

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
LIBRARY BOARD**

Karen Crandall – Chair - Big Lake
Chad Scott – Secretary - At Large 1
Mark Spohn - Willow

Julie Endle – Vice Chair - Sutton
Sally Pollen - Palmer
Martha Kincaid – At Large2

Laura Anderson - Wasilla
Cindy Redmond - Talkeetna
Vacant – Trapper Creek

Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

May 12th, 2026

Trapper Creek Public Library and Teams

1:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The Meeting on May 12th, 2026 was called to order at 1:07 PM by
Chairperson Karen Crandall at the Trapper Creek Library.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A. Present were Karen Crandall, Julie Endle, Marty Kincaid, Mark Spohn, Sally Pollen.
A quorum was present.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Julie Endle moved to amend the Agenda to have public comment to the end of the
meeting before member comments, Mark Spohn Seconded. Motion passed.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

V. MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

A. Julie Endle moved to approve the minutes of the preceding meeting, seconded by Mark
Spohn and was passed.

VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

- A. Jillian Morrissey – Community Development Director: Gave the Staff Report
- B. Andy Mergens spoke.
- C. Marita Crosby - Trapper Creek Library Updates
- D. Cassidy Drake - Big Lake Library Updates

- E. Julie Buzby - Sutton Library Updates
- F. Natasja Williams - Talkeetna Library Updates
- G. Julie Mitchell - Willow Library Updates
- H. Joy Bailey - Palmer Library Updates
- I. Zane Treesh - Wasilla Library Updates

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Items pulled from April list: Julie Endle made a motion not to purchase “the final gambit by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (sutton) Mark Spohn seconded, motion was passed.
- B. Review Process (M. Kincaid): no motion made.
- C. SB 238 – letter to assembly: no motion was made

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. May library materials list:
 - Mark Spohn flagged book 698 “Young World” by Soman Chainani.
 - Julie Endle flagged book 677 “Epic Conclusion to the sixth faction” by Roth, Veronica and 678 “Sixth Faction Duology” by Roth, Veronica
- B. Julie Endle made a motion that flagged book reviews need to be received by staff no later than close of business on the Thursday Pryor to next meeting to be included in the packet. Mark Spohn Seconded. Motion was passed.
- C. Newly scheduled meetings (M. Spohn):
 - Julie Endle made a motion to rescind the previous motion for meetings in June July and December, and hold flagged books until the next meetings in August and January. Marty Kincaid seconded. Motion passed.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person

- A. Jackie Goforth was heard
- B. Kathy Kysar was heard
- C. Melinda Dale was heard
- D. Patty Bills was heard

- E. Jeanie Troshynski was heard
- F. Jennie Gaetsch
- G. Peg Vos was heard
- H. Mary Fischer was heard
- I. Carol Goltz was heard
- J. Ruth Wood was heard
- K. Cici Schoenberger
- L. Holly Stinson was heard
- M. Jennifer Pironis was heard

X. AGENDA APPROVAL

- A. Julie Endle made a motion to approve the meeting 15 minutes, Mark Spohn Seconded. motion passed.
- B. Mark Spohn motioned to approve the agenda, Julie Endle seconded. Motion passed.

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Mark Sphon spoke.
- B. Sally Pollen Spoke.
- C. Julie Endle spoke.
- D. Marty Kincaid spoke.
- E. Karen Crandell Spoke.

XII. NEXT MEETING

- A. August 11th, Big Lake Public Library 1:00pm

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meet adjourned 3:22pm



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Community Development Department

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Matanuska-Susitna Borough Libraries Collection Development Policy

1. Purpose of Policy

This policy informs and guides library staff, patrons, Borough administrators, and public officials regarding the mission, environment, selection and weeding criteria, reconsideration process, and priorities for collection development within Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Libraries. The policy is reviewed at least every five years by Borough library administrators.

2. Community Description

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is in Southcentral Alaska and spans over 24,000 square miles of diverse terrain including lowlands, mountains, lakes, rivers, and streams. It encompasses parts of the Alaska Range, Chugach Mountains, and the Talkeetna and Clearwater Ranges. Since its incorporation in 1964, the Borough's population has grown steadily. The 2020 U.S. Census recorded 107,081 residents, with projections estimating a population of 130,000 by 2027. The Borough provides library services in the unincorporated areas of Big Lake, Sutton, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, and Willow, outside the cities of Palmer and Wasilla. Each community reflects Alaska's value of independence, and each library maintains a unique identity.

3. Mission and Library Goals

The MSB Libraries support the educational, civic, and cultural activities of their communities, as well as the intellectual, creative, and inspirational pursuits of individuals.

To meet community needs, MSB Libraries focus on the following priority areas:

- **Popular Materials Centers:** Offer current materials in various formats to support recreation, education, and remote living.
- **Reference & Community Resource Centers:** Maintain basic reference collections, local/state/federal documents, online resources, and interlibrary loan services.
- **Preschoolers' Doorway to Learning:** Provide early literacy resources including books and multimedia.
- **Support for K–12 Education:** Align collections with school curricula to assist students.
- **Non-Print Materials:** Collect audiovisual and other non-print items aligned with the library mission.
- **Electronic Resources Access:** Provide free filtered internet access, public computers, and links to trusted online databases and government information via the library website.

4. Interlibrary Loans

MSB Libraries are members of the Alaska Library Catalog (ALC), allowing material sharing among libraries using a statewide courier and mail system. Patrons can request materials from home or any participating library and choose where to receive them. Libraries also participate in interlibrary loan networks beyond the ALC and are members of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) network, giving access to nationwide bibliographic resources.

5. Material Selection Guidance

The goal of material selection is to acquire resources of current and lasting value. Selection is the responsibility of each library's designated librarian, guided by the following criteria. Materials must demonstrate at least one of the following:

- Relevance to identified community needs
- Suitable subject, format, and reading level
- Timely or historically significant content
- Credibility of author, publisher, or producer
- Favorable professional reviews
- Documented patron or staff interest
- Enhancement of the existing collection
- Strengthening of a targeted collection area
- Limited availability through other lending sources
- Filling gaps in subject coverage
- Local authorship or illustration
- Recognized literary or artistic quality
- Factual accuracy
- Demonstrated or anticipated demand

6. Specific Collection Guidelines

- **Adult Collection**
Includes materials on current and enduring topics, instructional resources, and recreational content that reflect a range of viewpoints.
- **Media Collections (Audio/Video)**
Provides access to topical and popular materials in various non-print formats, such as DVDs and CDs.
- **Youth Collection (Ages 15 and under)**
Supports recreational interests and formal education with content appropriate for young users.
- **Young Adult Collection (Ages 16 and up)**
Offers resources tailored to older teens, supporting both leisure reading and educational needs.
- **Reference Collection**
Comprises essential print and electronic reference tools. May include high-use items and local history titles to ensure access.
- **Alaskana Collection**
Focus on items of local significance or relevance. Selection is based on community interest, local authorship, and demand.
- **Periodicals**
Includes both print and electronic subscriptions designed to provide current information that complements general collections.

7. Gifts, Donations, and Memorials

Library Material gifts are subject to administrative approval and may require Borough Administration approval. Donated materials must meet the same criteria as purchased materials. Items not meeting selection standards may be sold or discarded. Monetary donations must be formally accepted by the Borough Assembly prior to expenditure.

8. Collection Evaluation and Maintenance

Regular evaluation ensures collections remain current and relevant. Weeding removes outdated, worn, or unused materials using data from the library automation system.

MSB Libraries apply the CREW (Continuous Review, Evaluation, and Weeding) method and the **MUSTIE** criteria:

- **M**isleading or inaccurate
- **U**gly (physically damaged)
- **S**uperseded by better sources
- **T**rivial or lacking merit
- **I**rrelevant to the community
- **E**lsewhere available through loans

Interlibrary loans remain available for items no longer held locally. Usage statistics help identify future collection areas.

9. Material Selection Approval

The nine-member MSB Library Board serves as an advisory body to the Borough Manager and Assembly. The Board evaluates proposed library materials and offers input to enhance transparency and community representation regarding the procurement of new library material.

Process for Reviewing Proposed Library Material Purchases:

1. **Submission:** Each library submits a list of proposed acquisitions and the list is provided to the Library Board and the public before the Library Board Meeting.
2. **Review:** Board members may review lists in preparation for the upcoming meeting and may 'flag' any material for further consideration. NOTE: Materials not flagged by Board members proceed through standard purchasing.
3. **Reconsideration:** Flagged materials are discussed at the following Board meeting. The requesting member may present a rationale for reconsideration, including citing criteria unmet.
4. **Advisory Vote:** The Board will vote on each flagged title with one of the following outcomes:
 - Approve
 - Request Staff Reconsideration
 - Reject

A simple majority determines the final recommendation.

10. Procedure for Reconsideration of Library Materials

MSB Libraries serve residents of all ages by providing access to a wide range of information and viewpoints. Only MSB library cardholders and residents may request reconsideration.

Process:

1. Patron submits a [Library Material Reconsideration Request](#) form.
2. The Community Development Department notifies the Library Board Chair. The Chair may add the Library Material Reconsideration on a future Library Board agenda.

3. The Library Board may choose to review the material and provide an advisory vote.
4. The Community Development Director reviews and makes the final decision on the Library Material.
5. The decision is valid for three years.

11. Conclusion

MSB library staff are entrusted with the selection and procurement of materials in alignment with this policy. Final authority rests with designated personnel, guided by community needs and professional standards.

Updated policy: June 17, 2026



Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Community Development Department

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645
Phone (907) 861-7869 • <https://matsu.gov>

Date: May 13, 2026
To: Library Board
From: Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director
RE: May Flagged Library Material – Final Decision

Title: *The Final Gambit*
Author: Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Collection: Adult Fiction

I recommend purchasing *The Final Gambit* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, the third book in the popular *Inheritance Games Trilogy*, as it completes a series already represented in the library's collection and is in strong demand among readers. The book has received broad positive reception and has won awards, indicating sustained popularity and reader interest. Reviews describe it as a high-stakes drama with intricate puzzles, and an engaging conclusion that ties together the series effectively. Purchase of this material will ensure continuity of the *Inheritance Games Trilogy* and meet patron expectations for completing the series and the trilogy will be shelved in Adult section.

MSBLB: Not Following Policy

From Kathy Kysar <kysarkathy@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 6/8/2026 12:13 PM

To Karen Crandall <artiste3@mtaonline.net>; Julie Endle <jejubee@gmail.com>; Chad Scott <praizer34@gmail.com>; Marty Kincaid <marty@mtaonline.net>; Laura Anderson <leanderson90@gmail.com>; Cindy Redmond <cindyredmond69@yahoo.com>; Sally Pollen <n3673z@gmail.com>

Cc Sarah Thomas <sarah.thomas@matsugov.us>; Andy Mergens <andy.mergens@matsugov.us>; Legislative Comments <leg.com@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Chairperson Karen Crandall,

In the Collection Development Policy, regarding Flagged Materials at meetings, it states that "the requesting member (Library Board member) must present a rationale for reconsideration, citing criteria unmet." This doesn't seem to be what's happening. I never hear Board members stating that their rationale is based on this:

5. Material Selection Guidance The goal of material selection is to acquire resources of current and lasting value. Selection is the responsibility of each library's designated librarian, guided by the following criteria. Materials must demonstrate at least one of the following:

- Relevance to identified community needs
- Suitable subject, format, and reading level
- Timely or historically significant content
- Credibility of author, publisher, or producer
- Favorable professional reviews
- Documented patron or staff interest Enhancement of the existing collection
- Strengthening of a targeted collection area
- Limited availability through other lending sources
- Filling gaps in subject coverage
- Local authorship or illustration
- Recognized literary or artistic quality
- Factual accuracy
- Demonstrated or anticipated demand

As a matter of fact, when the members fill out the Flagged Materials forms, they often incorrectly fill out the first page of the form that contains this criteria, stating that the book doesn't fulfil a certain criteria when it actually does. According to Andy Mergens, as chairperson, you are responsible to hold members accountable for these inaccuracies. Why are you not doing so?

The Board members' rationale is always based on the content of the material, which is not listed as a criteria for material selection. To be clear, the difference between the subject of a book (addressed in the second bullet above) and the content of a book is that the subject is the overarching topic or theme of a book (what the book is fundamentally about). The content refers to the actual material, ideas, narrative details, and information used to explore that subject (what the book specifically contains). It appears that the board members are not following procedure and I'd like to know how you intend to handle this.

Kathy Kysar

Alaska Chapter Leader, [Authors Against Banned Books](#)

Owner, [Crooked Cabin](#)

I acknowledge and honor that I live on the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna peoples. I recognize and respect the continuing connection, by Alaska Native people and all Indigenous people to the land, waters, and communities. I

also honor my own traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy in what is now known as Montana, which includes Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani, of which I am a descendent.

MSBLB Correspondence

From Kathy Kysar <kysarkathy@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 7/14/2026 3:10 PM

To Sarah Thomas <sarah.thomas@matsugov.us>

Cc Jillian Morrissey <jillian.morrissey@matsugov.us>; Andy Mergens <andy.mergens@matsugov.us>; Legislative Comments <leg.com@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Sarah,

Please pass along the following to all Library Board members as soon as possible.
Thank you!

Dear Library Board Members,

Looking for wonderful new additions to our juvenile collections in our public libraries? ***First Crush* by Cassandra Calin** and ***The Gender Wheel: A Story About Bodies and Gender for Everybody* by Maya Gonzalez** are both strong examples of books that help young readers better understand themselves and the world around them.

First Crush is an engaging graphic novel for grades 4–7 that explores friendship, first crushes, family, cultural identity, self-confidence, and puberty through humor and heart. *The Gender Wheel* is an age-appropriate picture book that encourages empathy, respect, and an understanding of the many ways people experience bodies, identity, and expression.

Both books come from respected publishers, have received favorable professional reviews, and address topics that are relevant to today's young readers. They strengthen a public library collection by offering diverse perspectives, supporting social-emotional learning, and providing materials that reflect the varied experiences of families in our community.

Unfortunately, both titles have been delayed through the Mat-Su Borough Library Board's review process after being flagged by board members. *First Crush*, which was requested by a Sutton Public Library patron, was flagged by **Julie Endle**, the Sutton representative on the Library Board. Because of that action, the book cannot be ordered until the review process is complete, delaying access until at least September. Ms. Endle is expected to present her objections at the **August 11 Library Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Big Lake Library**, after which Library Division Director **Jillian Morrissey** will make a final determination to be announced at the **September Library Board meeting in Talkeetna**.

Similarly, *The Gender Wheel*, which was donated to the Talkeetna Public Library, has been flagged by **Julie Endle** and **Mark Spohn**, the Willow representative on the Library Board, meaning that this title must also go through the same review process before it can be considered for purchase. Neither of these individuals has any training in collection development, library science, or elementary education. In fact, neither of them is even using the borough-established collection development policies to support their objections to ordering these books. In fact, the Library Board members are not being held to any standard at all.

Many community members have expressed concern that these delays create barriers to accessing books that have been selected or requested because they meet established public library collection development standards. These titles are evaluated based on criteria such as professional reviews, age appropriateness, literary quality, community interest, relevance to readers, and how they strengthen the overall collection. Public librarians receive specialized education and training in collection development and use established policies to build balanced collections that serve an entire community with diverse interests and viewpoints.

Whether or not a particular book is right for one child is a decision for that child's parent or guardian. Public libraries serve everyone by providing a broad range of materials and allowing each family to choose what best meets their own values, interests, and needs.

Delaying access to requested books because of objections from individual board members limits that choice for the entire community.

I urge all board members to read the Collection Development Policy and to start following it. Likewise, I encourage the Borough Administration and Assembly Members to keep the board accountable.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kysar

Alaska Chapter Leader, [Authors Against Banned Books](#)

Owner, [Crooked Cabin](#)

I acknowledge and honor that I live on the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna peoples. I recognize and respect the continuing connection, by Alaska Native people and all Indigenous people to the land, waters, and communities. I also honor my own traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy in what is now known as Montana, which includes Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani, of which I am a descendent.

Public Comment to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Library Board

August 11, 2026

Members of the Library Board,

I am writing as a Mat-Su Borough resident, library patron, and parent because I am concerned about the Board's increasing involvement in reviewing and flagging individual materials selected for purchase by our professional librarians.

I believe strongly in parental rights. I decide what is appropriate for my own child, and I respect the right of other parents to make those decisions for their children. I also believe adults should be free to choose what they read for themselves.

That is precisely why I am concerned about individual Library Board members reviewing and flagging specific titles before they are purchased.

I do not expect to agree with every book my public library purchases. I would actually be concerned if I did. A public library serves an entire community containing people with different beliefs, values, political views, religions, families, and experiences. Its collection should reflect that community rather than the personal preferences of any one of us.

I understand and support appropriate oversight of public funds and clear collection-development policies. However, oversight of policy is different from individual board members making title-by-title collection decisions that have traditionally been entrusted to trained library professionals.

The recent discussion surrounding Veronica Roth's forthcoming *The Sixth Faction* particularly concerns me because the book has not yet been published. Libraries routinely preorder anticipated releases. If an unreleased book can be flagged before librarians or patrons have had an opportunity to evaluate the completed work, I would like to understand what objective information is being used to justify that additional scrutiny.

More broadly, I am concerned about the effect this process could have on our librarians. If librarians know that individual titles on their acquisition lists may routinely be scrutinized by board members, there is a risk that collection development gradually becomes influenced by which purchases are least likely to generate controversy rather than which materials best serve patrons.

That would be a loss for everyone, regardless of political viewpoint.

I respectfully ask the Board and Borough administration to provide clear answers to the following questions:

1. What specifically happens when a Library Board member “flags” a proposed acquisition? At what point is the purchase stopped or delayed, who reviews the title, and who ultimately has authority to approve or deny it?
2. What objective standard must a Board member meet to flag a title? Is a specific policy concern required, or may any Board member flag any material for any reason?
3. Can a book be flagged based on anticipated or presumed content before the book has been published and reviewed? If so, what evidence is considered sufficient?
4. Was Veronica Roth's *The Sixth Faction* flagged from a current acquisition list? If so, who flagged it and what specific collection-development criterion prompted the flag?
5. How many individual materials have been flagged by Library Board members during the past 12 months? How many were subsequently purchased, delayed, or denied?
6. Are certain categories of material disproportionately being flagged, including young-adult materials, books addressing sexuality or gender, particular political or religious viewpoints, or works by particular authors?

7. What role do professional librarians have in defending or explaining their selections after a title is flagged? Is the professional judgment of the librarian who selected the material given formal weight in the review?
8. What safeguards exist to prevent an individual Board member's personal, political, or religious beliefs from becoming a de facto collection-development standard?
9. Has the Borough evaluated whether this level of pre-purchase review could cause librarians to avoid selecting potentially controversial materials in the first place?
10. Does the Board maintain publicly accessible records showing which materials were flagged, which Board member flagged them, the stated reason, and the final disposition? If not, I respectfully request that such records be maintained and published so the public can evaluate how this authority is being exercised.

I am not asking the Library Board to purchase every book librarians request, nor am I suggesting that collection-development decisions should be beyond scrutiny.

I am asking for a transparent, viewpoint-neutral process that respects professional expertise.

Library Board members should establish sound policy, oversee the library system responsibly, and ensure that librarians follow that policy. Professional librarians should then be trusted to build collections within those standards.

Most importantly, patrons should retain the final choice.

If I believe a book is inappropriate for my child, I will not allow my child to check it out. Another parent may make a different decision. An adult patron may choose something I would never personally read. That freedom of choice is one of the purposes of a public library.

Please protect that principle for everyone in the Mat-Su Borough.

Thank you for your service and for considering my comments.

Ashley Maximus

Mat-Su Borough Resident