



June 6, 2024

Susan Dreisch



Dear Susan Dreisch:

At your request, the Resource Review Committee met to reevaluate *Juliet Takes a Breath* by Gabi Rivera, an approved title in secondary library media centers. The committee voted to retain this title based on the request and selection criteria aligned to the type and use of the resource. The committee offered the following rationale for its recommendations:

"I see my students finding themselves in this book. I appreciated the focus on family as an integral piece of developing one's identity."

"This is a sweet and wonderful coming of age book that explores complicated concepts of a young queer Latina in a very sensitive and non explicit way. The writing is on par with any other YA coming of age stories that involve sex and life as a teenager. Not only is it just as valid as other YA books, it can save the lives of queer teens with nowhere else to go."

"This book fits within the parameters of HCPSS policy of media center / library resources."

"The book has multiple positive reviews from the required sources. It meets the protocol for being in a school library. It is developmentally appropriate for high school, which is where the book is located. I truly believe that this book can open discussions amongst students regarding gender, sexuality, and feminism. And students do not have to read it if they find it offensive or if their parents do not want them to read it."

"Policy 1080 and policy 1010 both state that our county is committed to providing students with resources that contain diverse experiences and voices. This book shines in this department. The main character is exploring her identity as both queer and a person of color, which would speak to many students having the same experience and also help students who do not share her experience gain

knowledge and empathy for others. I loved this book and feel it could save many students who feel unheard or that they don't have a place in this world. “

Based on the committee's recommendation, I support the decision to retain this title in the current secondary media centers.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

Caroline Walker, Ph.D.

Acting Chief Academic Officer

Cc: Ebony Langford-Brown, Executive Director Curriculum, Instruction  
and Assessment

Melissa Daggett, Coordinator, Library Media  
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