



Athens-Limestone County Public Library
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March 22, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Athens-Limestone County Public Library Board of Trustees

The Athens-Limestone County Public Library and its board of trustees are committed to the common-sense proposition, shared by the vast majority of citizens in Limestone County, that only age-appropriate materials be located in the youth sections of our library. Any reports that suggest otherwise are dead wrong.

The ALCPL Board of Trustees is and always has been made up of Athens and Limestone County citizens appointed by the local governments. All the board members meet this qualification. Newly appointed board member Vicki Hereford's qualifications also include an extensive, professional background in finance and academia, and she is known across our community as a conservative mother of three now-grown sons. She is a welcome addition to the board and we look forward to her championing a conservative approach to decisions concerning library operations and materials purchased for children.

Before Ms. Hereford's tenure as a board member began, a concerned parent emailed unsolicited graphic images from a book called "Let's Talk About It", a book in graphic novel format marketed to teens. The parent's email acknowledged that Athens-Limestone County Public Library does not own a copy of this book. That is correct, and there are no plans for our library to ever have a copy of this book. The images sent to Ms. Hereford were very sexually graphic. Ms. Hereford was disturbed by opening an email to see these unsolicited graphic images and she replied by insisting that the parent not send her those kinds of images.

Some news articles have mentioned another book called "It's Perfectly Normal". Despite other reports, Hereford reports that she never read or responded to any emails mentioning that book or showing images from that book. The library owns a copy of "It's Perfectly Normal", and it has been shelved in the adult collection since it was purchased in 2010. While the book advertises on its cover that it is for age 10 and up, because of the images and material in the book, the library believed it was inappropriate for that age level and placed it in the adult section.

The selection of materials for the library is an on-going process guided by the principle that the collection reflects our community's beliefs, standards, growth and diversity. The library has clear policies and procedures to help guide purchasing and placement decisions, and it takes positive action to continually review and evaluate its Children's and Young Adult collection to ensure the collection aligns with current guidelines set by the Alabama Public Library Service.

Craig Beasley
Chairman