

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
Community Meeting Room  
10 Bird Street, Foxborough, MA 02035  
Tuesday, June 13, 2023  
7:00 P.M.**

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**Members Present:** Chair Kevin Penders, Vice Chair Christine Igo Freeman, Clerk Jennifer Ooi, and Collin Earnst.

**Not Present:** Anisul Chowdhury and Joyce Parlapiano

**Also Present:** Library Director Libby O'Neill, Children's Librarian Emma Brelsford, Teen Librarian Jennifer Huston, Friends Vice Chair Betsy Buckland, and residents Jim Devellis, Rev. Bill Dudley, and Heather Harding.

**Documentation:**

Meeting Minutes for Approval- May, 9, 2023

Reports- Professional Librarian Reports, Director's Report, Financial Reports May 2023

FY23 Y-T-D Book and AV Breakdown

Draft Tutoring Policy

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by K. Penders.

**Public Input:**

None

**Follow-up to Public Input Offered on May 9, 2023 and Clarification for Open Meeting Law Concern:**

In response to concerns and discussions with members of the public following the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Chair stated that he drafted and would read directly from a response to capture those discussions as they relate to the June 10<sup>th</sup> event and concerns relative to an Open Meeting Law violation as presented by J. Devellis. That prepared statement is appended to these minutes as part of the record of this meeting.

In response to the prepared comments, the Chair recognized J. Devellis who stated he had two concerns: (1) He presented to the Board on May 9, 2023 relative to the virtual program and expected a response quicker than 5 weeks later and (2) this program was set to run on Founders Day which he was unsure if that was intentional or not.

Devellis also spoke about his experiences presenting to Boards in the scope of his job and stated the subject matter to be discussed must be listed specifically not under a blanket heading. He feels the Board violated the OML on May 9, 2023 because the "Dishing Out Drag" program was discussed further down the agenda under the Director's Report. He also stated the June agenda now has bullet points under the Director's Report. K. Penders explained that past practice has been for the library director to discuss library programs under their director report, however, at the request of the Vice Chair, the Chair requested that the Director use more specific bullet points under the director's report, in a manner more consistent



with the Board of Selectmen's agenda for inclusion of items during the Town Manager's input. J. Devellis talked about curing the violation. K. Penders felt he provided a response to Devellis and met him in the middle. In response to the discussion between the Chair and J. Devellis, the Chair recognized H. Harding, who stated that to cure the violation, it should be stated there is a violation, it won't happen again, and then move on. The Chair noted that the intent of the prepared remarks was to do exactly what is being asked and stated there has been no formal charge of a violation. K. Penders stated there is an OML concern with the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. He acknowledged the minutes are reflective of the meeting and what transpired. K. Penders read the May 9<sup>th</sup> draft meeting minutes into the record, specifically, the headings and content contained within Public Input, Director's Report, and Correspondence. The Vice Chair then requested to note, on the record, that she believed the Board violated the OML accidentally and unintentionally. K. Penders said programming is further down the agenda and those who are here tonight are welcome to stay as it will be discussed tonight.

### **Program Updates:**

**Adult Services-** There will be a bingo challenge with the same timeline as the summer reading program and there will be prizes awarded. The Boyden writing group will continue through the summer. Tea and Talk will be changed to an outdoor walk to allow the Community Room to be used for summer storytime sessions. The library will be partnering with a group called PODS education which provides information about healthier ways of doing things, there will be a potting workshop with cactus and succulents, a candle making workshop, and drop-in tech help will continue. Carol Cohen will be doing another Eleanor Roosevelt event in August.

**Teen Services-** Jennifir said Founders Day was wonderful and thanked the Board for sponsoring the horse and carriage. There is a monthly Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting for thoughts, type of programming wanted, etc. Jennifir is also working on getting the teen book club up and running. There was a ventriloquist who came to Boyden and that was well attended. There will be a jazz and hip hop dance teacher, how to make sitcoms, a movie matinee, and another Escape Room in August.

**Children's Services-** The summer reading program begins June 26<sup>th</sup>. Beanstack is being used for this and prizes will be awarded. Also scheduled over the summer are special programs, performers, and Mike the Bubbleman (science of bubbles). There were 16 attendees of the new sensory playgroup. This playgroup started in May and fidgets, beanbag chairs, and sensory toys were purchased for it. A teacher will be coming in to speak about challenges of having an autistic child. There will be story times around Town (farmer's market, 3 story times at the Patriot Place, and the Booth Playground). There will be a police and fire story time too. Emma did school visits and reported most of the students from the elementary and Ahern schools have come in to get library cards.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

There was a motion by C. Earnst and seconded by C. Igo Freeman to approve the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes without changes. All were in favor and the motion was approved 4-0-0.

**Correspondence:** Per the Chair, several e-mails and correspondences were received by the Director and/or the Trustees direction regarding the June 10<sup>th</sup> "Dishing out Drag" Program. The Chair read into the record correspondences received from the public, specifically Amy Callahan, David Coffey, Kevin Butt, and Joe Pires, as well as the Library Director's/Board's responses to those correspondences (the copies of which have been provided and have been included in these minutes as part of the record). The Vice Chair also noted that she separately provided a response to the comments of K. Butt, which she read into the record at the meeting.



## **Friends' Report:**

Betsy Buckland the Vice President of the Friends was the rep for this meeting. Betsy said Founders Day was fun and she thanked the Trustees for sponsoring the horse and carriage. The Friends had a booth on the field. Some of the items purchased for the library of things were put out at Founders Day (more specifically the lawn games) for attendees to use. The May book sale was well attended and the Friends made over \$4K. Friends membership is now at 172 members. The Friends social was held at the library in the Community Room. A fall off-site social is now being planned. The Friends would like to use the social to continue to build membership and give everyone an opportunity to meet each other. The Teddy Bear picnic is July 20<sup>th</sup>. Former Friend member Diane Monahan passed away. The fall book sale set-up will be Nov 15<sup>th</sup> and sale will be Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Friends will not meet in the months of July and August. K. Penders will be the BOT member who will attend the Friends meeting scheduled for September 6, 2023.

## **Professional Staff Reports:**

Jennifir added a Tik Tok account. The Boyden staff who purchase materials did an amazing job spending their budget for FY23. Karen Dugan who works in our children's department was nominated for a Rodman award.

## **Financial Reports:**

Spending is on track and there is only \$714.00 left in the FY'23 operating budget. On that basis, the Director does not anticipate having any funds to revert to the Town at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

## **Director's Report:**

Library Operations- The order for the new phones was placed by Foxborough IT. There will not be any money to encumber to spend on the phones as was previously anticipated. Libby stated she will use some funds from the FY24 IT line item and potentially some state aid funds. The carpet replacement cost is \$25K and finance will be encumbering funds to pay for it.

## **Programs & Services-**

Dishing Out Drag- June 10<sup>th</sup> Program- From the Boyden Library, 8 participants registered and 6 actually attended. Overall there were 100 logged on. Jennifir logged in and informed Libby it was informational and educational. The program was face only and some of the costumes made by the drag queen were shown. Libby read some of the questions that were asked of the drag queen. Most of the questions were geared around demystifying what a drag queen does and why they got into this. This particular drag queen is a teacher by day and mostly focuses on the skit as cosplay with a comedic side of drag.

The Chair recognized J. Devellis, who commented that he did listen to it and agreed with the Director's representation of the program. J. Devellis would have liked to hear from the Boyden Library proactively to educate the public on the event, not other communities about it. Per Libby, the FAQ was developed and posted at the library the day after the event was posted.

K. Penders noted that the then Chair and Vice Chair were informed of the event by the Director just prior to the BOT Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The full Board, as noted in the May 9<sup>th</sup> minutes, were informed of the event at that meeting. K. Penders reiterated further that programs are not traditionally cleared with the Trustees other than the annual Speaker Series, for which a subcommittee of trustees participate in the planning of the event. There is no policy on programming, it's within the discretion of the Library Director. On a day-to-day basis the Trustees don't oversee the programming of the library, as that is within the purview of the Director.



The Chair then recognized Rev. Dudley, who commented his concern for children and not sexualizing them. He questioned where the guardrail is to ensure that Boyden will not put children patrons at risk for this to happen. K. Penders noted the program allowed for no direct contact, that all questions were provided through a moderator at the host library, and that there is no other programming scheduled on this topic. The Chair declined to respond to hypotheticals and responded only to facts pertaining to the event on June 10, 2023.

Personnel Updates- We are currently in the process of doing the yearly reviews.

**Trustee Sub-Committee Reports:** None

**New Business:**

**Staff Development Day-** September 18, 2023- Discussion and Vote to Close the Library from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

There was a motion to approve a Staff Development Day on September 18, 2023 and to close the library from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. by K. Penders and seconded by C. Earnst. The motion was approved 4-0-0.

**Tutoring Policy- Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve**

Tutoring Policy- Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve

Following a presentation by the Director and a brief discussion on the need to formalize a policy for use of the Library's facilities for non-affiliated third party tutors, there was a motion by C. Earnst to approve the Tutoring Policy, seconded by J. Ooi. The motion was approved 4-0-0.

**Animal/Service Animal Discussion**

The Director noted that a patron came into the library with a dog, and that the staff was unclear if we could ask if it was a service dog. As a general rule, animals of any kind are not permitted in the Library. Following a request for a recommendation from the Director, Town Counsel has weighed in and provided the following response:

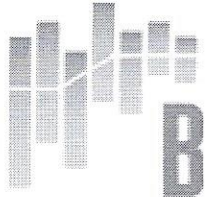
Pursuant to G.L. c. 272, §98A, persons with disabilities have the right to be accompanied by a service animal wherever the person is allowed to go, including all "places of public accommodation" within the Commonwealth.

An individual with a disability accompanied by a service animal may not be asked by staff to provide documentation of a disability, to answer questions regarding his or her disability, or to have the service animal demonstrate its work. However, when the individual's disability is not obvious, staff may ask the following two questions to determine whether an animal is a service animal:

1. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What task or service is the animal trained to perform?

The law requires staff to take the individual at their word.

The Director noted that based on this response, no further clarification from the Board is required at this time, and that the Boyden staff has also been advised of TC's response.



# Boyden Library

## **Old Business:**

### **Strategic Plan- Update:**

The third and last meeting is tomorrow, June 14, 2023 and Libby will be writing the plan as a result of these meetings and the survey results over the summer. She received 96 responses to the survey. Libby shared comments from the survey as follows:

1) the best things about the library are the staff and the facility and 2) what patrons want more of are parking and programming for all ages.

A motion was made by C. Earnst and seconded by C. Igo Freeman to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. All were in favor and the motion was approved 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Riccio



For this particular agenda item, some context and feedback is required. In an effort to better coordinate my thoughts, I have drafted a response, which I will plan to read directly from before entertaining any feedback or questions from the rest of the Board. Thank you in advance for your indulgence.

At our last meeting, on May 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Jim Devellis presented a series of questions relative to the Dishing Out Drag event held virtually in conjunction with the Rowley Public Library and others on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>. At the conclusion of Mr. Devellis' input, and following his note that he was not seeking for the Trustees to comment at that time, the Trustees did not take up his comments and questions as they were not on the agenda and therefore not appropriately noticed for the purposes of the meeting.

Following that public input portion of the meeting, and in accordance with the typical agenda as posted, the Trustees heard information twice more relevant to the Dishing Out Drag event. During a conversation that I had individually with Mr. Devellis last week, he questioned me on whether these communications were in violation of the Open Meeting Law. To address this issue, I will describe each for the record and will provide my comments as presented this evening to Pam to be appended to the minutes of this meeting for the record. I anticipate that the Director will be providing an update on the event itself as part of her report, which I look forward to hearing.

First, under correspondence, the portion of the meeting noticed for which we typically receive updates of communications received by the library from members of our Foxboro community, the Trustees heard from the Director of an in-person conversation between herself and Reverend Bill Dudley, who visited the library to voice his concerns with and disapproval of the Dishing Out Drag program and the library's participation in the same.

Second, under the Director's Report, the portion of the Trustees meetings during which we typically receive information from the Director relative to events and programming, we received details from the Director regarding the event itself, which was the first time that information regarding the event was provided to the full board.

In the opinion of this chair, the draft meeting minutes for consideration and adoption this evening by the Trustees this evening accurately capture the



tone and tenor of the conversations relative to Reverend Dudley's correspondence and relative to understanding the event itself as provided in the Directors Report. The Trustees did not discuss at any point in the course of the meeting Mr. Devellis' comments and questions, did not deliberate, vote, or otherwise take action on any previously unnoticed issues associated with the event itself, other than to request that in the future the Director notify the full board, to acknowledge citizen concerns as raised by Rev. Dudley.

The Board also discussed the nature of programming, generally, and reiterated the Library's role to meet its patrons where they are, and in so doing to strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation feels welcome in our library. Our material selection and programming should reflect this effort.

With respect to Mr. Devellis' specific questions as presented at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, I note the following:

1. The first question pertains to the Q&A sheet offered by the Rowley Public Library and whether the Library offered such a Q&A?
  - a. I will not opine on the content or intent of the Rowley Q&A, nor would it be appropriate for me to do so as it was not designed for use at our Library. However, in fact, upon review of the Rowley Q&A, the Boyden Library did develop and provided to requesting patrons a Q&A based on the Rowley feedback. A copy of this has been made available in the packet for tonight's meeting and has been provided to inquiring patrons when seeking further information.
  
2. The second question pertains to the use of tax dollars for the event.
  - a. While it would not, in my personal opinion, be inappropriate for an expenditure of this type from the Library for such a program, no tax dollars were used for the Dishing Out Drag program. Nor is or should that be the determining factor for if and when a program receives Library support. The Boyden Library was

invited to attend by the hosting libraries, Rowley, Haverhill, and Wilmington, as were other public libraries.

3. Third, Mr. Devellis notes that there is no age restriction for joining the session, and that information provided such as name and email address will be shared with the account owner. To clarify:
  - a. As a teen/young adult event, teens 13 to 18 were welcomed to join.
  - b. Emails used to register for this program were provided to the host library, who serves as moderator for the event. This is typical in a multi-group zoom event, so that reminders can be sent and so that the conversation can be facilitated.
  - c. Interested Parents/Guardians were certainly welcomed to use their email.
  - d. As a virtual program, the contact information is necessary to allow log in information to be made available to the interested participant.
  
4. Fourth and last, Mr. Devellis notes that he "could find a policy for using the public meeting rooms here in Boyden, but I could not see any policy on evaluation of the events through Zoom. How are the events approved and what is the vetting process with the Trustees?"
  - a. With the exception of one speaker series a year which the trustees are directly involved in putting together with the director and staff, Director and staff identify, review, and approve programming events, not the trustees. We review the outcome of programs generally as presented by the director, typically during the director's report or through a separate presentation from the head of children's services about summer programming, etc., to help promote where relevant, identify ideas for future programs, and to hear about outcomes and successes (turnout, feedback, etc).
  - b. With respect to a "program policy", the library currently does not have one for virtual or in person programs. The policy noted by Mr. Devellis is limited to a policy associated with private groups looking to use our available meeting space.



- c. However, Mr. Devellis' question does give rise to whether that is something that could/should be developed and discussed for adoption of something that would help to explain the parameters of in person and/or virtual programming, akin to collection development. On that basis, I have discussed with the Director and requested that she develop a policy for review, discussion, and approval by the Trustees at a future meeting, which will formalize the expectations for programming, in a manner that is consistent with ALA guidelines and the Library's role to meet its patrons where they are, and to establish a more formal process for adoption of programming and an appeals process per se that would accord more insight or oversight by the Trustees where appropriate.

Thank you again for your patience as I present these thoughts and comments, and thank you to Mr. Devellis for his questions and his willingness to await this response.

## Drag Queen Program – FAQ

**Q: What is the Dishing Out Drag Program?**

**A:** Dishing Out Drag with Giganta Smalls is a virtual program designed for teens between the ages of 13 and 18 who have an interest in the world of drag. Shows like Ru Paul's Drag Race have helped to give drag queens a platform and as a result, many teens have taken an interest. During this program, Giganta Smalls will present an inside view into the life of a drag queen (how she became interested in it, what the process of applying make-up and the costume is like, and how it has helped her become more confident).

**Q: Why is the Boyden Library partnering with other MA libraries to present Dishing Out Drag?**

**A:** Boyden Library provides programs and resources for the entire community. By offering this program, we can connect teens who have expressed an interest in drag queens in an age-appropriate way. As a community resource, the Boyden Library provides a wide choice of programs for individual library users and families and they select which programs feel right for them. You are welcome to explore our calendar for more activities that may interest you or your family. Parents/Caregivers of the teens who may wish to attend have a right to accompany their child in the virtual program.

**Q: Why should children learn about drag queens?**

**A:** Most children naturally explore gender identity and gender norms through imaginative play. A program like Dishing Out Drag teaches teens to follow whatever passions may interest them, while embracing gender diversity and expression both in themselves and in others. This education helps to curb bullying of LGBTQ kids and other children who may be perceived as different.

**Q: I don't approve of this program and do not want my tax dollars going to this.**

**A:** This particular program was not funded by the Boyden Library. The Rowley Public Library, Haverhill Public Library and Wilmington Memorial Library have invited other libraries to participate in this virtual program.

**Q: Why do kids love drag queens so much?**

**A:** Children and teens love to dress up and use their imaginations to create awesome looks too, and to express different sides of themselves. We see this a lot in teens that attend Comic Cons who may decide to dress up like their favorite character. Self-expression is very important to the social and emotional development of teens and children.

**Q: Kids are going to be in danger from pedophiles posing as drag queens if you run this program.**

**A:** Equating drag queens to pedophiles or groomers of children is a harmful stereotype that perpetuates homophobia and transphobia. For this particular Zoom program, cameras and microphones will be off for the teens, the chat will be closed, and all Q&A will be moderated by librarians. The teens will never have any direct contact with Giganta Smalls.

**Q: What agenda are you pushing?**

**A:** The goal of the Boyden Library is not to push any agenda. We aim to ensure that the library is a community place that is safe for all, regardless of gender identity, sexuality, race, religion, disability, or creed.

**Q: I'm still upset about this and I want to talk to someone.**

**A:** Okay, I understand. You can contact our Library Director, Libby, either via phone or email at: (508) 543-1245 or [oneill@sailsinc.org](mailto:oneill@sailsinc.org).



Re: Drag program

From: Kevin Butt (kevin.butt@ymail.com)

To: kfpenders@yahoo.com

Cc: freemanfam@comcast.net; jencoi@outlook.com; collin\_earnst@yahoo.com; joyceparlapiano@gmail.com; akcniaz@gmail.com; eoneill@sailsinc.org

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 10:13 AM EDT

Thank you.

Kevin Butt  
sent from my mobile device  
508.404.6145  
kevin.butt@ymail.com

On Jun 9, 2023, at 10:35 AM, kevin penders <kfpenders@yahoo.com> wrote:

*Mr. Butt,*

*Thank you for your interest and your feedback on the Boyden Library's programing. The staff and trustees strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation feels welcome in our library. Our material selection and programming is designed to reflect this effort.*

*Best,*

*Kevin Penders, Chair, Boyden Library Board of Trustees*

On Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 09:39:17 PM EDT, kevin.butt@ymail.com <kevin.butt@ymail.com> wrote:

Dear Board,

I am writing to the Board of Trustees of the Boyden Library to express my concern regarding the upcoming Dishing Out Drag program for ages 13-18 to be held via Zoom on Saturday June 10.

My primary concern is for children, and why we would choose to expose them to confusion and sexual content and innuendo that inherently comes with a drag queen performer. I understand the format with which this program will be conducted, (no direct conversation, etc.) which itself demonstrates some apprehension on the part of the organizers. He is an adult performer, and you have invited him into our public library program system to speak to children and teenagers, presumably to educate them on the life of a drag queen. What is it about a drag queen that our teenagers need to experience and learn that will help them flourish in their families and our community? The teen years are confusing and challenging as young people begin to develop their identity and worth. Overwhelming numbers of children and teenagers are experiencing some sort of mental health challenge. This program will not promote the health they want, boundaries that are necessary, and the love they need. And most of all, it will not offer any form of truth. I urge you to cancel the Boyden Library involvement in the program. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Kevin Butt

North Street, Foxboro

kevin.butt@ymail.com

Dear Amy,

Thank you for your interest and your feedback on our programming. The staff and Trustees of the Boyden Public Library strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation feels welcome in our library. Our material selection and programming reflect this effort.

Parents are more than welcome to attend this virtual program with their teens. I am attaching a Q&A sheet regarding this teen program that I hope will answer some of your questions.

Thank you,

Libby

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amy Callahan <callahanamy12@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 9:48 PM

Subject: Dishing Out Drag

To: eoneill@sailsinc.org <eoneill@sailsinc.org>

Hi Libby,

I am reaching out via email to voice my concern with the "Dishing Out Drag" by Giganta Smalls that is being virtually hosted by your library, the Boyden Library in Foxboro.

I am a Foxboro resident for the past 30ish years with two children in the school system and I really find a topic like this should be taught at home and is inappropriate without a parent or guardian's permission. Due to the nature of: the age range of minors, "teaching the children about drag life" and tips on costumes and makeup is again, something a parent should have the say on. Also to note, Giganta Smalls posted on her social media just a few days ago "our titties are bringing all the boys to the yard" Seriously??? That's what we are promoting to our young minds!

Why do we have to be involved in the 30 schools that chose to host this? Why not host an event like this with parents?

Thank you for time in reading this and I hope you're able to see everyone's viewpoints.

Amy Callahan



Re: Drag at the Boyden Library

From: Elisabeth O'Neill (eoneill@sailsinc.org)

To: coffeyd2016@hotmail.com

Bcc: kfpenders@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 at 11:41 AM EDT

Dear David,

Thank you for your interest and your feedback on our programming. The staff and Trustees of the Boyden Library strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation feels welcome in our library. Our material selection and programming reflect this effort.

To answer your concern: we started promoting this program in early May. Like all other programs offered at the Boyden Library, it was on our calendar of events page and the flyers were posted around the library.

I am attaching a Q&A sheet regarding this teen program that I hope will answer some of your other questions.

Thank you,

Libby

On Sun, Jun 11, 2023 at 2:48 PM David Coffey <coffeyd2016@hotmail.com> wrote:

Though you did not fund the program, you should have asked the people whether or not to include Boyden Library in this very questionable program. Do not do this again without informing the Citizens of Foxborough in plenty of time to answer "Yes" or "No" to making drag available to our children either on-line or at the Boyden Library. Reason should have told you to give announcements like this at least a month ahead. A few days is not enough time to inform those who need to be informed. Use integrity in making your decisions, not "WOKE" atheism, philosophy, psychology, and license without responsibility. Drag is not using Freedom with responsibility; it is license without responsibility. There is a difference. Thank you!

David H. Coffey

—  
Libby O'Neill  
Library Director  
Boyden Library  
10 Bird Street  
Foxborough, MA 02035



Dishing Out Drag Program FAQ - Boyden.docx  
13.5kB

Re: Confused Much?

From: Elisabeth O'Neill (eoneill@sailsinc.org)  
To: josephpires@gmail.com  
Cc: kharney@sailsinc.org; ebrelsford@sailsinc.org; jhuston@sailsinc.org  
Bcc: kfpenders@yahoo.com  
Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 at 11:37 AM EDT

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your interest and your feedback on our programming. The staff and Trustees of the Boyden Library strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation feels welcome in our library. Our material selection and programming reflect this effort.

For this Zoom program, the cameras and microphones were off for all participants eliminating any direct interactions. Questions were typed into the chat and reviewed by the moderators.

I am attaching a Q&A sheet regarding this teen program that I hope will answer some of your other questions.

Thank you,

Libby

On Sat, Jun 10, 2023 at 7:55 AM Joseph Pires <josephpires@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning Ladies,

I'm sad, upset and angry to hear you are allowing and promoting a man who is generally confessed about his state of mind influence and connect with a targeted audience of 13 year olds. I'm sure you all know the psychiatric impacts on children who are dealing with such an abrupt societal shift so I won't bore you with the studies, trials and details.

Here is my only question. Knowing that this man belongs to a demographic that has such a higher rate of pedophilia, sexual abuse and violence (this is irrefutable and documented). Has the library or town done a background check to make sure you're not connecting our children with a criminal?


I hope you get some great makeup and kink tips this evening. The Boyden library along with all it's staff will be a great resource for our kids in the future I'm sure.

Congratulations, you have made it to clown world status.

Joe

Libby O'Neill  
Library Director  
Boyden Library  
10 Bird Street  
Foxborough, MA 02035



 Dishing Out Drag Program FAQ - Boyden.docx  
13.5kB



CHRISTINE I. FREEMAN <freemanfam@comcast.net>

6/8/2023 9:27 PM

## Re: Drag program

To kevin.butt@ymail.com

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for your email regarding your concerns about the upcoming Dishing Out Drag program this Saturday, June 10th via Zoom. As a member of the Boyden Library Board of Trustees, my first question for you is have you contacted the Library Director with your concerns? The Library Director manages the library, the staff and daily operations of the Boyden Library.

I appreciate your sharing your concerns with myself and the rest of the Board of Trustees; however, the first person you should reach out to is the Library Director. The director's name and contact information is below:

- **Libby O'Neill, Director**  
(508) [543-1245](tel:543-1245)/[eoneill@sailsinc.org](mailto:eoneill@sailsinc.org)

I will share with you that you are not the first person that has contacted me with concerns regarding this particular program. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is next Tuesday evening, June 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Boyden Library. I realize the meeting is not until after the program has already taken place.

My suggestion is that you contact Libby O'Neill with your concerns before next Tuesday and you are also welcome to attend our meeting next Tuesday night if you are interested because we will be discussing the Dishing Out Drag program. Once again, I appreciate your taking the time to write down your concerns and sharing them with the Library Board of Trustees.

With sincere thanks,  
Christine I Freeman

On 06/07/2023 9:39 PM EDT [kevin.butt@ymail.com](mailto:kevin.butt@ymail.com) wrote:

Dear Board,

I am writing to the Board of Trustees of the Boyden Library to express my concern regarding the upcoming Dishing Out Drag program for ages 13-18 to be held via Zoom on Saturday June 10.

My primary concern is for children, and why we would choose to expose them to confusion and sexual content and innuendo that inherently comes with a drag queen performer. I understand the format with which this program will be conducted, (no direct conversation, etc.) which itself demonstrates some apprehension on the part of the organizers. He is an adult performer, and you have invited him into our public library program system to speak to children and teenagers, presumably to educate them on the life of a drag queen. What is it about a drag queen that our teenagers need to experience and learn that will help them flourish in their families and our community? The teen years are confusing and challenging as young people begin to develop their identity and worth. Overwhelming numbers of children and teenagers are experiencing some sort of mental health

challenge. This program will not promote the health they want, boundaries that are necessary, and the love they need. And most of all, it will not offer any form of truth. I urge you to cancel the Boyden Library involvement in the program. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Kevin Butt  
North Street, Foxboro  
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