

My name is Brooke Kruckenberg. My husband, Dan, and I have 4 daughters ages 6, 5, 4, and 2. Dan and I are both natives of Vinton and are excited to raise our daughters in the same town that we grew up in.

Over the years I have frequented the Vinton Public Library with our girls to check out books for school and leisure, borrow movies, attend story time and even grab the occasional "leisure read" for myself. The girls always look forward to going to the library.

After reading through the Vinton Public Library's website, I found the roles of a library board member are clearly stated as "making sure the community's needs and interests are paramount when making board decisions", "determine whether the community is satisfied with the service received from the library", and "regularly evaluates the director to make sure the library operates well and in the best interest of those the library serves."

As a member of this community, I want to express my concerns of where I've observed the direction of our public library heading over the past couple of years. It appears that there is a slow, quiet agenda moving into our local library culture through the staff hiring decisions and the books that have crept into our children's section of the library. I don't believe the library is representing our town well with hiring a majority of staff who are openly a part of the LGBTQ community.

Although I am not here to ask you to remove anyone from their staffing positions, I would strongly encourage you to listen to the families, like ourselves, who are distancing themselves from the liberal agenda that seems to be happening at the library. If a liberal agenda is not the intention of the library, I ask you to please consider that this is the impression that many families are viewing it as. There has been a subtle, yet noticeable display of the LGBTQ agenda through the choices of books on display, the cross dressing of employees, Facebook posts and the question of non-gender bathrooms being considered on tonight's agenda.

I have spoken with members and parents of this community who have recently decided to step back from supporting the library in the various activities and some even discontinuing borrowing books from the library all together due to the staffing decisions as well as the liberal books that are on the shelves – particularly in the children's section.

I am not asking that any books be banned or even removed from the library. However, I do ask that there would a consideration for the books to be balanced on the shelves. For every book that is on display with a topic from the left side of the political aisle, I would ask that there is a book on display with a topic from the right side. For every book on display with a topic of becoming a transgender, I would ask that there is a book on display that discusses how God created and designed people as either male or female from birth, for life.

I fear that by continuing down this path of slowly bringing propaganda into our library, we will soon be having programs here in our local library that are geared towards influencing our children to accept and engage in the culture that our world is so eager to invite them into. One

solution I see to keeping the children's programming in check is to have a list of books provided each month that will be read during the upcoming weeks in story time. This would give parents the opportunity to know what content will be presented prior to bringing their children to story time and allow the parents the discretion if they would like to attend based on their social views.

The public library used to be a neutral place for an individual or families to go to check out books of their choice without having propaganda, opinions or political views – either liberal or conservative – pushed on them. I do not feel as though the Vinton Public Library is this place anymore and would ask that the staff and board consider the community values of Vinton. I would encourage the board to do their due diligence by beginning to reach out to members of this town and ask their opinions, values, and expectations of our public library. I fear that if we continue to go down the path that we are currently taking there will be less and less patrons visiting the library and our community will suffer because of it.