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Hannah Watkins

From: Andi Alverson <andialverson25@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:00 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support the Meridian Library District

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To whom it may concern,

I am a former employee of the Meridian Library District, working from Sept. 2019- February 2023. Unfortunately the library is under persecution from those who are rude and close-minded folk who do not understand that their rights are not the only ones who matter. While myself and the rest of my coworkers worked endlessly to provide services to the community, this group of people made it their mission to demonize us and all libraries in the United States. We've been called horrific things, such as groomers, pedophiles, and so much more. It truly was embarrassing for the world to see what kind of people reside in Idaho because of this.

I simply ask for the Ada County Commission office to think about this situation wisely and not pursue the interests of those who do not care for their community, but only for themselves. Meridian, and the rest of the Treasure Valley, deserve libraries to visit, good schools for their children, fun playgrounds to play in, delicious restaurants to eat at, and safe homes to sleep in every night. The wrong actions by one simple group should not determine the fate of thousands of others who need the library.

If I can be of any service, please feel free to email me back. While my past coworkers are working hard to serve the community and find comfort in this troubling time, I have no problem standing up for them and what is truly right. Thank you for listening.

Andi Alverson

Hannah Watkins

From: Glenn Anders <glenn_anders@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 4:14 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian library

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I strenuously object to the petition filed with your commission to dissolve the library district.

This petition attempts to deprive the citizens of Meridian of a valuable community resource by a group of right wing activists with unfounded reasons for their petitions.

The views of a few should not override the rights and resources of the rest of the community

I urge you to reject this assault on our library district.

Glenn Anders
Meridian, ID

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

Hannah Watkins

From: Ellen Arnold <ellena1062@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 3:08 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridan Library

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Commissioners! stand behind your libraries! Once you have ensured the policies regarding book selection have been followed, then stand up to those who think the library is ONLY for them! It is a PUBLIC library - serving the needs of the public in the largest sense. Every person has the right to use the library or not — they DO NOT have the right to decide what's appropriate for all of us! Ellen Arnold, Eagle
Sent from my iPhone

Hannah Watkins

From: rjonmac@juno.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 2:42 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library

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Mr Tom Daley,

My wife and I are in your third district and are both concerned of the notification of a petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. We are both retired and use the Silverstone branch for much of our reading materials. I find it hard to believe that the Concerned Citizens are so paranoid of what their children might find, they would find it necessary to violate my access to free access. I would suggest they have frank discussions with their children about what they feel is appropriate for their family, forbid them to go to the library if necessary, and allow the rest of us to make our own decisions. We will be traveling during your meeting Thursday but wanted to go on record as opposing all efforts to censor our libraries.

Richard Johnson
Mary Callan
Meridian Greens

Hannah Watkins

From: Jen CW <jencw9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:33 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We Need Our Library District

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Dear Commissioners,

I hope you will consider all of the services the library offers the community, such as computers and technology to help people find jobs, resources available to everyone regardless of means, classes for parents and their young children, literacy classes for adults and after-school classes (or just a safe place to hang out) for teens. A democratic republic is not possible without public libraries and public schools. Please don't let a small minority decide for everyone what they should and should not have access to.

Sincerely,
Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
3566 W Muirfield Dr
Meridian, ID 83646
208-283-8948

Note: I have lived in Idaho all my life and in Meridian for 18 years.

Hannah Watkins

From: L. Douglass <douglassleigh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:51 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District

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Dear Ada County Commissioners,

I just saw the notice regarding the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District.

I am writing to let you know that I OPPOSE this petition.

I SUPPORT the Meridian Library District.

Regards,
Leigh Douglass
Ada County resident, 83709
douglassleigh@gmail.com

Hannah Watkins

From: Nate Garcia <nate.s.garcia@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:35 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Discussion regarding the petition to close the Meridian Libraries

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Dear Rod Beck, Ryan Davidson, and Tom Dayley:

I would like to address the petition you received from the "Concerned Citizens of Meridian". This petition demands a vote to dissolve the district due to allegedly providing minors "access to obscene and sexually explicit materials," among other concerns.

First, I would like to submit a defense for libraries.

Public libraries are a vital part of communities and provide access to a vast range of resources and services that greatly benefit our residents of Meridian and Ada County as a whole. From being able to freely access books and movies, to technology and educational programs and classes, to providing a safe space for today's youth to build communities through events like the After School Hangouts or Chess clubs, the library helps promoting community, literacy, furthering education and most importantly, providing free access to vast amounts of information. Removing this service would greatly hinder and hurt our community.

Historically, we can look back at governments or institutions that have tried to suppress access to information, and we can learn a lot through how those governments or organizations operated. Famously, the Nazi Party burned books they disagreed with or were deemed "un-German" which included books from liberal/leftist authors and Jewish authors. This makes sense, as one of the main ideas of fascism (which the Nazi party embodied) is the forcible suppression of opposition. I am not calling the Concerned Citizens of Meridian fascists; however, they are employing a fascist strategy to suppress information that they personally do not like. These strategies are un-American and need to be fought.

Libraries are a gathering of all sorts of information and they do not discriminate based on the content. A quick search of the Meridian Library proves this. I was able to find copies of Mein Kampf, The Communist Manifesto, Atlas Shrugged, and books written by notable right-wing personalities such as Tucker Carlson and Ben Shapiro. Providing opposing viewpoints is vital to a well-functioning society, and helps to create a well-read and well-informed populace. The banning of books, or in this case, the shut down of a library, actively prevents this.

Now, to address the Concerned Citizens of Meridian's arguments.

From news articles discussing this, specifically from KTVB, it appears they are largely concerned about minors accessing 'obscene and sexually explicit materials.' I do believe there are some materials that may be harmful to minors, and understand their concerns. However, the responsibility of monitoring what type of content minors consume does not fall on public libraries, but rather the parents. If parents are concerned about their child's media consumption, they must perform their job as a parent and monitor what content is allowed. Further, it's clear that groups like the Concerned Citizens of Meridian are using language such as 'obscene and sexually explicit' to really mean any books or materials that discuss LGBTIA+ topics. This is a blatant attempt at trying to suppress information or resources for an already discriminated against group of people.

I vehemently oppose and disagree with the petition put forth and believe that dissolving the Meridian Library District would have negative and long-term consequences. It would set a terrible precedent not just for Ada County, but for the state of Idaho and the rest of the U.S. The arguments put forth by this group of citizens is done in bad faith, and is a continued effort from radical right-wing groups to restrict the flow of information regarding topics they disagree with, in this case the very existence of LGBTIA+ peoples. This is proven if you look back at the list of 54 books a Meridian group wanted to be banned from circulation to minors. The most common reason on this list was LGBTIA+ content. This was blatant discrimination, and this same thought process is the driving force behind the recently submitted petition.

Dissolving the entire district is not a reasonable request and should not be considered. This is a drastic measure that would deprive Meridian and Ada County residents of essential resources and services. I strongly urge you to reject this petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. There may be actual concerns this group presents, but there are ways to address those concerns that do not include the full closure of the Meridian Library District.

I would like to end this with a quote from Meridian Library Director Nick Grove from November 2022: "You have the right to object to an item. You have the right to recommend a reconsideration of an item that you don't like. You do not have the right to ban books or segregate access to books that you do not want."

I fully support this quote, and hope that you will determine that the banning of books or shut down of a whole library district is a drastic measure that should be avoided.

Sincerely,

Nate Garcia, a concerned Ada County resident

Hannah Watkins

From: L GB <lorigib@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:13 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dissolving Libraries

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Libraries are a community resource. Nothing good will come from their dissolution or destruction. The fact that a motion to dissolve the Meridian Library District is up for consideration is appalling.

You need to support the communities in Ada County. Libraries need more support/not less. Vote NO.

--
~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Lori Gibson Banducci
email: lorigib@gmail.com
cell: 208-250-8666

Hannah Watkins

From: Cody Gray <codyjogray@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 2:20 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District

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Dear Board Members,

I was just at the Cherry Lane Library with my son and we heard the news about a petition to disband the Meridian Library District.

I have been weekly visiting libraries in the Meridian Library District for the last eight years.

As a family we have participated in so many of the wonderful events and activities that the library has to offer. It would be such a disservice to the community to not have these amazing libraries.

I hope you can see the huge value they add to our community. They are a place that brings people together.

Sincerely,
Cody Gray

Sent from my iPhone

Hannah Watkins

From: Jennifer Grentz <jgrentz@mld.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:20 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WebEx link for 2/16 commission meeting

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Hello!

Can I get the WebEx link for tomorrow's meeting? Thank you.

--



Jennifer Grentz
Communications Manager
208.513.4345
jgrentz@mld.org
mld.org [mld.org]



[\[facebook.com\]](https://www.facebook.com)



[\[instagram.com\]](https://www.instagram.com)



[\[linkedin.com\]](https://www.linkedin.com)



[\[youtube.com\]](https://www.youtube.com)

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Hannah Watkins

From: Michael "Kyo" Hancock <michaeldhancock91@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:24 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Don't Dissolve MLD

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Hello,

I just saw an article about the movement to dissolve the Meridian Library District. I wanted to voice my opposition to this movement, but can't come to the meeting tomorrow as I have an exam I cannot miss. I care for two learning disabled adults who count on going to the library every week as their main exposure to the community. I use it to study for my IT certifications. And materials such as the cited *Gender Queer* graphic novel are vitally important to helping teens to feel less alone. I didn't have access to any materials like this growing up, and I felt so very alone, like nobody could relate to my experiences, because it just wasn't something that was talked about. Please don't fail your community by allowing the library to be dissolved. Books are knowledge, and knowledge is power. Don't make the citizens powerless...

Thank you,
Michael "Kyo" Hancock

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

Hannah Watkins

From: Dixie Jacky <dixiejacky@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:25 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Petition to eliminate Meridian libraries

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I too am a "concerned citizen of Meridian" and I want to what ways, or active steps, I can take to stop this nonsense (petition) about shutting down the Meridian library district.

Dixie Jacky.

Sent from my iPhone

Hannah Watkins

From: Ed Jewell <ejewell@cityofboise.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:53 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WebEx link to Feb 16 Meeting

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Hi,

Can you please provide me with a link to watch live the February 16 board meeting of Ada County Commissioners?

Thank you,

-Ed

Hannah Watkins

From: Katie Johnstone <Katie.Johnstone@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 9:52 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District

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Hello,

It has come to my attention that a petition has been brought forth for the dissolution of the Meridian library district. I'm writing today to express my frustration and disappointment that this is even being talked about or considered. Our libraries are a vital and important community asset. Our Meridian libraries are a place of imagination and growth, education and humor and for some people a sanctuary.

I want to be very clear that as a citizen of Meridian Idaho I support my local library district. I do not want to see the Meridian Library District dissolved.

Thank you,
Katie Johnstone

Hannah Watkins

From: Joe Berg
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:24 AM
To: Elizabeth Duncan; Steve Rutherford; Hannah Watkins
Cc: Ada County Webmaster
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] New submission from Ada County Feedback Form

FYI

From: 'noreply@adacounty.id.gov' <noreply@adacounty.id.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Ada County Webmaster <itwebmaster@adacounty.id.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New submission from Ada County Feedback Form

Ada County Feedback

Feedback Type : **Question**

Department : **Commissioners**

Other Department :

Comment : **How can I protest against the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library system?**

Contact Information

Name : **Nancy A Jones**

Phone : **(828) 712-6799**

Email : nancyj130@aol.com

Hannah Watkins

From: Susie Kemp <pharmbiker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:49 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WebEx link

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Hello,
May I please have the WebEx link for the meeting tomorrow (2/16/23)?
Thanks,
Susan Kemp
2530 S Del Rey Ln
Meridian, ID 83642
--
Susie

Life...is about climbing something other than the corporate ladder. Looking out over a clear blue lake, instead of a concrete jungle. Make this a day to move with the Earth, soar with the wind, and revel in the magnificence of nature.
~Unknown

Hannah Watkins

From: Courtney Kirk <courtneykirk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:27 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST Dissolution of MLD

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Hello Commissioners,

I'm emailing in response to the petition filed to dissolve the Meridian Library District.

The Meridian Library is an integral part of my life as a stay-at-home mother with three boys.

They provide more than just books for our family. It's a place for us to socialize with other families and spend time in a safe place outside of our home.

Dissolving the library would be a great disservice to families, seniors, homeschooled children and ALL patrons who use library services.

Please do not vote in support of this petition.

Thank you,

Courtney Kirk

Hannah Watkins

From: jamiekuziej <jamie.kuziej@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 9:48 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Webex Link for Thursday Feb 16th Board of Ada County Commissioners meeting

I'm interested in the section at 10AM on the petition for dissolution of the Meridian Library District.

Thanks,
Jamie

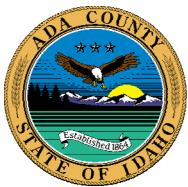
On Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 9:31 AM BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for emailing the Ada County Commissioners' Office. Can you please specify which meeting you are referring to? I have attached the agenda for you.

Best,

Hannah



Hannah Watkins

Scheduling Clerk

Board of Ada County Commissioners

200 W. Front St., Boise, ID 83702
(208) 287-7000 *office*
(208) 287-7009 *fax*

From: jamiekuziej <jamie.kuziej@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 7:43 AM

To: BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Webex Link for Thursday Feb 16th Board of Ada County Commissioners meeting

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I would like to request a webex link for the Thursday February 16th meeting of the Board of Ada County Commissioners.

Regards,

Jamie

Hannah Watkins

From: Todd Meier <todd@toddmeier.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:09 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Petition for Dissolution of Meridian Library District

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Hello,

This cannot be a serious consideration. I understand that not everyone agrees with what should or should not be taught to the our kids or the public. We are all free to not read books that we do not agree with. We are also free to read those books to make our own formed decisions. What we should not be doing is limiting the potential for our communities to have the ability to learn and grow from such a great resource as a public library.

Thank you for your time.

Todd

Hannah Watkins

From: Gayle Buhner-Poorman <gpoorman54@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 9:43 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding Proposal to Close the Meridian Library District

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Dear Ada County Commissioners:

My family is appalled and greatly dismayed by the small group of people who are circulating a petition to close the Meridian Library District. Our family has regularly used the Meridian Public Library for over thirty years, and have **never** had any problems or concerns about the materials available to us and our children at the Library. The staff at the library are professionals. They are always helpful and friendly, and go out of their way to assist us in finding the materials we need for our research, educational and recreational needs. We use the library on almost a daily basis, and to lose it, in our opinion, would be very detrimental to our community.

We ask that you dismiss the concerns of these extremists who are circulating this ridiculous petition.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,
Gayle and Paul Poorman and family

Hannah Watkins

From: Lori Poublon-Ramirez <wuverocats@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:55 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District

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I think it is ridiculous to dissolve a library district because a minority of patrons do not approve of some of the books. It seems like it would be easy enough for these patrons to supervise their children's choices or to decide not to patronize the library.

Lori Poublon Ramirez
Cherry Ave Library patron
Sent from my iPhone

Hannah Watkins

From: alicia quilantan <alicia.c.quilantan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 4:13 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] The Meridian Library District

Can you confirm for clarity whether the commissioners will be reading this (and possibly other emails) regarding this matter now or will they only pay attention to these public testimony's you mentioned?

Thank you,

Alicia Quilantan

On Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 4:08 PM BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. The petition submitted to the Ada County Commissioners to dissolve the Meridian Library District has generated a lot of interest. To understand what's next, and when the public can provide testimony, please follow us on Facebook or the Ada County home page and we will keep you posted regarding the next steps outlined by state statute.

<https://adacounty.id.gov/>

Sincerely,

Hannah



From: alicia quilantan <alicia.c.quilantan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:10 PM
To: BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Meridian Library District

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Dear Honorable Rod Beck, Ryan Davidson, and Tom Dayley,

As a long time resident of Meridian, I am writing to address the petition you recently received from a group of citizens and registered electors of the Meridian Library District, which demands a vote to dissolve the district. While I appreciate the concerns of other Meridian residents, I strongly disagree with the arguments put forth and believe that dissolving the Meridian Library District would have serious negative consequences for our community.

The Meridian Library District has been an integral part of our community, providing access to a vast range of resources and services that have greatly benefited our residents. From books and movies to technology and educational programs, the library has played a vital role in promoting literacy, education, and community engagement. The library has also provided a safe and inclusive space for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to learn, connect, and grow.

The concerns raised in the petition regarding financial transparency, public discourse at trustee board meetings, and minor's access to sexually explicit materials are some points I would like to address below.

Financial transparency: The Meridian Library District has posted their financial reports, audits, and facility plans all on their website for the public to view. You can view them yourself [here \[mld.org\]](http://here [mld.org]).

Public Discourse at Trustee Board Meetings: I did not attend the board meeting but I did watch the video of a past meeting where these concerned parents and residents verbally attacked the board with no civil discourse. There was a lot of shouting, name calling, and threats pointed at the board members.

Minor's access to sexually explicit materials: This is a direct act of bigotry towards LGBTQ community. The books in question are being asked to be restricted because they are worried that having access to this type of information will lead them down a particular path when in fact, it does not. These books show them there are other paths and help them decide what path is best for them. This continuous effort to ban books, especially books that represent members of our community is outrageous. To quote the director "**You have the right to object to an item, and you have the right to recommend a reconsideration of an item that you don't like. You do not have the right to ban books or segregate access to books that you do not like.**" We have members of the LGBTQ community that live here in Meridian and they have the right to feel included and safe at their public library.

Dissolving the entire district is not the solution you should ever be considering. It would be a drastic measure that would deprive our community of an essential resource and service.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reject the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District and instead work with the district and its trustees to address the issues raised in the petition in a constructive and collaborative manner. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alicia Quilantan

--

Alicia Quilantan

** Please pardon my typos, I am responding from my phone on the go! **

Hannah Watkins

From: Sheila Robbins <sheila@cmsrobbins.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 4:49 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library

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The Most Common Symptoms of "Hitlerism" in Idaho!

Attacking "others" with fear mongering, lies and scapegoating. Bullying and violence against elected representatives, intellectuals, teachers, librarians and anyone who might not agree with you. Calling yourself concerned, patriotic, defenders of morality and superior. Lack of understanding, empathy, tolerance, and with no limits on what will be done in the name of your freedom (only). Self-righteous in that only you and your followers know what is best for everyone so the end justifies any means. Encouraging and even financially rewarding people to inform on each other. Truly disgusting and dangerous.

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

Hannah Watkins

From: Teddi Scales <TAScales5@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 7:10 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Petition to Dissolve the Library - Vote No

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Greetings Commissioners Davidson, Beck, and Dayley ~

My name is Teddi Scales. I live, work, and am raising my family in Meridian, Idaho. I am contacting you to express my concern over the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. I am a frequent patron of the library. As a mother of young children, I can share first hand that I am repeatedly impressed and grateful for the programs and services that the Meridian library district provides to our community.

Please vote no on the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. I am in favor of the library building and maintaining a diverse collection. And, I am deeply concerned that a vocal minority is attempting to control what is distributed and to get rid of a vital public resource.

Meridian Library District circulated 1.2 million print and digital materials during 2022. They have over 54,000 active card holders. And they supported over 250,000 library visits last year. They are a 2019 National Medal winner for museum and library service, the highest honor a library can receive. In 2019, the community voted to expand the Meridian library system. This attests to the great work that they do for our community.

The local, publicly elected library board has transparent policy in place that aligns directly with the laws of our state and with the 1st amendment to serve everyone in our community.

As a parent, it is my right to decide what materials are appropriate for my family. As a government entity it is not the library's role to decide what material is appropriate for my children. And, it is also not the role of my ill informed and slanderous neighbors either to decide that for me. That's called censorship, and it's illegal.

I have no concerns with the professionally curated collections that we are presented with in this library. As a frequent patron of the local Meridian library district, I appreciate, all the ways that library staff help me navigate the library and find the materials that are right for me and my family, including the following tools and spaces:

- an online guide for parents: https://www.mld.org/sites/default/files/u3568/parent_caregiver_guide.pdf [[mld.org](https://www.mld.org)]
- designated areas for children and for teens with age-appropriate content,
- the ability to link parent and child accounts

That this is even being considered is shameful.

Sincerely,
Teddi Scales

Hannah Watkins

From: Bettye Seavey <bluebettye45@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:30 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Meridian library

I also have a curious question in regard to the signatures on the petition (to dissolve the meridian library); are the signatures verified as being registered voters or at least residents of the county and or Meridian. Thanks Elizabeth Seavey

On Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 4:07 PM BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. The petition submitted to the Ada County Commissioners to dissolve the Meridian Library District has generated a lot of interest. To understand what's next, and when the public can provide testimony, please follow us on Facebook or the Ada County home page and we will keep you posted regarding the next steps outlined by state statute.

<https://adacounty.id.gov/>

Sincerely,

Hannah



Hannah Watkins

Scheduling Clerk

Board of Ada County Commissioners

200 W. Front St., Boise, ID 83702
(208) 287-7000 *office*
(208) 287-7009 *fax*

From: Bettye Seavey <bluebettye45@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:53 PM
To: BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian library

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I am deeply concerned with the petition submitted by the "concerned citizens" group. The erroneous statements they made in their petition are out right lies.

As a voter, member of the community, mother, grandmother; supporter, avid reader and user of the meridian library and wishing to keep the library in place. I would like to know what recourse I and the other supporters of the meridian library have.

Do we need to start our own petition ?

Can we testify to the importance of our library?

Thank you

Elizabeth Seavey

resident of city of Meridian

Hannah Watkins

From: Emily White <ewhite@idahopress.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:38 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Webex Link Request

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Hello!

My name is Emily White, I'm a reporter for the Idaho Press. I was wondering if you could provide me with a link to a Webex link to tomorrow's meeting with the Board of Ada County Commissioners. Let me know if that's a possibility!

Thank you!

--

Emily White (she/her)
Reporter, [Idaho Press \[idahopress.com\]](https://idahopress.com)
C: 801-870-7918

Hannah Watkins

From: Victoria Alexander-Lane <valexanderlane@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 9:37 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Radicals

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Please do not let radicals dissolve the Library District, we are devolving into a pool of ignorance in Idaho and we need all the learning opportunities we can get.

Victoria Alexander-Lane
Meridian, Idaho

Sent from my iPad

Hannah Watkins

From: Joe Berg
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 5:26 PM
To: Elizabeth Duncan; Steve Rutherford; Hannah Watkins
Cc: Ada County Webmaster
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] New submission from Ada County Feedback Form

FYI

From: 'noreply@adacounty.id.gov' <noreply@adacounty.id.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 1:54 PM
To: Ada County Webmaster <itwebmaster@adacounty.id.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New submission from Ada County Feedback Form

Ada County Feedback

Feedback Type : **Question**

Department : **Commissioners**

Other Department :

Comment :

Is there a possibility that in the process for disbanding the library system, there could be a reversal of this decision? I am appalled that the Board has voted to be intimidated by a small, vocal group of extremists who want to tell the county's families and children what they can and cannot read. This is censorship, a violation of free speech, and a dictatorial assault on democracy. Please do not disband the library system!

Contact Information

Name : **Linda Ashley**

Phone :

Email : Linda.ashley47@yahoo.com

Hannah Watkins

From: Elizabeth Barber <sparklyfish@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 3:49 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library

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Hello -

I oppose the dissolution of the Meridian Library district.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Barber
208-258-0181

--

"[Forgiveness] is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family."

-Henry Nouwen

Hannah Watkins

From: Paige Beach <paigebeach44@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 9:08 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of the Meridian Library

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Hello commissioners,

I am writing to you as a private citizen, but one who happens to be a librarian in Ada County. I have spent almost every day of the last seven years in a public library and can tell you in great detail, with firsthand knowledge, and a master's degree in library science- exactly what goes on in a public library.

I hold four storytimes a week for children ages 0-5 who use these storytimes as often their only introduction to group settings, preschool concepts, early literacy, and classroom expectations. Each individual storytime sees numbers of between 60-80 participants. In one of the only states that has not had public-funded preschool, this is an incalculable asset to these children and their families.

I've helped people with resumes, and job searches. I have watched a mother come in with her children who were fleeing an abusive household, go from harried and worried about survival, to gainfully employed and thriving as an incredible mother to her children- all thanks to the library's resources.

I've watched children who are homeschooled bond with other homeschoolers during our homeschool STEM program and form close friendships and connections in an otherwise somewhat isolated world.

I myself worked my way through graduate school as a single, working mother fueled by my passion for public libraries and my desire to help my community the best way I could. I work hard, I often work outside of my work time for no pay, I bought Valentines for children out of my own pocket, I don't make much in the way of a salary- all because I believe that libraries are the last community centers we have and I will fight to keep them. I hope you fight to keep them as well.

Sincerely,
Paige Beach

Hannah Watkins

From: Heather Bell <heatha100@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 5:59 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I love our libraries

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Chairman Beck,

The Treasure Valley libraries have been a wonderful place. I feel like I have raised my kids in libraries. We have spent many hours learning, reading, just being together with books. It would break my heart to see libraries closed because some people don't like some of the books in libraries. I consider myself a moderate conservative and still believe that we are entitled to choose what we read. I don't appreciate some of the books geared towards the younger generation. I think they are too mature of topics and not as much variety that doesn't include liberal ideas. BUT there are other available books and I feel like we all should have the right to choose what we will and won't read. Parents can teach their kids to choose based on their values and learn from them. My 15 year old son said to set boundaries with your kids on what is appropriate and what isn't. We love the libraries and human nature would suffer without them.

--

Heather Bell

Hannah Watkins

From: Joe Borton <Joe@borton-lakey.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:07 AM
To: Anne Duhm
Cc: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Topic for Thursday REVIEW

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Anne,

Please share this with the commissioners before their 10 AM meeting. It contains information helpful for their review.

The petition which was submitted for today's consideration regarding the Meridian library district is invalid. Beyond the slanderous statements contained within it, it contains multiple requests for action within a singular petition. Yet a "petition" may only contain a single question/action. Authority for that limitation is found in caselaw as well is analogous Idaho code, including section 34-1801A. The purpose behind that limitation is to ensure the individual who chooses to sign it is in agreement with its singular request. Here, a signer might agree with one action and not the other (dissolve and/or reform) yet the petition does not delineate which in this case. Because there are multiple requested actions, it is facially invalid and must be rejected as a matter of law. If it is not rejected, any action that follows from it is also invalid (and an expensive waste of taxpayer time and money).

Joe Borton
Borton Lakey Law & Policy
141 E. Carlton Ave
Meridian, Idaho 83642

www.borton-lakey.com [borton-lakey.com]

Hannah Watkins

From: Sharon Borton <sbsharonborton12@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:47 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of MLD

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Dear Ada County Commissioners,

First, I would like to thank you for your service. I know your job can be difficult and serving in your capacity is often not appreciated.

And service is what this e-mail is about; specifically, the service the Meridian Library District provides to our community.

When my children were little, I would take them to the Meridian library for story time and to let them check out books and movies. As a parent, I was responsible for their choices, and would never want another person or organization to dictate what I would or would not allow my children to borrow from the library because that was my job. I appreciated the service and options the MLD provided for me and my family.

The MLD is a valued service—the recent bond is evidence of that. It was overwhelmingly approved by the residents of Meridian. Now a group of people have presented to you a petition to dissolve the MLD because they don't like the materials available to ALL residents. It is unfortunate that the "Concerned Citizens of Meridian" have decided that I cannot make adequate decisions for myself. This petition is absurd. We, as a free country, value our freedoms and should not allow others to choose what materials we read, watch, or use.

I urge you to carefully consider your next steps in addressing this petition and listen to the majority of the people who are telling you that dissolving the MLD would be a huge loss to our community.

It is my understanding that you do not have to allow the petition to move forward to certification, and that option will be made at the hearing date you have yet to set.

Please, save our money and resources for something worthwhile; keep the MLD in tact and out of the hands of a minority group who want to dissolve the library district.

Respectfully,

Sharon Borton
Meridian, Idaho

Sent from my iPhone

Hannah Watkins

From: Poala Cooper <paolaccooper@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:46 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian library

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To whom it may concern,

As a proud citizen of Ada county, and a parent. I am appalled and disheartened by the petition to dissolve meridian library. Not only does this affect our children, Our community. The basic resources our American ancestors started and created libraries in the 18th century. It would be unfathomable to think of a resource that is positively used throughout the country and world to be taken away. To think that a town in Idaho, someone believes a library is a negative impact is completely disgusting. I hope the Meridian community stands up and all the commissioners do as well.

Thanks
Paola Cooper

Hannah Watkins

From: B. Crea <BeeLamotte@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 9:11 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Meridian Libraries

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Dear Chairman Beck,

My family has resided in Idaho for more than a century. Despite what a recent minority of fear mongering meddlers would have you believe, families like mine support and love our libraries and we value their important ongoing contribution to our quality of life.

As local homeowners, parents and locally-employed professionals, we can't afford have Meridian become known as a backwards, anti-library place to live. It directly and negatively impacts our community, our family and our children's future.

We vehemently oppose the dissolution of our Meridian libraries. Please protect our libraries.

Britt Crea

Hannah Watkins

From: Grace Crookham-Guy <crookhamguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 12:51 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Meridian Library

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ignorance over education. I value the significance libraries bring to communities and the work of libraries, and ask that the library district remains in Meridian.

Thank you.

On Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 12:48 PM Grace Crookham-Guy <crookhamguy@gmail.com> wrote:

Chairman Beck,

I'm Grace Crookham-Guy, an Ada County resident of 24 years, contacting you to assert my opposition to the dissolution of the Meridian library district. Libraries provide critical resources to those seeking housing, safety, community, and education. They are a space that shapes the public and defines the city. Dissolving Meridian's library district would represent bigotry instead of support, and

Hannah Watkins

From: Christina Davidson <chrystieness@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:51 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Petition to dissolve Meridian Library

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Commissioners,

I was made aware today of the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library based on some books available to children that they have deemed as 'offensive' by them. I am deeply saddened at the thought of the library closing and also, to be quite frank, enraged at the possibility. I am an avid reader. I have fond memories of walking to the Meridian Public Library as a child and checking out new books every week. My mother didn't have a drivers license when I was little nor were we very well off and it was one of the place we could walk to and we could afford. I remember getting to pick out a movie to rent over the weekends. As a teen I remember doing research projects for school there and even fun lock-in activities. As a mom now, I have taken my children there for story times and various classes. The library serves not only as equal access to information for all but also a hub of the community. Need help with bills, housing, technology, resumes, research, parenting, wills, finances or almost anything else? The library has a program or the Librarians have a contact for you. Librarians, along with teachers, are vital to communities. The library CAN NOT be dissolved, it is not an exaggeration to say it would be a travesty for our community. I am acutely aware that a few loud voices often ruin it for everyone. The vast majority of people are FOR libraries and librarians and I sincerely hope you hear from a lot of them in the coming days. Please do not allow the voice of a few whom want to control the access of information and erase the representation of everyone in books in the guise of 'protecting our children' influence your decision. Parents have always been, and should continue to be, able to monitor what their own kids are exposed to. Denying access to a library for an entire community is not, nor should ever be an appropriate response to citizens concerned with content of a library. Thank you for taking time to read through my thoughts and consider them in the sea of voices I'm sure you are hearing. I am still an avid user of the library as a pre-school teacher and mother and I can truly say that my job would be impossible without my multiple stops there each week. Beyond that I know there are many in the community who need the library more than I that won't have the resources to send you an email or call you except inside that very library the Concerned Citizens of Meridian are seeking to dissolve.

Thanks again for your time,
Christina Davidson

Hannah Watkins

From: Silvia Natalia Del Campo <nataliadelcampo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 10:58 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] About the library banned

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The people in your district are already lacking education wise why are you making it worse?
- concerned citizen

Ps you should be ashamed of yourselves.
Sent from my iPhone

Hannah Watkins

From: Elaine Garris <elainemgarris@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 12:09 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of freedom - in support of libraries

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Dea Ada County Commissioners,

First, thank you for the important work you do for the people of Ada County. I am writing in support of the Meridian Library District. I don't know what motivates the group petitioning to dissolve the library district but I view them as a vocal but tiny minority that should be viewed with pity and treated with caution.

I believe the great majority appreciate our public libraries and want them to continue to be sources of learning opportunities and places for community enrichment. Public libraries are voluntary, meaning no one is forced to use their services. If those opposed to the library system don't want their children to have access to information they deem harmful, they have every right to avoid it. They don't have the right to dictate everyone else's choices.

Elaine Garris

Hannah Watkins

From: lilurazko@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:08 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MLD

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Dear Mr. Beck,

I am writing to you to state my support of the Meridian Library District. The motion to dissolve is utterly ridiculous and plainly a lack of parental involvement on the part of the dissenters. We visit the Cherry Lane branch regularly and the Silverstone branch occasionally. The librarians are all knowledgeable, friendly, competent, and never once have promoted inappropriate material to my children. The Boise Library District is far more liberal and vocal about it. The Meridian Library District is focused on being a welcoming center for those who love books, as a library should be. Anyone who wants to dissolve that is completely out of touch with their mission and clearly has not been a patron of their branches or programs.

Thank you for your time,
Lise Goertz

Hannah Watkins

From: admin@greenavenuebooks.net
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 1:26 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Petition to Dissolve MLD

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Ada County Commissioners: Ryan Davidson, Rod Beck, and Tom Dayley

I am sure you have already received numerous letters in relation to the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. As a member of the Meridian community, a former Ada County employee, and the owner of an independent bookstore in Meridian, I felt compelled to add my voice to the overwhelming response.

Ten-mile and Cherry use to be all fields, I grew up smelling the sweet scent of mint from our backyard. We didn't have a fence for the longest time, and the farmer didn't mind us running through his fields along the canal gathering corn, onions, or whatever he was growing that season. My parents didn't worry about us running off to the rickety tree house we built in a tall oak bordering the field, they knew we were safe. Meridian is and forever will be my home, but our home is growing and rapidly changing.

I have a family of my own now, and I was fortunate enough to purchase the same home I grew up in off of Ten-Mile and Cherry road. I held expectations of my children making the same beautiful memories, but that field is now a new neighborhood, our treehouse is gone, and we built a fence. A part of me is sad and disappointed, but we learn to adapt, Meridian is still our home.

Even though there is so much change happening around us, The Meridian Library has been a reliable memory. It has been in the same location for as long as I can remember, I am thirty now, and I still remember browsing the aisles for hours. Growing up I wasn't the most vocal or social child, books were my solitude. As I ran through story after story, my family didn't have the funds to constantly purchase new books for my collection, but the Library was always there.

I discovered worlds beyond my imagination among those aisles. My love for adventure grew as I read through pages of Frodo's bravery in the Lord of the Rings by J.R.R Tolkien. As I read Ella's confidence in Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine, my own confidence blossomed. I discovered magic with Harry in Harry Potter by J.K Rowling. I laughed with Westly and Buttercup through The Princess Bride by William Goldman. And I cried reading the heartbreak of Nick Carraway in The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Books are endless wells of emotions and lessons.

The environment and background of every living person vary. I grew up here in Meridian, I hold memories different than my neighbor or the customers that come into my store every day. The impact of a particular book on me is different than it is on anyone else. The same can be said for anyone that has read a book. You take what resonates with you at that time in your life. To ban a book or to limit access to books, is disregarding not only your own but everyone's history. To say that the Library makes offensive books available to children, who is to say what is offensive? I grew up, as many here have, conservative. Limiting access to information, history, stories, and books is limiting freedom.

I urge the petitioners to reconsider their values on knowledge and growth. Every day children have fewer restrictions on internet or social media use than books. It is not the Library's availability that needs to be demolished, it is parenting that needs to be evaluated.

Thank you for your time on this matter,

--



Maria Green-
Owner

Green Avenue Books & Publishing

admin@greenavenuebooks.net | www.greenavenuebooks.net [greenavenuebooks.net]
[|greenavenueshop.etsy.com](http://greenavenueshop.etsy.com)

Hannah Watkins

From: Krista Hamel <hamel.krista@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 6:52 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the dissolution of Meridian Public Libraries

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Dear Chairman Beck,

I am reaching out on behalf of myself and the community of Meridian when I say that I ardently oppose the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. The greatest gift of my childhood was the proximity of my local library. When I got my first library card it felt like a rite of passage. Over my lifetime I have checked out everything from non-fiction books about animals, how-to arts and crafts books, chapter books, movies, magazines... the list goes on. I have taken advantage of their quiet study spaces, computers, their access to the internet, online peer reviewed journal articles, etc. etc. I regularly attended the various kids and teen programs and still continue to participate in their summer reading programs. Beyond the material benefits the library offers, the librarians that I have grown to know as my friends have had an equally positive experience in my life.

While this is my personal experience, I know many other library patrons share an equal appreciation and positive experience from their local libraries. Over the past several months I have spent the time researching the motivations behind book bans in our country and more specifically on a local level. I have read nearly all of the books from Nampa School Districts' 2022 book ban, and while I can understand how some parents may be uncomfortable with their children reading such material, to say that NO child, teen, or adult should have access to these books is a great disservice.

Meridian is home to many low income households that rely on libraries for access to the computers, internet, research materials, books, and so forth. The beauty of libraries is that they provide equal opportunities and access to people from all walks of life without discrimination. To remove all the libraries in Meridian would be to deeply disadvantage the city, its community of individuals, and education of its students.

As someone who has filled the role of "caretaker" many times as the oldest sibling, babysitter, nanny, teacher, and coach, I can understand individual parental concerns regarding various subject matters. Yet, each parent/caregiver is unique and shares different beliefs on what material they believe is appropriate for the children in their care and should not be subject to the restrictions based on the beliefs of a few parents. Furthermore, if the parental concern is with regards to the material children can learn from books, I beg you to consider the toxicity of social media, the greater abundance of misinformation, and cyberbullying that can more greatly and negatively impact children.

I wish you well and hope you do not make your decision lightly.

Sincerely,

Krista Hamel

Hannah Watkins

From: Jack Hill <justjack621@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:19 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Library

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I'm not sure when the madness and stupidity will end but I'd like you all to try to end this episode quickly. Just say NO! I'm 90 years old and have seen some pretty stupid stuff in those NINE DECADES but I'm beginning to wonder if Idaho doesn't have some of the stupidest people on the planet. Don't like a book or two? Well, yes it makes perfect sense to just shut down the whole damn library system. You know, people get more intelligent when they read books. These "Concerned Citizens of Meridian" really want everyone to be uneducated dolts so they will follow along with their fascist BS. They are "concerned" only with their own backwards ideology. Look at the calendar, it's 2023 not 1623. You all want to start burning witches at the stake again??

If someone doesn't want to read a book, don't check out the book, don't look at the book, don't read the book; go to the library with your children and help them choose books that you DO like (libraries have lots of books that suit the variety of people that live in a civilized society).

For the love of G-d, just shut these idiots down now. Libraries are highly beneficial to society, please let us keep ours.

Thank you,

Jack Hill
Meridian

Hannah Watkins

From: avery j <vhuldrenn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:07 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Dissolution of the Library District

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The work and appreciation of our libraries are valuable. Putting people's reliance away from books is not healthy, intelligently, or sensible. Reliance on the internet is everywhere, but again, not healthy. Books are a piece of art, metaphorically, and intelligently. Books are sources that we still should value since today. Protect our books. Let's not make Idaho like this.

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February 16, 2023 at 6:53:47 PM MST

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1

STATUS
Received

17-Feb-2023 01:53 From Warren C Jaycox. Phone #8185788559

FaxZero.com

p.1

Recipient Information

To: Chairman Beck
Fax #: 12082877009

Sender Information

From: Warren C Jaycox
Email address: wjaycox3@yahoo.com (from 104.34.128.217)
Phone #: 8185788559
Sent on: Thursday, February 16 2023 at 8:52 PM EST



We, my household and I, oppose dissolution of the library district and we vote! This is shameful! Ben Franklin said "If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed." and the great Erasmus said "If we want truth, every man ought to be free to say what he things without fear."

The truth always comes out!

Warren Jaycox

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Hannah Watkins

From: Warren Jaycox <wjaycox3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 6:50 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We oppose dissolution of the library district

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We, my household and I, oppose dissolution of the library district and we vote! This is shameful! Ben Franklin said "If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed." and the great Erasmus said "If we want truth, every man ought to be free to say what he things without fear."

The truth always comes out!

Warren Jaycox

Hannah Watkins

From: Kelly Johnson <kellysrock@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:30 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dissolution of Libraries

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Hello,

As a resident of Meridian my family and I STRONGLY oppose the dissolution of the library district. Our public libraries are an important part of our community and to us personally as weekly patrons at both the Cherry Lane & Silverstone Branches as well as our daily access of online resources they offer. The value that our libraries and librarians bring to our community is immeasurable and I would hope that common sense would show how ridiculous this petition is and should not be accepted under any circumstances. Please stand up for our community and oppose this petition.

Kelly Johnson

Hannah Watkins

From: Kevin Johnson <kevin.jjohnson257@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:40 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District

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To whom it may concern,

I firmly oppose the dissolution of the Meridian Library District. Libraries are an essential tool for those less fortunate and a useful resource for everyone. Dissolving the library district would be a travesty. I personally use the library on a regular basis and would be furious if it was taken away.

Thank you for your time,
Kevin Johnson
Meridian, Idaho

Hannah Watkins

From: Carl Jorgensen <CarlJorgensen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:21 PM
To: BOCC
Cc: Senator Chuck Winder; James Holtzclaw; Joe Palmer
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Meridian Library District

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Dear Ada County Board of Commissioners and my state legislators, Reading the news, watching TV, and from a local email contact says a group in Meridian wants to abolish the Meridian Library District. This might be the most ridiculous thing I've heard. Our Meridian library is a great local resource for the community and my kids. I brought my kids to readings there all the time and never saw anything that was inappropriate for them. I'm sure there are some adult themed books in the adult section, but those books were not in the kid section. If those parents are so concerned their kids might see something, they should be better parents and take some personal responsibility and keep their kids in the kid section as the librarians are not their babysitters. This is Idaho and my kids are free to read whatever they want as long as I/parent approve, and not some worrywart alarmist coward trying to degrade a really valuable community institution.

This petition is cancel culture creeping in so please nip this in the bud and continue supporting our local libraries and the people who work there.

Regards,
Carl Jorgensen
Meridian ID

Sent from my iPhone

Hannah Watkins

From: Vanessa Lobato <grimmreads@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:21 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District

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Dear Chairman Beck,

I sincerely oppose the dissolution of the Meridian Library District. I visit my local Meridian library weekly to borrow books to read, as reading is very important to me. I am beyond thankful for the library and the staff that supports my ability to check out my weekly books. I grew up as a "library kid," going to the library after school because my mom could not afford child care. I also had to use the computers there for school projects because my family could not afford a home computer. The library district means a lot to me and this is why.

The Meridian Library District helps support its community in many different ways other than just providing books and other media. They help children learn and develop life skills, adults have access to computers to apply for jobs who do not own one, they hold job fairs, they provide food to people that cannot afford it through local food drives, they provide a safe space for teens to attend different groups to make friends with similar hobbies or likes. This dissolution cannot happen. It will be a detriment to this community. We live in the land of the free and we should be able to freely read what we choose without the force of others.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

VanesSincerely,
208.901.0277

Hannah Watkins

From: Stephanie Long <stephjaynelong@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 1:42 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] opposition to Meridian Library petition

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Hello Chairman Beck,

I am emailing you today so I can voice my extreme opposition to the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. I stand with our public libraries and fully support them and think it is beyond unreasonable that there is an effort to abolish their efforts.

thank you,

Stephanie Long

Hannah Watkins

From: Ann McNeese <ann@melawfirm.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 12:19 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Petition to Eliminate Meridian Libraries

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2023, at 12:15 PM, BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for emailing the Ada County Commissioners' Office. Attached you will find the petition you are looking for as well as our news release regarding the petition. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Best,
Hannah

<image002.png>

Hannah Watkins
Scheduling Clerk
Board of Ada County Commissioners
200 W. Front St., Boise, ID 83702
(208) 287-7000 office
(208) 287-7009 fax

From: Ann McNeese <ann@melawfirm.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 10:23 AM
To: BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Petition to Eliminate Meridian Libraries

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How do I get a copy of the above Petition that was addressed to the Board of Ada County Commissioners, Chairman Rod Beck, Ryan Davison and Tom Dayley that was filed last week?

Ann McNeese
Legal Assistant

702 W. Idaho Street, Suite 800 | Boise, ID 83702
P.O. Box 6756 | Boise, ID 83707
Telephone: (208) 336-6900 Fax: (208) 336-7031

<image003.png>

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<Petition for Dissolution of Meridian Library Dist.pdf>

<NEWS RELEASE MERIDIAN LIBRARY DISTRICT BOCC3.pdf>

Hannah Watkins

From: Jen Mellon <jjmel629@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:38 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Oppose the Dissolution of the Meridian Library District

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Good afternoon Chairman Beck,

My mother was a librarian. My first job was at the library. I spent countless hours at the library as a youth and still do today. Libraries are for everyone, to learn, grow, expand knowledge, and feel included. We cannot let those who claim to be "concerned citizens" take away others rights. What one person feels is sexually explicit may provide knowledge or a sense of compassion to another. I was a victim of sexual violence in high school. If I would have read books like *Speak* and *Out of Darkness* I may have had the courage to step forward and talk about my abuse rather than allow a sexual predator to do what he did to me and possibly others. I get it, if you have a child and do not wish for them to read a particular book then that is your choice and the conversation you should have with your child and their teacher. Let parents parent. Groups should not be allowed to dictate what others can or can't read. If a book does not appeal to you as an adult, don't read it but don't tell me I can't read it or take away my library.

Our Libraries are a safe place for all. Our Librarians are amazing human beings and public servants just like you. They do so much good for our community, youth and those in marginalized communities.

Please do not dissolve our Meridian Library District.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Mellon

Proud Idaho Resident and daughter of a librarian.

Hannah Watkins

From: Amy Fisher <fisheramy32@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:21 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Library Dissolution

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Dear Chairman Beck,

This email is in regards to the petition of dissolution of the library district. Myself and my family strongly oppose it.

As a mother to two 5th generation Idahoans who grew up loving their local libraries, to see this happen would be devastating. I work at a West Ada elementary school and frequently use the library's resources. When I was a young stay at home, weekly outings to the library were a favorite of my children, helping to instill a love of learning and reading in them. We've utilized them as a teaching space when my youngest son was in Spanish lessons. They've been a great resource for tutoring as well. We have attended some of the many classes offered there throughout the years. In today's age where children are staring at a screen more and more, the libraries are imperative for fostering a love of books in children.

I urge you to listen to the vast majority who are opposing this. The affects would be detrimental to our society.

-Amy Miller
Ada County resident for 37 years

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](https://go.onelink.me)

Hannah Watkins

From: M.L. Mandella <idsummitgirl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 1:53 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Support of Meridian Library District

Is the signed petition a public record? Like will all the signatures with the petition be posted on the website? Seems like this should not be an anonymous petition from the public perspective because it involves a public resource and is funded with public dollars. Thank you

On Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 10:25 AM BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for your email. The petition submitted to the Ada County Commissioners to dissolve the Meridian Library District has generated a lot of interest. To understand what's next, and when the public can provide testimony, please follow Ada County on Facebook or the Ada County home page. <https://adacounty.id.gov/> We will keep you posted regarding the next steps required of the Ada County Commissioners outlined in Idaho State Code. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/title33/t33ch27/> [legislature.idaho.gov]

Sincerely,

Hannah



From: M.L. Mandella <idsupportgirl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:23 PM
To: BOCC <BOCC1@adacounty.id.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Meridian Library District

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I totally support the Meridian Library District.

The 50 people that signed the petition to close it...yeh...are they Ada County library card holders?

Are they actually on record of checking out any books (or anything)?

Clearly they are ignorant as to library operations.

The library serves children and adults...we use the library a lot.

It's a great resource for many things that our taxpayer dollars go to that allow us to do things we can't afford on fixed incomes.

We get books and movies on the daily. It is also within walking distance which is even more important as we age.

I'm tired of ignorants ruining good positive things for the larger population.

The Meridian Library District does a lot of good work for everyone that is eligible to use their services.

Please don't bow to these freak, low IQ troublemakers.

If anything...throw some money at the library to develop outreach programs to help these poor dis-informed, highly manipulated, souls.

Thank you

SummitGirl

The Journey Matters

--

SummitGirl

The Journey Matters

Hannah Watkins

From: V B <vbmoore5@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:25 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] To Meridian Library District petition to dissolve - please oppose this

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Commission Tom Daley,

I ask you reject the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. My wife and I have been a residents in Ada County since 1984. We have raised 2 daughters that both went to Meridian (now West Ada) Schools. We are now in our 70's retired and raising our 13 year old granddaughter who in also in West Ada Schools. We both use our local library, our kids and grand kids use them regularly. They have been part of our lives since we built our home here. We do not live in any city limits and gladly pay taxes for our library.

It is time to so NO to the radical views of a few who want to restrict our and our families access to libraries and the materials they provide us. This is not American or Republican way. If they do not want to be exposed to these books they can use restric access for themselves and their families. DO not allow them to eliminate our access to a valued service for us.

Thank You

Virgil Moore
208-631-2917

vbmoore5@msn.com

Hannah Watkins

From: Erin Murray <erinmurray09@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:33 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian library

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Hello Chairman Beck,

I am writing regarding the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. I very strongly oppose the dissolution of the district--the library is an absolutely crucial resource for all the citizens of Meridian. I very much value the services provided by the library and the work done by librarians/ The small but vocal group that is petitioning to have the district dissolved is using alarmist and inflammatory language to stoke fear and create a problem that does not exist in the manner they are describing. The benefits the library provides to the whole community are vast--not only free access to books, but also newspapers, the internet, job search resources, quiet study spaces, children's programming and activities, adult education, access to educational tools, access to computers, printers, scanners, and other expensive technology, and many many many other resources. Don't deprive a community of all of these benefits because of a miniscule portion of the population making a bad faith argument about a non-existent issue.

Erin Murray

Hannah Watkins

From: Elizabeth <eolson47@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:08 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please consider "Petition to Save the Children of Meridian and End Misuse of Taxpayer Funds" and schedule public hearing ASAP
Attachments: Meridian-Library-Petition-1a04ba67-d9a1-478e-b400-c47e85195172.pdf; Meridian-Library-Petition Cover letter.pdf; StatesmanArticle-Meridian-Library-Rachel-Spacek.pdf

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Dear Ada County Idaho Board of Commissioners,

I respectfully request that you consider the attached "Petition to Save the Children of Meridian and End Misuse of Taxpayer Funds" and its cover letter, then schedule as quickly as possible a public meeting to discuss putting this vote on the next ballot.

The petition deserves a prompt public hearing to clarify:

- the reasons for the petition;
- the purpose of the petition to dissolve the current Meridian Library District entity and;
- the intention to "reorganize the library entity in order to re-instate public discourse and comments, change the bylaws to decrease trustee terms to three years, and segregate sexually explicit material from access by minors."

Contrary to the attached and linked press reports, **NEITHER the petition NOR the cover letter state (or request) that...**

- "if voters dissolve the district, the commissioners would dispose of its property and assets, and any indebtedness would be placed in the county general fund." or
- "If dissolution does occur, all of the library district's property and assets will be disposed of by the Ada County Board of Commissioners."

The local press has not presented this issue accurately -- a disservice to taxpayers and voters who must decide the petition on its merit. Hence, my request to let the public hear the facts right away.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth Olson, Ada County Resident

Attachments & Link:

- Attachment
- - Petition: Meridian-Library-Petition-1a04ba67-d9a1-478e-b400-c47e85195172.pdf
- Attachment
- - Petition Cover Letter: Meridian-Library-Petition Cover letter.pdf

-
- Attachment
- - Idaho Statesman Article (scanned): StatesmanArticle-Meridian-Library-Rachel-Spacek.pdf

-
- Link
- - Idaho Press Article: https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/ada-county-commissioners-receive-petition-to-dissolve-meridian-library-district/article_27b70ede-ad56-11ed-b18e-bf8ded8aa715.html
[\[idahopress.com\]](https://www.idahopress.com)

**PETITION TO SAVE THE CHILDREN OF MERIDIAN AND
END MISUSE OF MERIDIAN TAXPAYER FUNDS**

To the Honorable Rod Beck, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners of the County of Ada, the Honorable Ryan Davidson, County Commissioner of the County of Ada and the Honorable Tom Dayley, County Commissioner of the County of Ada:

We, the undersigned Citizens and registered electors of the Meridian Library District, respectfully demand that a vote to dissolve the Meridian Library District be put on the next available election ballot, for a vote by the registered electors of the Meridian Library District for the following reasons:

WHEREAS, the Meridian Library District and Trustee Board has consistently refused to provide financial transparency to the taxpayers of the Meridian Library District, even after multiple requests, and;

WHEREAS, the Meridian Library District and Trustee Board has shut down public discourse at trustee board meetings which amounts to taxation without representation, and;

WHEREAS, the Meridian Library District and Trustee Board have refused to discuss any type of policy change regarding minor's access to obscene and sexually explicit materials after multiple requests by concerned Meridian citizens, and;

WHEREAS, the Meridian Library District and Trustee Board have refused to communicate with or acknowledge taxpaying citizens speaking at their trustee meetings, and;

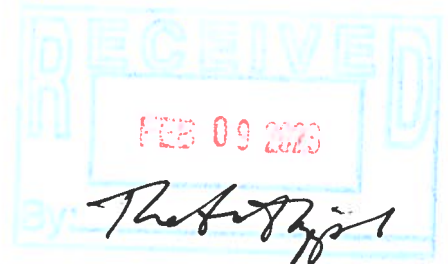
WHEREAS, the Meridian Library District and Trustee Board have continued the availability to all minors any material in the Library targeted towards sexualizing minors, and;

WHEREAS, the Meridian Library District and Trustee Board continues to provide facilities for the sexual indoctrination of minors by the Queer Straight Alliance, and;

WHEREAS, the Meridian Library Trustee board appointed a board member that openly supports the chemical and surgical castration of minors, a practice that is not supported by Meridian Community Standards.

Upon dissolution of the Meridian Library District, we ask that the Ada County Commissioners appoint an interim board of trustees to re-organize the library entity in order to re-instate public discourse and comments, change the bylaws to decrease trustee terms to three years and segregate sexually explicit material from access by minors.

REC'D-ADA CO ELECTIONS
2023 FEB 1 PM 1:29



000074

February 7, 2023

13601 W McMillan Rd

Ste 102-306

Boise, ID 83713

To: Ada County Commissioners

From: Concerned Citizens of Meridian

Re: Petition to Save the Children of Meridian and End Misuse of Meridian Taxpayer Funds

Enclosed you will find the above-named petition with the appropriate number of verified signatures as per Idaho Statutes 33-2713 and 33-2704. We do not take lightly the submission of this petition to the Ada County Commissioners. However, all other avenues of verbal discourse with the Meridian Library District Trustee Board and Library Director have, from our perspective, been exhausted.

The focus of our efforts since early 2022 is the segregation and labeling of books containing obscene and sexually explicit material (samples enclosed) from direct access by minors. The purpose of this material is to sexualize and indoctrinate minors. Movies, video games and other media typically have a rating system that allows parents to make an educated choice in their child's consumption of entertainment and educational materials. The trustee board and the library director of Meridian Library District (MLD) has refused to do so, claiming rights under the First Amendment. That is a falsehood perpetrated by the American Library Association; several staff members of the MLD are members of the ALA. Dissemination or access to obscene and sexually explicit material by and to minors is NOT covered by the First Amendment. They parrot this falsehood to the public to obfuscate the issue.

We have met with trustee members directly as well as attended the MLD monthly trustee meetings all throughout 2022. Several members of our group even submitted applications to be appointed to two open positions on the board in mid-2022. We were not chosen even though they claimed an open and fair process. Our members have also submitted reconsideration forms voicing our concerns about this material but to no avail. One of the newly appointed trustees is an employee of the MLD trustee board chairman who works at COMPASS; a strategy to continue the perpetration of their strategy to load the trustee board with "friendly's".

000075

In Nov. 2022, the MLD library director announced that they would discontinue public discourse or comments at their monthly meeting until further notice, only comments by email. From our perspective, that is taxation without representation; that was the last straw for us.

To make a clear point, the Meridian Library District is the "IT". We, who are concerned citizens of Meridian **LOVE IT!** We truly believe that the MLD serves a great purpose to the greater Meridian Community.

The Library Director and the current Trustee Board is "THEM". **THEY** are purposefully making the MLD an unsafe place for minors for allowing free access to obscene and sexually explicit material. In order to correct this issue, THEY must be removed.

The most expedient avenue for this to occur is to **DISSOLVE the LEGAL ENTITY that is the Meridian Library District**. Upon dissolution, the assets will still exist; the **IT** will still be there. **THEY** will be gone.

We need to allow the people of Meridian to make the choice. When the ACC puts this question on the next available ballot, and the people of Meridian vote to dissolve, we will take the same steps to **RE-CREATE** the Meridian Library District with trustees that will solve the issues of **financial transparency, lack of public discourse, reducing the term of elected trustees, lack of community standards, create a policy that INVOLVES PARENTS/TAXPAYERS in choosing the material for the library collection and stopping the use of library facilities to sexually indoctrinate and confuse Meridian's minors.**

We ask that the Ada County Commissioners help us Protect the Children of Meridian and end the Misuse of our Taxpayer Dollars.

With God's Blessing

Concerned Citizens of Meridian

Ephesians 6:4 - And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Citizens' group seeks to dissolve Meridian library district

SARAH A. MILLER smiller@idahostatesman.com

A crowd of over 100 people attend the Meridian Library District's board of trustees monthly meeting on Aug. 17. Some spoke about books containing nudity or depictions of sex that are available to children.

FROM PAGE 1A

LIBRARY

ued the availability" of material targeted to "sexualizing minors." The petition also criticized the library for offering a space to meet for the Queer Straight Alliance, a group the citizens said supports the "sexual indoctrination of minors."

The group also wrote that the library board had refused to hear community concerns during its meetings, and that one library board member "supports the chemical and surgical castration of minors."

Meridian Library Director Nick Grove said by phone that the library is not prepared to comment on the petition before the commissioners' meeting.

Voters created the Meridian Library District in 1974 with a ballot measure. A year later, voters elected to tax their properties to pay for it. The district runs four libraries across the city on a \$7 million annual budget, and it anticipates opening another library next year, according to its website.

A news release from the county outlined the dissolution process for a taxing district:

- A petition must be filed with the Ada County clerk and presented to the commissioners.
- A petition requires at least 50 verified signatures.
- A hearing must then be held within three to six weeks.

- The commissioners must notify the public in a newspaper two weeks before the hearing.
- The commissioners must send notice to the governing board of the library district.
- The commissioners must issue an order 10 days after the hearing saying whether or not the county clerk must hold an election.

If voters dissolve the district, the commissioners would dispose of its property and assets, and any indebtedness would be placed in the county general fund, the news release said.

Many Idaho cities, including Boise, Nampa, Caldwell, Eagle, Garden City and Middleton, include libraries as part of city government, but some, including Meridian and Kuna, do not. The Meridian district's libraries are:

- The Cherry Lane Library at 1326 W. Cherry Lane.
- The Silverstone Library at 3531 E. Overland Road.
- The ubBound Library at 722 NE 2nd St.
- The Tiny Library at 5159 S. Hillsdale Ave.
- The planned Orchard Park Library at 1267 W. Chinden Blvd.

Rachel Spacek:
208-614-0371,
@RachelSpacek

BY RACHEL SPACEK

rspacek@idahostatesman.com

A group of Ada County residents wants to dissolve the Meridian Library District.

The group, Concerned Citizens of Meridian, filed a petition with the Ada County Election's Office claiming the district's libraries contain sexually explicit material available to children, and the district has refused to change its policies about it.

The petition, which was accepted by the election's office, now goes to the Ada County Commission to decide whether to place the dissolution on the ballot.

The commissioners are scheduled to consider the request at 10 a.m. this Thursday, Feb. 16, in the commissioners' conference room in the Ada County Courthouse.

The petition was "a community effort," said Phil Reynolds in a Facebook message to the Idaho Statesman. Reynolds is one of the leaders of the effort to dissolve the library district, the Statesman previously reported. The Concerned Citizens' Facebook group had 204 members as of Wednesday.

Last summer, hundreds of people, some of whom were part of the Concerned Citizens of Meridian, gathered at a Meridian Library District board meeting to voice their concerns about or support for books that were available to children. Most of the people who spoke during public comment supported the library, the Statesman reported.

The criticism of the Meridian library follows a nationwide trend where some conservative groups have accused local libraries of having sexually explicit material accessible to children.

The Concerned Citizens' petition said the library "contin-

SEE LIBRARY, 4A

Hannah Watkins

From: Keith Olson <kaolson47@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 12:03 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Consider "Petition to Save the Children of Meridian and End Misuse of Taxpayer Funds"

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Dear Ada County Board of Commissioners -

I urge your prompt public consideration of the "Petition to Save the Children of Meridian and End Misuse of Taxpayer Funds".

Since its founding, Meridian Library District has drifted away from its original purpose of serving the citizens of Meridian. It has become an insular bureaucracy that is more intent on serving its own interests and opinions than those of the Meridian citizens who pay for the library district. For example, MLD has discontinued public discourse or comments at MLD monthly meetings. MLD also steadfastly refuses to consider parents' requests to keep inappropriate material out of children's sections of the libraries.

Thank you for your time,
Keith Olson

Hannah Watkins

From: Megan O'Rourke <mkorourke1982@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:19 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the proposal to dissolve the Meridian Library District

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My name is Megan O'Rourke, I am a citizen of Meridian, and I am writing to oppose the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District because it sets a dangerous precedent. If we restrict access to information because some disagree with it, we are paving the way for fascism.

I had the opportunity to travel to Munich, Germany, this past fall. I went on a tour of World War II landmarks, which included the Königsplatz. Between March and October 1933, numerous book burnings were held on that site. I don't need to recap the atrocities that followed, but the persecution of opponents of the Nazi regime began with the censorship of ideas a small, vocal minority opposed.

Tragically, more than 6 million people died before the Nazi reign of terror came to an end. But what is most remarkable to me is, despite the Nazi's best efforts, the people and ideas they sought to suppress survived. And 90 years after those Nazi rallies and book burnings, people have not forgotten those challenged and burned books. In fact, every May 10 the community comes together—on the Königsplatz—to read challenged or burned books.

As I learned on my trip to Germany, you cannot suppress ideas some people find distasteful because what is deemed distasteful is subjective. By dissolving the library district, you are effectively censoring the books and materials in question and endorsing one ideology. In this case, that ideology is grounded in hate and ignorance. Ira Keller once said, "The best defense against tyranny is a well-educated public." A wonderful place to combat ignorance is, ironically, a library.

In America, we value personal freedom and individual liberty. One of the greatest implications of our shared values is the fact that everyone has the freedom to choose for themselves and their families what is appropriate. To this end—the free expression of ideas—I urge you not to entertain this unconscionable effort.

Hannah Watkins

From: Quinn Orr <quinn.orr0@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:00 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save the Library!!

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Hello Chairman Beck,

I beg of you to keep the Meridian Library District. I oppose the dissolution of the library district and I value the work of the library and their librarians. Libraries are important safe spaces for many different people. Information and books are continually being privatized, and abolishing the library will only perpetuate this.

Please fight for the Meridian Library District!!!

Best,

Quinn Orr
208-608-3406

Hannah Watkins

From: Jocelyn Pettway <jpettwa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:15 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The dissolution of the library district

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Chairman Beck,

I strongly oppose the dissolution of the library district. I am shocked that there is a chance that this is going forward. As Americans we must do whatever we can to protect free access to knowledge. The loss of a library would be a blow to this community. I support the library and the important work our librarians do.

Keep knowledge free and accessible!

--
Jocelyn Pettway

Hannah Watkins

From: Pailey Ray <eevee1282@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:15 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] opposing the library petition

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This petition is terrible. Education is so important, and the library is such a foundation of our community. This is absurd. Please do not let these people take away one of the most important resources of our society.

Hannah Watkins

From: Dianna Scofield <ddscofield@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 9:31 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library

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Dear Ada County Commissioners:

I just wanted to write briefly to express my support for the Meridian Library District. I have been a user of this library for the past fifteen years, and have been nothing but pleased with and grateful for the services they offer.

With a population of over 125,000, the citizens of Meridian will never all be able to agree on which materials are "appropriate" and which are not. Closing the library is not the answer. Please dismiss this petition as the frivolous, attention-seeking ploy that it is, and allow the citizens of Meridian to keep our library. It is not fair for the general population to have such a major service shut down by a handful of outspoken individuals.

Thank you for the hard work you do. I know being the target of every latest controversy can't be easy, and I appreciate you.

Dianna Scofield
Meridian, Idaho

Hannah Watkins

From: Elisa Shelton <elisabisceg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 1:48 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District Petition

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Hi Chairman Beck,

I'm emailing you to voice my concern over the proposed petition to dissolve the Meridian library district. The library system is a vital community resource funded by the public. This should mean that all people, regardless of race, gender, age etc should have access to these resources without the personal bias of others interfering. In my opinion, this petition is nothing but a farce to push an agenda and ideal. Those who have proposed this cover behind the guise of "protecting children" when in fact, their actions are nothing but ignorant, bigoted and lack any kind of educational reasoning. The families in the community should have the choice of what they want to allow their children access to. Getting rid of books solely based off others feelings and them being "offended" takes the right to choose for our own families away from our community. A public library is exactly what it sounds like, public. Which means there are many different people from all walks of life who are represented in our communities and utilize public resources. Please do not allow the loudest and most obnoxious cries be the ones that are catered to. My family are current library members and utilize the Meridian location off of Eagle and Overland. Our children love the library and I love giving them a space to learn, explore and be curious about the world around them through books, experiences and the community support the library offers. When we start closing down our own world and purview only to what we know and what we feel is "normal" and "right", we lose the opportunity to embrace our differences and become a stronger community; empathy for others is lost and I am afraid of what the future holds as these types of mentalities continue acting so boldly in their hate and bias. I appreciate you reading my thoughts and concerns. Please let me know if there are questions about what I have written.

Thank you for your time,
Elisa Shelton

Hannah Watkins

From: Matt Smith <mjs0489@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:45 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerned Citizens of Meridian Petition

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Chairman Beck,

I am writing to you today to express my dismay at hearing about the petition filed by the Concerned Citizens of Meridian asking to dissolve the Meridian Library District. I want to state my opposition to this resolution in the strongest terms.

I am a resident of Boise, but I frequently use the Library services provided by the Meridian Library District. Boise and Meridian are one community, with the same values and needs. The work of the librarians in both cities provide much-needed services and opportunities to the people that live there.

There are classes for preschoolers that help with kindergarten readiness. They help young children with age-appropriate reading suggestions. They give teens opportunities to help their community by volunteering. Adults can use the spaces for continuing education. There are even free Business 101 education classes that can help them find and grow their entrepreneurial spirit. And everyone benefits from the internet access and thousands of books that the libraries provide. All free of charge to anyone in the community!

If people have problems with individual books, then there are ways that those concerns can be addressed. But shutting down the entire system is not only a wild overreaction, it would actually be a significant detriment to the community at-large. Please don't let the voices of a few misguided malcontents drown out the voices, and needs, of honest people who just want to see their community prosper.

Respectfully,
Matthew Smith

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[overview.mail.yahoo.com\]](#)

Hannah Watkins

From: Elaine Stehr <testehr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:49 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Meridian Library District

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We are writing to you as active patrons of the Meridian Library District. The petition submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Meridian to disband the district does not reflect our values nor any of our neighbors or friends.

We frequent the library often. The Cherry Lane facility is always busy and well used. The Meridian Library District's services, staff and facilities are top notch.

Sincerely,

Elaine and Dusty Stehr
Meridian Idaho

Hannah Watkins

From: Shelby Van Orsow <sau9584@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 8:10 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for the Meridian Library District

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Hello Ada County Board of Commissioners!

First, thank you for the work you do in service of our amazing community. Not everyone can participate in public service, and your willingness to do so demonstrates a commitment to the greater good that few possess. So, truly, thank you.

Second, I'd like to share with you my deep concern for the possible dissolution of the Meridian Library District. I'm sure you're already acutely aware of the extensive data that exists demonstrating the important role that public libraries have in strong communities such as ours; a role that extends far beyond the availability of reading materials and information. Libraries are one of the last remaining public services that extend beyond the basic service to improve quality of life for *every* patron of the service. Certainly I appreciate the US Postal Service, but I can't say they often bring me joy or brighten my day. Few among us enjoy a trip to the DMV, but it still functions to provide its service as intended. Libraries, however, are SO MUCH MORE. They offer reading material, sure, but they also provide knowledge, creativity, safety, work space, problem solving, research methods, play time, interaction, relationship building, and the occasional toddler dance party.

Such a loyal group of community servants such as the Ada County Board of Commissioners undoubtedly recognizes the immeasurable value that public libraries offer. The Meridian Library District is truly one of the best library systems I have had the pleasure of exploring, and implore you to retain the MLD so that Meridian residents and beyond can continue to reap the benefits that such a system has to offer. Our community will only get stronger with the presence of this essential public service.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading my message. I look forward hopefully to the resolution of this issue.

Highest Regards,
Shelby Van Orsow

P.S. My favorite book is Under the Whispering Door by TJ Klune. What's yours?

Hannah Watkins

From: Shannon Walton <shen.shannon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:47 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing Dissolution of the Meridian Library District

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Dear Chairman Beck,

I deeply oppose the dissolution of a library district because a few loud people dislike a couple of books. Libraries are what make an educated and civilized society. One of the most beautiful things about a library is the rich diversity of available books that allow citizens to become discerning individuals.

Please do not do the bidding of a few fearful individuals to the detriment of society. Think of all families relying on libraries for entertainment and education.

"Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open."

Thank you!

Shannon Walton

Hannah Watkins

From: K Weismann <klweismann@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:29 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing Meridian Library District Dissolution

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Dear Commissioner,

My name is Kristi Weismann, and I'm writing you this email to express my strong opposition to the proposal to dissolve the Meridian Library District .

I've been a resident of Meridian for a total of 30 years. I received my first Meridian Library card in 1988, when the library was located downtown near the current city hall building. I have so many positive childhood memories of the Library. I remember taking a big empty tote bag to the library, and coming home with a bag full of books- of stories that enriched my life and fueled my life-long love of books.

Now, as a 40-year-old mother of two, the Library is still a regular part of my life. I still have a library card, and so does my 10-year old daughter.

According to my MLD online E-loans account (through the Libby app), I have checked out over 400 E-books and audiobooks just since 2021. I've probably checked out an additional 200 physical books over the last two years.

The Meridian Library is so important to the enrichment of my intellectual and emotional life, and the lives of my children. Because of the library, I developed a lifelong love of learning and reading, and my 7 and 10-year-old daughters are already avid readers. Without the library, I would never have been able to afford to buy all of those books on my own. The Library has also been a place for me to attend storytime events, meet other families, do homework, conduct research, apply for jobs, etc.

The MLD is more than a collection of buildings and books. To me and my family, it embodies the very spirit of our community. The MLD promotes learning, curiosity, access to information, community involvement, philanthropy, literacy and education.

I very much hope that the proposal to dissolve the MLD will not be approved. The library personally has improved my quality of life and the lives of my children, friends, neighbors, and family members.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,
Kristi Weismann
3949 S Montague Way
Meridian, ID 83642
208-850-5935

Hannah Watkins

From: Amy Busek <amybusek@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 8:35 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support the Meridian Library District

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Hello Chairman Bock,

I am writing this email in support of the Meridian Library District's continued existence. Libraries are so much more than a place to borrow books. They are safe havens for kids who need somewhere to go after school. They are where seniors use and receive help on computers for no cost. They are a community gathering place, one of the few places a person can spend time without spending money.

Choice and freedom are fundamental American values. If we restrict access to books, is banning children from accessing the internet next? This is a slippery slope and one that could easily send us sliding into a surveillance state straight out of the book 1984.

As we seek to attract more professionals and families into Meridian - the second-biggest city in Idaho - will folks want to move to a city where they can't take their kids to a library? It is a decision that will have negative reverberations across Meridian for years to come - all because of a few self-righteous citizens whose extremist views in no way represent the average Meridian voter.

Thank you for your leadership in Ada County and please make the right choice in regards to our library system.

Amy Busek
Meridian resident, taxpayer and working professional

Hannah Watkins

From: Dan <dandpderby@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 10:37 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian libraries

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We support the libraries in Meridian. It would ruin the city to loose them.

Dan and Pam Derby

Hannah Watkins

From: Amber Deutsche <arayd101@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 5:15 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Meridian Library District Dissolution

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Good Afternoon Chairman Beck,

My name is Amber Deutsche, I'm citizen in Ada county, born and raised. I'm reaching out today to voice my opposition to the petition that has been filed to dissolve the Meridian Library District. Growing up, my local library was always a place that I could go to to read and learn and grow. The work that the librarians in the Meridian Library District do is valuable and precious, and the dissolution of it would be a great loss to our society. I understand there are concerns about inappropriate contents of books available to children. I myself am not a parent, so I can only imagine the level of concern some parents have for their children being exposed to inappropriate content. But I don't think the solution is to get rid of the library, but rather this could be a learning opportunity and an opportunity for parents to connect with their kids, as I believe it should be the parents of children who decide what books are appropriate for their children, and it's up to them to monitor what books they are reading. It is not fair to the children in Meridian, or the community in general, for the library district to be dissolved because books are knowledge, and the library is a physical place that kids can go to outside of their home and school to do homework, learn, and socialize. Thank you for listening to my concerns,

Sincerely,

Amber Deutsche

Hannah Watkins

From: Heather Gerdes <hngerdes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 8:17 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library

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Chairman,

I stand with the Concerned Citizens and their goal to protect our children from the pornographic and explicit sexual content in the library. Keep our kids safe from predators and not desensitized by material that instructs them on how to perform sexual acts with graphic pictures. Do the right thing. Protect our kids.

Thanks,
Heather Gerdes

Hannah Watkins

From: Michaela Green <michaela415415@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:35 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Library District Petition

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Good afternoon,

It's been brought to my attention that there is a petition being signed by Meridian residents to eliminate the library district. I optimistically assume no government action will be taken from such an egregious attempt by the local radicalists to revoke a fundamental aspect of society, but such optimism doesn't defer my duty as a citizen to dissent. This farcical movement by the extremists should not have any jurisdiction regarding libraries, and it's my hope that I can safely assume the government will protect our books.

Hannah Watkins

From: CINDY WOOD <cswood07@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 9:23 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Petition to delete Meridian library

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Good Morning,

I am deeply disappointed about the misguided small group of people wanting to delete the Meridian library, that my taxes pay for. It should not be allowed for a small group of people to impact the lives of most of us that reside in Meridian. I am a senior and avid reader, who borrows several books a week throughout the year from the library. I take advantage of their other services, using computers, copy machines and research services. I have attended events put on through out the year too. Not all books with different subjects in the library, interest me, but are there should they. Everyone should be entitled to borrow what they want without a group of people deciding they should have the power to edit what we read. As a senior, having Meridian library branches close to home is important. I can walk, drive or ride a bike to take advantage of our branches. If this group is allowed to get rid of Meridian libraries this can create a hardship for many and having to utilize Boise or Eagle branches. If they are allowed to get rid of Meridian libraries what will be next ? They will go after other city libraries too ?? Please protect the people who elected you by not allowing this travesty to happen.

Thank you,
Cynthia Hall
4337 S Tavistock Way
Meridian 83642

Sent from my iPad

Hannah Watkins

From: Ashlee Hansen <ashleeh10@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 5:01 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing Dissolution of Library District

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Hello,

I, a citizen of Ada county, oppose dissolution of the Meridian library district. I value the work of libraries and the librarians who run them. They are a vital part of the community.

Ashlee Hansen

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Hannah Watkins

From: Michael Hon <michael.hon@pm.me>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 9:27 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Petition to Save the Children of Meridian

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Ada County Commissioners:

Has a date been set for a public meeting to discuss the petition that was submitted last week?

Michael Hon
Michael.Hon@pm.me 208.939.9033
Iron Eagle Executive Center
1159 E Iron Eagle Dr., Ste 170, Eagle, ID 83616

Sent with [Proton Mail \[proton.me\]](https://proton.me) secure email.

Hannah Watkins

From: Frances Laursen <fpoon1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 8:05 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of the Meridian Library District

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My family loves and relies on materials provided by the MLD. My husband and I are homeschooling our middle school aged daughter and check out books and DVDs for our own entertainment and education. Our high school aged son has participated and even won the Pokemon tournament hosted by the library. I have donated blood at the Red Cross blood drive at Cherry Lane.

I have volunteered at and been employed by the MLD. My husband has also volunteered (he helped teach seniors how to use a computer). We both use the services provided at unBound.

We are very excited about the Orchard Park branch opening near us in a couple of months. I plan to volunteer there starting this summer.

The petition to dissolve the library district is absurd and fascist. People are free to choose not to patronize the library, but they should not have the ability to prevent everyone else from using and benefitting from it.

Thank you for your time and attention.

-Frances

Hannah Watkins

From: Lewis, Sydney <sydney.lewis@stoel.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 10:51 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition of dissolution of the Meridian Library district

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Hello,

My name is Sydney and I am a resident of the Meridian area writing to let you know that I strongly disapprove of the dissolution of the Meridian Library district. Growing up, the public library was one of my favorite places to go and somewhere I still enjoy going. Teachers are already not paid enough in the state of Idaho and getting rid of the public libraries in Meridian will only lead to adding more pressure on the teachers to provide reading materials for their students, and with what extra income will the City of Meridian provide these teacher? Idaho is already nearly last in the United States in terms of education, so now these individuals want to further inhibit their children from learning? Access to books, especially at a young age is extremely important for the future of our city and would be ridiculous to have removed, and a huge waste of time and resources that in the end will only put us further back. Please don't let a handful of individuals take away these valuable resources that the public might otherwise not have access to.

Sydney Lewis

Hannah Watkins

From: sloe1950@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 9:28 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dissolving MLD

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Dear Chairman Beck,

I am opposed to the dissolution of the Meridian Library District.

The taxing district represents a varied group of interests and needs, and the library has an obligation to offer materials and programs that reflect those interests. It cannot pander to the needs of a minority.

The library is more than books. Take a look at the web page to get a true picture of all it offers to the community.

As a society we want to reach out and assist all of our fellow citizens with information that is based in fact, education that encompasses as much as possible, and entertainment to lighten our days.

As parents we know our children will face a world with many different beliefs. We must learn to have discussions with our children as they discover the differences in the world so they can become informed, discerning adults able to make their own decisions.

How can that be done if we have a library with information/programs that shows only a part of who we are?

I have lived here, in Meridian, since 1995 and raised two daughters. I am 72 now and cannot tell you enough how much of a wonderful resource the library has been and continues to be in my life.

Thank you for your time,

Sandy Loeppke

Hannah Watkins

From: Andrea McKinney <andrea.hedstrom1182@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 7:04 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Apposing Dissolution of Meridian Public Library

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Hi,

My name is Andrea McKinney and I am emailing to say that I appose the proposal to dissolution of the meridian public library. I personally believe that libraries are a wonderful source for ALL and should not cater to a specific beliefs, values or opinions. We have come so far in regards to growth and inclusion.

Thank you,
Andrea McKinney

Hannah Watkins

From: Diane McLain <mclainplace@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 10:17 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Library District Petition

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Please do not approve this petition. Parents need to be parents and supervise their children. If they think libraries are so bad, don't let their kids go there. Don't take that privilege away from those who enjoy libraries.

Thank you,

Diane McLain

Sent from my iPad

Hannah Watkins

From: Meaghan <meaghancouture@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 11:42 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep meridian libraries

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Hello! I was given this email address to send my message of support for libraries. Thank you!

On Feb 17, 2023, at 9:22 AM, meaghancouture@gmail.com wrote:

Name: Meaghan Jensen

Email: meaghancouture@gmail.com

Address: [5027 West Ladle Rapids Dr., Meridian, ID, 83646, United States \[google.com\]](#)

Subject: Keep Meridian Libraries

Message: Hello!

This is probably the most odd thing I never thought I'd have to do: Write our City Council to support keeping our local libraries open. But, hey, it's life after 2020 and from weird spy balloons to the confirmation of unidentified aerial phenomena to a minority of citizens calling for the closure of public libraries for the majority of citizens who need/want libraries ...I suppose that makes (non)sense.

I would officially like to offer my support of keeping local libraries open to the public. As would my husband, Thomas Jensen, my parents David and Teresa Couture, and our two children. Access to books, knowledge, information is (I thought) a fundamental American/Human right. Memories of visiting the library are core for the children who go to the library. It's often the only way to access books, without having to pay an exorbitant sum on Amazon or the like.

So, please consider my submission of support as at least one voice of reason in this season of unchecked insanity.

Libraries are good. Knowledge is good. Access to information is good. Let's keep Meridian good.

Thank you. Meaghan
<Contact City Council and Mayor.pdf>

Hannah Watkins

From: theegeekmew <theegeekmew@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 7:48 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dissolution of Ada County Libraries

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Hello,

I am a citizen of Ada County in Idaho, on Goldstone Drive in Meridian. I oppose the recent movement to dissolve the community libraries. Having community access to outlets, information, and facilities is critical to the community's health and well being. Please continue to use my tax payer money toward the upkeep of these libraries. We constantly use them, and will continue to do so. Please understand that the general community sees these facilities as resources, and not threats to ideology. Thank you for your time.

Warm regards,

Krysta Miller

Hannah Watkins

From: Emily Mortensen <emilysuzanne3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 11:26 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing Library Dissolution

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Ada County Commissioners,

My name is Emily Mortensen, and I am a citizen of Meridian, a parent of two small children, and mental health therapist in our community. I am writing to you in opposition to the meridian library dissolution. I have been a citizen of Ada County since I was born 30+ years ago. The Meridian Library District has been a huge support in my upbringing and community involvement since I was a teenager (and younger!). I've volunteered at the Victory branch many times as a teen, enjoyed storytime at Cherry Lane library, and enjoyed so much support through teen book clubs, and now as a parent in the area love the support that I can receive for my young kiddos (1 & 4) including storytime, the kid's playrooms, and all the wonderful resources available that support me in learning about parenting and teaching my children!

I am also a therapist in the area supporting teens and young adults mental health and urge you to oppose this dissolution as the library is a huge resource in supporting the mental health of our youth and college students who are desperately looking to manage their stress and the impact of the pandemic. I have had waitlists since I went to private practice last spring. I will regularly use book resources from the library in my work as a therapist whether it's recommending good educational kids book to a new parent or encouraging my teen and college students to use the free wifi or the free Libby app to access ebooks.

Please, support our local Meridian Library District and oppose the dissolution petition. Feel free to connect with me for any discussion, questions, etc.

Emily Mortensen, LCPC, NCC
emilysuzanne3@gmail.com
208-954-3296

Hannah Watkins

From: Billy Pederson <willpede@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 1:12 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library Petition - OPPOSITION

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing today to voice my opinion on the petition filed in Meridian to dissolve the Meridian library district. I have lived in Idaho my whole 35 years on this earth. Coming from a small town in East Idaho before moving to Ada County 7 years ago. It is absolutely unbelievable that 93 signatures on a piece of paper from "concerned citizens" can dissolve a library system that is used by 100's of treasure valley residents every day. Free public libraries are one of the absolute bedrocks of a functional healthy society. I personally use meridian libraries once a week to rent books/games/movies. My kids attend classes and functions at these libraries that enrich their lives and grow a sense of community.

Ninety-three people should not be able to shut down a public institution that is used by many treasure valley residents. I'm willing to bet the folks who submitted this petition haven't set foot in a library in years or else they would see the community and value it brings. The "harmful" material they reference is far from harmful. Learning about other walks of life and different ideas than your own grows an individual. If parents are that concerned over what their children are checking out, maybe they need to pay more attention. Not ruin a great thing and public necessity for everyone else.

Regards,

William Pederson

Hannah Watkins

From: Jackie Schultz <jlschultz25@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 10:31 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Our Libraries Are Critical to Young Minds!

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Hello,

I am writing to plead you to not dissolve Meridian's Libraries as they are critical to young minds. I value our librarians and our libraries— they help me personally and many kids in Meridian.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Schultz
Concerned Citizen

Hannah Watkins

From: Amara VanOrden <vanordenap@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 5:22 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Dissolution of Meridian Library District

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Rod Beck

District 2 Commissioner

200 W Front Street, 3rd Floor, Boise, ID 83702

bocc1@adacounty.id.gov

Dear Chairman Beck,

I am reaching out to voice my support for the Meridian Library District. I have seen firsthand working with young kids and teens, briefly as a case manager and CBRS, the library as an essential resource for them. It was a safe and fun place for my clients to go to when needing a computer, spending time in the teen room playing games, interacting with peers, and other events/activities the library often provides for youth. It provided social opportunity and a place to go for me as a professional to help them work on their coping and social skills and a place to de-stress after attending school, or if my client just needed a break from conflict at home. Often the youth I worked with were from low-income backgrounds and the library provides resources that may be harder for these kids to obtain. Libraries are an essential service and resource in most communities. It often is a gathering place for people and families, also a quiet place for people to study or work, and a place for people to find some peace and meditation from a fast-paced modern world. It also provides access to different technologies that people may not have at home or can afford. I believe it would be devastating to Meridian and the county if the Meridian Library District is dissolved and many people who utilize it as a resource would mourn its loss.

I believe in people's personal responsibility, especially parents to monitor the media and materials their children consume. When I was working with kids and teens, I ensured that they were consuming appropriate materials and media too as a professional, and often did not need to correct this behavior hardly. I also believe each family has different values and beliefs and that libraries cater to different backgrounds/diversities. From my experience the libraries in the county do this well and provide a variety of information and knowledge to the public, while encouraging and cultivating literacy. As someone who has her bachelor's and master's, I know that books, research, and libraries enrich society and help make us wiser. Another concern I have about the Meridian Library District dissolving is the right to freedom of speech being impinged upon, if we start to police our libraries content and materials, furthermore if we begin to dissolve libraries the impact that will have on us as a free society. I urge you commissioner to ensure this process is fair and consider the dire consequences dissolving a library can have on a community and those who use it as a resource. Thank you for your time and civil service!

Sincerely,

Miss Amara VanOrden
BA Psychology, MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Associate at Amazon

3119 E Shadowview St,

Eagle, Idaho 83616

vanordenap@gmail.com

Hannah Watkins

From: Beth Vertrees <bvertrees33@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 8:38 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District Dissolution Petition- Do NOT Approve

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Hello Ada County Commissioners,

I recently learned of the petition in place to dissolve the Meridian Library District. I understand the petition is currently on the desk of the commissioners to review. I, as an Ada County resident, am wholeheartedly opposed to the petition to eliminate the Meridian library district. This small group of petitioners (50) seeks to remove an entity which provides valuable services to a very large, supportive community. Please do not allow a few to decide the fate for many. If necessary, the issue should be put to a vote of the Ada County citizens.

Thank you for your time,

Beth Vertrees

Hannah Watkins

From: David Watson <davidjwatson.007@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 10:50 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ada County Library Board

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you regarding the petition to have the Ada county library board dissolved and replaced. This board has become highly partisan and inflexible. Many requests have been made to them over the last year or so, but they have fallen on deaf ears because the requests do not align with their political worldview.

For example, I have written to the board in the past about their mask mandate, making appeals that they lift it (at the time mask mandates were being lifted all over the state and across the country) and the replies I received were defensive and argumentative. In spite of the mask mandates being lifted everywhere and appeals made by citizens in the board meetings, the Ada county library board dug in their heels deep and kept their mandate in place. Seemingly in spite of the many appeals made to them.

This board should be replaced with one that is more bipartisan and one that is willing to listen to and address the concerns made by the citizens of the community they serve.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
David Watson
Meridian

Hannah Watkins

From: Stephanie Wheeler <wheelersteph@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 5:02 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Meridian Library District

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I am writing to express my sincere support for the Meridian Library District. I have lived in Meridian for 29 years, and one of the first things my husband and I did after moving to Meridian was go get a library card! As an avid reader, of course I rely on the library for books, audiobooks, and e-books. But the library provides so much more than that. The Meridian library TRULY serves the community with programs for all age groups. My two daughters grew up participating in storytimes, after-school programs, and summer reading activities. I've taught high school in Meridian for almost 18 years, and I have had countless students that have relied on the library for access to educational materials, computers, and reliable internet access outside of school hours. I'm saddened by the efforts of a small group of people to try to take this amazing resource away from the community.

The "Concerned Citizens of Meridian" do NOT speak for me, and should not get to decide what information citizens of Meridian are allowed to access. While the library has been a wonderful resource, it's always MY responsibility as a parent to monitor what my children read. The "Concerned Citizens of Meridian" should not have the power to decide what books or information are appropriate for my children. Please don't allow the opinions of a loud minority to take a beloved institution away from our community.

Thank you for your time.

Stephanie Wheeler

Hannah Watkins

From: Alison Willoughby <allywilloughby@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 9:10 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect The Meridian Library District

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Dear Chairman Beck,

I'm writing today because I'm deeply concerned about the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District.

Please protect our libraries. They are crucial in supporting literacy, education, information, and other resources.

I want to highlight that the library's educational materials related to job training/retraining and continuing education are important for our ever-changing job market, the value they provide to the children of our community, and the importance of gathering spaces such as this.

Our librarians work so hard and do amazing work. Please support them.

Thank you for your time + have a beautiful weekend.

Cheers,

Alison Willoughby

“Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions.”
— Dalai Lama XIV

Hannah Watkins

From: Taryn Ankenman <tarynankenman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 8:46 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian library

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To whom it may concern;

I am writing to inform you that I strongly oppose the dissolution of the meridian library district. The libraries are a huge resource to a growing community and the work the librarians do and the services provided are invaluable. I personally use the libraries for my own reading pleasure and my sisters take their children to reading time. It would be such a waste to see this go away. Please help keep our libraries open.

Sincerely,
Taryn Ankenman

Hannah Watkins

From: Alex Biancavilla <alex.biancavilla@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 8:13 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District

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Chairman Beck,

I'm writing to express my concerns over the recent petition filed by a group calling themselves "Concerned Citizens of Meridian" to dissolve the Meridian Library District.

As a citizen of Ada County, I call upon you and those in office to oppose this misguided petition. Shutting down a library district is tantamount to fascist ideals to oppress the citizens by denying free access to knowledge.

Ignorance is the true enemy of America. Not republicans. Not democrats. Certainly not books.

Signed,

Alex Biancavilla of Ada County.

Hannah Watkins

From: Lacey Caulfield <lcaulfield11@georgefox.edu>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 12:57 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Meridian Libraries

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Hello,

I just wanted to write and voice my support and gratitude for the Meridian Public Libraries (my preferred branch is Cherry Lane). My husband and I walk over at least once a month and stock up on a wide variety of reading material, puzzles, and documentaries. We love to learn about new subjects, and a library is the perfect place to do that. The library is a communal place of solace, one of the few indoor spaces these days where the target is not to get you to spend money. You can check out a book on a subject that you already love, or you can choose to learn something new from a book that wouldn't traditionally interest you, without wasting \$20-\$30 each time.

There are plenty of books in the library that hold viewpoints or teach things I don't necessarily agree with. Some may even contain ideas I would consider 'dangerous'. However, shutting a library down for carrying books I don't personally agree with would be a childish, foolish reaction. It would be taking away educational resources from hundreds of people based on the opinions of a select few on a handful of issues. It would be taking away access to internet for many less fortunate residents. It would be taking away a communal gathering place. As a teenage girl I spent quite a lot of time in the library growing my mind. If I had not had access to a library, who knows how I would have filled my time?

I cannot begin to tell you how important the library has been for me in the past few months that I have lived in Meridian. I have gotten to explore subjects I have always wanted to learn about. I have felt a renewed energy and sense of purpose, gotten out of my old routines, and started reading books to help me transition into a career I am really passionate about. Libraries are incredibly beautiful and important community spaces, ones that expose you to different ideas and viewpoints, which help grow your critical thinking abilities. I know some 'concerned citizens' are concerned about 'the children', but I think raising children in a bubble where their world view is the only one represented leads to very weak-minded teens and adults. I think the change they are seeking here would actually do more harm to their children than good, not to mention the harm it would do to everyone else.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this. I just wanted you to know that there are a lot of concerned citizens in Meridian who are much more concerned by a world without libraries.

Sincerely,

Lacey Caulfield

Hannah Watkins

From: Natalie Hilde <nataliehilde@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 12:27 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Libraries

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Chairman Beck,

I am writing to you today to express my support for the public libraries and as a citizen of Meridian, Meridian Public Libraries in particular. I am a native Idahoan and I value the freedom we have in this state. I also value the public library and believe libraries are very important for community. We regularly check out books for my 10 and 15 year old daughters and I know the work of my neighborhood library has positively impacted and reinforced literacy for my children. I oppose the dissolution of the library district and strongly urge you to seek feedback from all the citizens in your jurisdiction, not just the loud voices from the extremes on both sides.

Natalie Hilde
2964 E Loon Creek Street, Meridian.

Hannah Watkins

From: Tom and Sue Kuziej <tskuziej@centurylink.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 1:47 PM
To: BOCC; BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library

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Ada County Commissioners,

As a resident of Meridian, I wish to strongly oppose the petition submitted to dissolve the Meridian Library District. I perhaps am in a somewhat unique position since I have volunteered at the Cherry Lane branch of the library for the past eight years. I have literally spent hundreds of hours shelving books and pulling holds for the thousands of patrons of the library. In all the time I have been in the library as a patron or volunteer, I have never witnessed anything like those things being alleged by this tiny group. Please don't waste time or resources with this petition which seems to reflect only the crazy dreams of this fringe.

The library as been pivotal the the development of my grandchildren's reading abilities. It is a place of scholarship and relaxation. It is a very important part of the Meridian community.

We Idahoans value our freedoms and individuality. Libraries a a beacon of freedom-the freedom of speech and the freedom to explore the world. If parents are concerned about what books their children are checking out, the should go with their kids to the library. If they don't like the library, then they should not make use of it. Please do not allow this tiny group to decide for me and others what we can or cannot read.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kuziej
5781 N Beaham Ave., Meridian, 83646

Hannah Watkins

From: C L <tyroleea@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 3:29 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Library District

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Good afternoon,

I am in opposition of dissolving the Library District.

Our libraries and library personnel deserve our support. Censorship and the cowering to a small-minded minority do nothing to sustain the benefit of education for our community.

Please act accordingly.

Regards,
Carrie Lee

Hannah Watkins

From: John Lilly <jlly@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 10:23 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal to dissolve Meridian Library District

Importance: Low

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Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:jlly@msn.com) for Windows

I am a resident of Ada County District Two. I am opposed to the proposal to dissolve the Meridian Library District. At least one of its proponents was quoted as saying their intent is not to dissolve the library but to remove and replace the Library Board. Clearly this method is an inappropriate means to that end and in my opinion does not warrant the expense in time, effort and public funds of a hearing or election.

They have also made the claim that the Library is indoctrinating children without providing any evidence that I am aware of supporting this allegation.

In reality this entire effort is about censorship. I am opposed to that as well. It is my experience that the Meridian Library District does a more than adequate job of providing a wide range of library materials and services to meet the needs of its many varied patrons.

I have had the opportunity to patronize many libraries in my life including; City of Seattle Libraries, the King County System Washington, the Sno-Isle Library System Washington, the Seattle University Library and the University of Washington Libraries. I find the Meridian Library District to be equal to any of them in meeting my needs, the professionalism of its staff and fairness in operations.

This proposal represents the views of an extreme minority, it is ill conceived and its intent is contrary to ideas of free speech, freedom of the press and the fair exchange of ideas. It is my desire that the Counsel dispose of it as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your attention.

John Lilly
115 East San Pedro Street
Meridian, Idaho 83646

Hannah Watkins

From: Rex and Mary Lott <maryandrelott@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 4:33 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Do Not consider dissolution of Meridian Library District

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Dear Commissioners,

Please do not consider the proposal to absolve the Meridian Library District. It is a ludicrous idea. If these folks don't want to read certain materials, then don't. If they don't want their kids finding material that is objectionable to their values, then they should go to the library with them and help them select more appropriate materials.

What can be found by youth on social media is far more dangerous and frightening than a book. Parents should not drop their kids off at the library and then criticize it's contents, and expect staff to be moral monitors.

Thank you,

Mary Lott

Meridian resident

Hannah Watkins

From: rennauxa <rennauxa@q.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 7:27 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian library

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The Meridian library should NOT be dissolved. It is an important part of our community. It is the parents responsibility to decide what their children read not the library.

Amelia Rennaux

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S21 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

Hannah Watkins

From: Stan Rennaux <rennauxs@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 8:30 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District

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In reviewing the request to dissolve the Meridian Library District, as published on the Ada County website, it appears that almost 100% of the allegations are baseless, unfounded, or incapable of proof. While the "Concerned Citizens of Meridian" certainly have a right to educate their offspring as they see fit, they do not have a right to restrict everyone else to those dangerous beliefs. It is my request the Commissioners decide to keep the Meridian Library District as it is today.

Respectfully,
Stanley Rennaux

Hannah Watkins

From: Jenny Respress <jrespress@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 12:31 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter OPPOSING Dissolution of Meridian Library District

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Hi, my name is Jenny Respress and I am a resident of Ada County and I am writing to the Commissioners to say that I OPPOSE the dissolution of the Meridian Library District.

I support all libraries and librarians.

Jenny Respress
208-949-5805

Hannah Watkins

From: Jeannette Sanchez <boise_nette74@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 1:51 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Meridian Library please...

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Dear Ada County Commissioners-

I wanted to take a moment of your time in support of the Meridian Library. Our family has been patrons of the MLD for over 20 years. I know this because when we moved here at that time, we knew no one, not one person. The kid's story and music time became a sanctuary. A place to meet other families and learn and grow together. We have enjoyed many programs over the years of course including the books, DVD's and music both online and on-site. I also enjoy the programming for adults. A few years ago, as a part-time Para-Professional and Substitute Teacher, I found myself in need of help. Our daughter had to have emergency surgery and was hospitalized for 8 days. I needed to pursue a full-time job. I signed up for the computer class to gain the skills to be competitive in the job market. It worked and I landed a full-time job where I remain 8 years later. We also have attended countless community events over the years. They provide inclusive programming. We were introduced to the Basque community when they had a day to learn about their culture and even had dancers. I attended an event to check-out human books to learn about other cultures too. They've had learn to paint nights. They've had zoom meeting to learn about how to better our finances by eliminating debt. They even had a learn about wills and testaments. During Covid, they pivoted and made face shields to protect high risk community members. They also delivered to people's homes, the materials they needed. They have covered all facets from birth on and I appreciate the variety of programs they provide.

Not only as a patron, I have served in the volunteer capacity as well since 2018. I have served as a helper of Kindergarten readiness, clothes swap, conversation club, helped with an event set up of non-profit vendors visiting the library to hear about community information and referral. I donate food to their community outreach program so they can provide snacks to those teens that also go to the library for a sanctuary. As a volunteer, we know the patrons. It is like a big family.

I mention my 20 years there because there are ALREADY processes and procedures in place if someone finds materials, they don't agree with. There is a process ALREADY in place to recommend a reconsideration or even removal of materials. If something is placed in an area that they feel is not age appropriate, there ALREADY is a process in place to recommend moving that material to another area of the library whether that be in the teen or adult area.

The threat to dissolve our beloved library is simply heartbreaking! This place provides more than books which winning the National Award of Libraries showed a few years ago. I implore you to explore all of the wonderful services they provide. This place is truly a community treasure and not only deserves to stay open but is necessary to continue to help community members. We all need a little help sometimes and I'm so thankful they have been and hopefully will continue to be a part of our families lives.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Sanchez

208-850-9350

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Hannah Watkins

From: Jacqueline Schertell <jacqueline.schertell@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 10:10 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian library district

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To whom it may concern

I'm a concerned citizen, but I'm not concerned about the books in the library. There are plenty of books that I'll never read and that's my choice, I would never ask the library to remove a book I never intended on reading. It's absolutely ridiculous to bring attention to "banned books" by trying to dissolve a whole ass library.

I recently took a job at a staffing agency in Ada County and I cannot tell you enough what a valuable asset the library is to people. Most of the people that come through a staffing agency do not have a computer. They are forced to complete job applications and put together resumes on their phones. These people need the library. They need the resources the library provides. And they provide these services free to the public which is what these people need because they don't have the money to get help.

Dissolving the library dissolves all the valuable services that people need to function in society. The library is a gift and a necessity.

The library is a hall of doors that leads to a thousand worlds. The knowledge and joy that can be found at the library must stand. The books must stay. Other wise the conservative Christian morons will take over the world and progress will stop and we'll continue to be the biggest dumbest bully of a nation on the planet.

This is so maddeningly and mind numbing stupid that I just cannot think straight enough to put thoughts and sentences together. How are we even letting these morons make decisions for the rest of the community? How can you let this happen? This is nazi mentality. This is fascist. This is oppression.

Keep the library. End of story.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Schertell.
Citizen of Ada County and a patron of libraries.

Hannah Watkins

From: riah.smith3@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 10:12 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Library District

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To Whom it May Concern:

Recent news has brought attention to an accepted petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District. This notion will not benefit local citizens. Dissolving the MLD would take away so many important resources in our community. Censorship is a slippery slope and should not be in the hands of a few while the majority disagrees. Individuals should hold their own opinions on a personal level and have appropriate conversations within their families to address concerns. The local government is not a parent.

I personally have fond memories of spending time after school at the Meridian Library; playing educational games, reading, and expanding my knowledge. I loved the library so much I volunteered at my school library all through middle school. I even applied to work at the Meridian Library in high school. I am now 31 years old and still cherish these times. I hope my daughter will get to experience the same. I do not want her to grow up in a world without public libraries.

I strongly disagree with this petition and do not support dissolving the Meridian Library District.

Sincerely,
Moriah Shrum

Hannah Watkins

From: Calli Smith <calli.smith72@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 9:14 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Defense of the Library

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Dear Chairman Beck

I recently learned of a petition brought forth which called for the dissolution of the Meridian Library District. This petition is both horrifying and alarming.

The work of libraries and librarians is vital to our city. Libraries are vehicles of equity - places where people of all races and creeds can access the same knowledge, and find common ground and community.

As a teacher, the idea of dissolving the library district is especially troubling, since access and exposure to books is one of the best ways to build literacy skills from a young age. Since public libraries fill in the gaps for families who cannot afford to build robust home libraries, a petition to be rid of the Meridian Library District is, without question, a direct act of aggression towards vulnerable Ada County Children.

I staunchly oppose this ghastly petition and urge you to show your support for our infinitely valuable libraries and librarians.

Sincerely,
Calli Smith

Hannah Watkins

From: Mary Steed <stead0@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 1:26 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Petition from 93 people of Meridian

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Dear Ada County Board of Commissioners:

Before going to the expense of putting something on a ballot that 93 people in Meridian requested (that is .000465% of the people of residing in Meridian) please consider the hundreds of users who rely on the library daily, weekly, and monthly.

I check out books on line from the Meridian Library system and I am happy with the service I receive and the selection of books available.

It is parents responsibility to monitor books their children are reading. I know of no book in the children's or juvenile section of the library that I would not want my grandchildren reading. Our families have been library users for many years and have checked out many books over the years.

Our family exchanges reading suggestions frequently from across the Treasure Valley and I also exchange reading suggestions with relatives in other states.

The Library System is one place I am happy to see my tax dollars support.

Mary Steed
5341 W Torana Drive
Meridian, ID 83646

208-874-2612
mcstead@aol.com

Hannah Watkins

From: taterwoman@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 11:39 PM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New York Times sent reporters to 30 libraries in 7 states....

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...to compile this article on the importance of libraries to their communities. My husband worked at the Bemis Library in Littleton, Colorado (one of the libraries featured in the article) nearly 60 years ago as a college student. He saw first-hand the many services and kindnesses extended to the citizens of Littleton by its librarians. They helped him with his homework. They taught him so many ways to research and improve his mind. Here's a link to the article – I tried to post it to the "feedback" section of the county website but the link had more than 500 characters.

[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2023%2F02%2F14%2Fbooks%2Freview%2Flibrary-public-local.html%3Funlocked_article_code%3D0ROhYYVHcmglyGmipIP6oxq89s5a-hgddnUNPkmWYME8YQnGxh5Vk2TuY9RPbw0YYsSsMvVvE_jN8ooGn6ny-jclcl_vvVcGEgfJuZiv3CBZseDxJzWw8N-2EIXoKV_Ex7rZk2jy4KBSkzkI4NQYXMo4EqCqsCIQIZQe8UpB_ytmkk4nCavbipadGz8IEdCcKC6w3AyrvY-9JOr5nzTAI4qJm4vcVKfrzkHmYOmbkskdiK95IUuwegDRYdTCSZgGfdS6eRTFB9oEUcdZqCpraXEKNVGPWOkRrQMAzlwSfEH_MGNwGsIlzRxQH2Un48O61eNTFsn_pex5lmve51mXdzsz1PgW%26smid%3Durl-share%26fbclid%3DlwAR2Z8ng2ZsGyZjs7HlvPGKOe0_6VPNI_V_-SOU-xpkXkVyHdbUR91GU1RII&h=AT00j2a8zlvpueUfMlms1MwHn52FBol-ocu3qIXvcrXQKHEhOfBIO4OanJhDN98Ykn7o8G1x4ydlm-6L1OfgzrjqGLSQmV8ieBb1H1itBT619phhKfV5gb-lyTT84Ewu_sCP&_tn=-UK-R&c\[0\]=AT20YyN4aQDhIM_ICdX2i-iMryBf03TIIMMpZITqnvN03ajxk08ZIQIlme71BfVgIUd52luXMppMjZpaC1y3N50htWMJxHvasn5RjITpB-oV_bbTUKTHHrV5QZYpmDmROsrXUVoM9c1FRdD9IVx0txInPGAGOUyO4Tb2ThXC0WBTdroFqznTTCQ9eeMyZw49rz7-sgh2FabsUs0sLnRnOKjYWP2mKMyroTgyA \[l.facebook.com\]](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2023%2F02%2F14%2Fbooks%2Freview%2Flibrary-public-local.html%3Funlocked_article_code%3D0ROhYYVHcmglyGmipIP6oxq89s5a-hgddnUNPkmWYME8YQnGxh5Vk2TuY9RPbw0YYsSsMvVvE_jN8ooGn6ny-jclcl_vvVcGEgfJuZiv3CBZseDxJzWw8N-2EIXoKV_Ex7rZk2jy4KBSkzkI4NQYXMo4EqCqsCIQIZQe8UpB_ytmkk4nCavbipadGz8IEdCcKC6w3AyrvY-9JOr5nzTAI4qJm4vcVKfrzkHmYOmbkskdiK95IUuwegDRYdTCSZgGfdS6eRTFB9oEUcdZqCpraXEKNVGPWOkRrQMAzlwSfEH_MGNwGsIlzRxQH2Un48O61eNTFsn_pex5lmve51mXdzsz1PgW%26smid%3Durl-share%26fbclid%3DlwAR2Z8ng2ZsGyZjs7HlvPGKOe0_6VPNI_V_-SOU-xpkXkVyHdbUR91GU1RII&h=AT00j2a8zlvpueUfMlms1MwHn52FBol-ocu3qIXvcrXQKHEhOfBIO4OanJhDN98Ykn7o8G1x4ydlm-6L1OfgzrjqGLSQmV8ieBb1H1itBT619phhKfV5gb-lyTT84Ewu_sCP&_tn=-UK-R&c[0]=AT20YyN4aQDhIM_ICdX2i-iMryBf03TIIMMpZITqnvN03ajxk08ZIQIlme71BfVgIUd52luXMppMjZpaC1y3N50htWMJxHvasn5RjITpB-oV_bbTUKTHHrV5QZYpmDmROsrXUVoM9c1FRdD9IVx0txInPGAGOUyO4Tb2ThXC0WBTdroFqznTTCQ9eeMyZw49rz7-sgh2FabsUs0sLnRnOKjYWP2mKMyroTgyA [l.facebook.com])



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[avg.com]

Hannah Watkins

From: Susan Thompson <susant853@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 9:54 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against Dissolution of Library District

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I am a strong supporter of our libraries and the freedom I have to choose whatever book I want. I read 3-4 books a week and depend on libraries, librarians and the systems in place to get those books.

Do not do this foolish thing. We are slipping into fascist territory.

Susan Thompson
11074 West Goldenspire Drive
Boise. 83709

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