1@gmail.com

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 7:55 PM

As a Chester resident please add my email to the public record.

Library Journal's 2019 Librarian of the Year, Skye Patrick, said, "Libraries are not about books, they're about people". Additionally, Patrick said, "Equity means different things for different people".

As a member of a community, I believe individuals should be welcome and feel welcome within a public space, regardless of whether I agree with or share their values. A library is about learning, which includes learning about diversity, inclusion, and tolerance. As individuals that chair a public entity, I hope you believe this too.

Thank you,
Brett Mastrangelo

Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 8:43 PM

To: carolyn frisa <carolyn.frisa@gmail.com>, Donna McNeill-Hudkins <dmcneill.hudkins@gmail.com>, Ed Grossman <edgrossman@hotmail.com>, Lyza Gardner <lyza@lyza.com>, poston <poston@vermontel.net>, Robert Nied <robertnied2019@gmail.com>, Rosamund Conroy <rosamundtconroy@gmail.com>

Public comment

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Deirdre Doran
Director
Whiting Library
Chester, VT 05143
www.whitinglibrary.org
802-875-2277



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Question for Trustees

3 messages

Thomas Simmons <milburncreek@ymail.com>
To: Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 8:13 PM

I would like this question read into the minutes, as well as the answers.

Were any of you contacted by ANY Town Official, in any way - phone, email, in person, or otherwise - prior to your decision to pause the Drag Queen Story program, and prior to the decision to accepting the Director's resignation, in relation to either issue?

Thank you
Thom Simmons

Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 4:29 PM

To: Robert Nied <robertnied2019@gmail.com>, Ed Grossman <edgrossman@hotmail.com>, poston <poston@vermontel.net>, carolyn frisa <carolyn.frisa@gmail.com>, Donna McNeill-Hudkins <dmcneill.hudkins@gmail.com>, Lyza Gardner <lyza@lyza.com>, Rosamund Conroy <rosamundtconroy@gmail.com>, Carrie King <whitinglibrary3@gmail.com>

Forwarding to the Trustees a public records request for information from a Chester resident. Please see the message forwarded below.

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Deirdre Doran
Director
Whiting Library
Chester, VT 05143
www.whitinglibrary.org
802-875-2277



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Robert Nied <robertnied2019@gmail.com>
To: Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:36 PM

Thom:

Would you like to attend the next scheduled meeting of the Whiting Library Board of Trustees on June 14th and make your comment in person or would you like it to be read in your absence?

Robert Nied/Chair
Whiting Library Board of Trustees

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Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Thanks and Appreciation!

2 messages

Frank Kelley CA FAC <frank.kelley@trsu.org>

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 9:36 PM

To: Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>, Carrie at Whiting Library <whitinglibrary3@gmail.com>

Hi Whiting Library!

Thanks so much for all that you do for our community. Your impact is not always visible yet is significant.

There are students from our elementary school who regularly access the library for a quiet space, homework support, summer book groups, and just books. In addition, students are doing community service at the Library, which is a huge help for our students. Thank you so much.

Green Up Day is another area where the Carrie, Deirdre, and the Whiting Library have taken a huge step forward. In many ways, the Chester, VT Green Up Day, is turning into a green up event and a garden starting event! What a gift for our community members! What an effort put forth by the Whiting Library staff!

Lastly, the Whiting Library has been adding many of the "Under the Golden Dome" books each summer. These books, selected by VT librarians, offer middle grades students the best of the latest fiction and nonfiction. This is exactly how libraries stay relevant in the digital age.

I have a library card, I live in town, I teach in town, I am the Green Up Day coordinator, and I wholeheartedly thank the staff of the Whiting Library for all their efforts. Our community thrives because of you!

Best wishes,
FK

--

Frank Kelley M.Ed., C.A.G.S. (he/ him)
Chester - Andover Elementary School
[72 Main Street](#)
[Chester, VT 05143](#)
802-875-2108 x6862

Frank Kelley CA FAC <frank.kelley@trsu.org>

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 10:00 PM

To: Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>, Carrie at Whiting Library <whitinglibrary3@gmail.com>

I speak as a community member. Feel free to share comments. Please check with me before sharing on social media.

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To the Board of Trustees

2 messages

Aleda Bliss <aleda.bliss@gmail.com>
To: whitinglibrary1@gmail.com

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 4:37 PM

(Please forward to all members of the Board of Trustees and ensure that this letter is read into the official record of the May 13th Special Meeting)

To the Board of Trustees of the Whiting Library,

I am writing to express my upmost support for the Drag Queen Story Hour event on June 4th.

As a patron of the Whiting Library since early childhood, this is exactly the kind of programing that I am thrilled to see, and feel embodies the spirit of what libraries are actually *for*.

Libraries are free public spaces, where EVERYONE, irregardless of ANY demarcations with which we categorize people (i.e. financial status, race, sexual and gender identity, etc.) are welcome.

Libraries, and the books within them, are portals to landscapes perhaps beyond our immediate surroundings; they invite us to engage with an infinite array of lives, some of which may be easily relatable to us, and some of which may challenge, stretch, and hopefully grow us.

I am thrilled that, via this programming, the Whiting Library is continuing to grow and create safe spaces that encourage imagination, self-expression and the knowledge that we are ALL worthy of love, care and respect.

In Trust,
Aleda Bliss

Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 8:42 PM

To: carolyn frisa <carolyn.frisa@gmail.com>, Donna McNeill-Hudkins <dmcneill.hudkins@gmail.com>, Ed Grossman <edgrossman@hotmail.com>, Lyza Gardner <lyza@lyza.com>, poston <poston@vermontel.net>, Robert Nied <robertnied2019@gmail.com>, Rosamund Conroy <rosamundtconroy@gmail.com>

Public Comment

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Deirdre Doran
Director
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Comments for 5/13/22 Board of Trustees Meeting

2 messages

Marni Willms <marniwillms@gmail.com>

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 8:10 PM

To: "whitinglibrary1@gmail.com" <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Please read during the public comments section of the 5/13/22 Board of Trustees Meeting:

We are writing to express our disappointment in the reports that we have heard about the supposed controversy surrounding the upcoming summer programming. We sincerely thought that in the year 2022 in the state of Vermont we would be so far beyond this form of posturing and discrimination against minority groups that it would be a non-issue.

The fact that Deirdre Doran felt compelled to resign over this is a sad reflection of the non-supportive leadership of the Board of Trustees. There are specific policies in place to protect personnel from bullying, improper biased judgment, and overall siloed decision making on behalf of a board member. This is a community program. We live in a community that values diversity and equality for all. It is absolutely unnecessary to create an environment that feels discriminatory.

Our Youth Services Librarian, Carrie King, is a long time, active member of our community. We feel confident that the bulk of parents who bring their children into the youth section of our library are thrilled with her work and the diversity of programming she has spearheaded. Carrie has a long history of community involvement that promotes inclusion and a safe space for all. We have no doubt that this feels like a punch in the gut to this woman who has worked so hard to create a warm, inviting space for the children of our community.

For heavens sake, what is the problem with using the term 'drag queens' along with the promotion of this programming? We know that this reference was removed from your website and social media, which is appalling. If you feel that this is such a big issue, maybe this should be discussed on a bigger platform--rather than leaving the public waiting for 3 hours at the regular meeting and then calling for a special meeting for which "the volume of business" dictates that "public comment will be taken as time and a quorum permit."

We spent a year in Brunswick, GA, a very conservative community on the coast of Georgia, in 2016. Even this small community hosted a drag queen story hour at their beloved library, and was very public about it. Can't we in little Chester, VT, show that we are just as diverse, supportive, and inclusive of all our community members? Please do the right thing.

Marni Willms and Rebecca Brown

Chester, VT

Whiting Library <whitinglibrary1@gmail.com>

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 8:44 PM

To: carolyn frisa <carolyn.frisa@gmail.com>, Donna McNeill-Hudkins <dmcneill.hudkins@gmail.com>, Ed Grossman <edgrossman@hotmail.com>, Lyza Gardner <lyza@lyza.com>, poston <poston@vermontel.net>, Robert Nied <robertnied2019@gmail.com>, Rosamund Conroy <rosamundtconroy@gmail.com>

Public comment

[Quoted text hidden]

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