



Central Bucks Reconsideration Committee Report

Per Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 109.2, the Reconsideration Committee met to discuss a challenged library work. All committee members read the work in its entirety, as well as the policy and administrative regulation prior to reconsideration, as delineated below.

Role	Read Book in Entirety	Read Policy and AR 109.2	Read Submitted Challenge Form
Library Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional Educator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional Educator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional Educator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Challenged Material:

The Reconsideration Committee reviewed the request for reconsideration of the following library material:

Title: Beyond Magenta

Author: Susan Kuklin

Summary of Concerns: The 'Request to Reconsider Library Materials' form was not available for review. Administration verbally expressed a concern regarding sexually explicit content.

Literary Merit:

The Reconsideration Committee evaluated the literary merit of the challenged work. The findings regarding the work's literary merit are below:

☑ Literary Awards and Honors:

- **2015 International Literacy Association's Notable Book for a Global Society**
- **2015 Flora Stieglitz Straus Award for Distinguished Nonfiction for Young People**
- **2015 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People**
- **2015 Stonewall Honor Book**
- **2015 ALA Rainbow Project Book List**
- **2015 Lambda Literary Award for LGBT Young Adult Literature Finalist**
- **Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) Starred**
- **Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' (CYBIL) Literary Award for LGBT YA Literature (Finalist)**
- **Booklist Editor's Choice: Books for Youth**

☑ Professional Literary Reviews:

Booklist Starred (February 1, 2014 Vol. 110, No. 11)

Grades 7-12. Kuklin's book profiles six transgender teens in both their own words and the author's excellent photographs. The result is a strikingly in-depth examination of the sometimes clinical complexities of being transgender, even as Kuklin's empathy-inducing pictures put a human face on the experience. The profiles are evenly divided between FTM (female to male) and MTF (male to female) teens. Also represented are a variety of races and ethnicities, and included are one teen who is intersex and another who regards themselves as pansexual (several of the teens choose to identify themselves with the gender-neutral pronouns they, them, and their). Though their experiences differ, the teens often stress that, as Kuklin puts it, "Gender is one variable in a person's identity, and sexual orientation is another variable. The two are not connected." Similarly, Kuklin makes clear that, despite the popular misconception, all trans teens are not gay. Further information is contained in an appended interview with Dr. Manel Silva, clinical director of the HOTT (Health Outreach to Teens) program at the New York City-based Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, which has served the needs of several of the profiled teens. Kuklin's important new book brings welcome clarity to a subject that has often been obscure and gives faces—literally and metaphorically—to a segment of the teen population that has too long been invisible. Speaking with equal impact to both the reader's heart and mind, *Beyond Magenta* is highly recommended.

Literary Merit:

The Reconsideration Committee evaluated the literary merit of the challenged work. The findings regarding the work's literary merit are below:

☑ Professional Literary Reviews:

Publishers Weekly (November 18, 2013)

In a sorely needed resource for teens and, frankly, many adults, author/photographer Kuklin shares first-person narratives from six transgender teens, drawn from interviews she conducted and shaped with input from her subjects. The six "chapters" read like personal histories, with Kuklin interjecting occasional context and helping bridge jumps in time. Readers will gain a real understanding of gender as a spectrum and a societal construct, and of the challenges that even the most well-adjusted, well-supported transgender teens face, from mockery by peers and adults alike to feelings of isolation and discomfort in their own bodies. When readers meet New York City teenager Christina, she has gotten into a knock-down fight on the subway with two girls who were making fun of her; although Kuklin's color and b&w portraits appear throughout, 19-year-old Mariah requests no photographs of her be used, confessing, "I'm not ready for people to see me." While Kuklin's subjects are candid about the difficulties of coming out as transgender to family and friends and the patience that transitioning often requires, their honest, humorous, and painful remarks about their relationships with gender are often downright revelatory. "Because I'm perceived as male, I get male privileges. It weirds me out a little bit," says Cameron, whose PGP (preferred gender pronoun) is the plural "they." Nat, who also prefers "they," is relieved when diagnosed as intersex. "It proved what I had been feeling all along. I was not only emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually both sexes; I was physically both sexes, too. This is who I am." A q&a section, author notes, glossary, and print and online resources close out the book. But its chief value isn't just in the stories it reveals but in the way Kuklin captures these teenagers not as idealized exemplars of what it "means" to be transgender but as full, complex, and imperfect human beings. As Kuklin writes, "My subjects' willingness to brave bullying and condemnation in order to reveal their individual selves makes it impossible to be nothing less than awestruck." She isn't wrong. Ages 14-up.

Policy and Administrative Regulation 109.2

In accordance with Policy 109.2, the reconsideration committee evaluated whether any excerpts within the work included prohibited content, as delineated by the policy.

Elementary School Library Materials: N/A

- Do any excerpts contain visual or visually implied depictions of sexual acts or simulations of such acts?
 Yes No
- Do any excerpts contain explicit or implied written descriptions of sexual acts?
 Yes No
- Do any excerpts contain visual depictions of nudity or implied nudity?
 Yes No

Middle School Library Materials:

- Do any excerpts contain visual or visually implied depictions of sexual acts or simulations of such acts?
 Yes No
- Do any excerpts contain explicit written descriptions of sexual acts?
 Yes No
- Do any excerpts contain visual depictions of nudity - not including materials with diagrams about anatomy for science or content relating to classical works of art?
 Yes No

High School Library Materials:

- Do any excerpts contain visual or visually implied depictions of sexual acts or simulations of such acts?
 Yes No
- Do any excerpts contain explicit written descriptions of sexual acts?
 Yes No



Reconsideration Committee Decision:

Based on the reconsideration of the literary work as outlined in this report, the Reconsideration Committee has rendered the following decision:

Reconsideration Outcome:

- The literary work will remain on the library shelves and no change to its inclusion in any library will be made.
- The literary work will be moved to another level (elementary, middle, or high school) as checked below:
 - Elementary School
 - Middle School
 - High School
- The literary work will be removed from all school libraries in the Central Bucks School District. Per Policy 109.2, a book of the same genre will be purchased for the collection as a result of the removal of this literary work.

Reconsideration Vote:

- All members of the Reconsideration Committee contributed input pertaining to the reconsideration of the literary work in this report.
- All members of the Reconsideration Committee voted on the outcome of the decision based on the findings of the report. The decision is unanimous.