



July 15, 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

I reviewed your request to reconsider a book in our collection, *Sex is a Funny Word: A Book About Bodies, Feelings and YOU!* by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth. To address your concern about its place in the Burlington County Library System's children's nonfiction collection, I convened an evaluation committee of three librarians.

The committee noted that you questioned text and images in the book and that you requested the title be moved to the adult parenting section. In considering your request, we followed up with research and have determined the following:

- **Regarding your concern about the text and images in the book:** The text and images in the book are age appropriate and depict and explain the human body from multiple accepted and established perspectives. The author educates young readers about the biological basis to changes in the human body as well as the normative, health, social and emotional aspects of human sexuality. The colorful comic book style illustrations are used to depict concepts and presented in a way that appeals to young readers.

- **Regarding your request to remove the book from our library or move it to the adult area:** We have determined that the book will remain in our children's collection. Even though the book does not align with your approach it must be available to parents who reference such titles to educate their children. However, in keeping with shelving conventions in other areas of our collection, we will reconsider its interfiling and place the title with other books meant for the same age cohort. This will mirror filing conventions in other areas of the library.

I appreciate you taking the time to bring this book to my attention. Parents like you, who take the time to make inquiries like this, have demonstrated a commitment to their children's well-being. That said, we must also be responsive to multiple parental approaches to their children's access to information including parents who choose books like these. Ultimately, the decision to select or not select books for children rests on each parent or caregiver.

The Burlington County Library System has a responsibility to provide a comprehensive collection representing a wide range of ideas and viewpoints. We have a commitment to the right of free access to information for all individuals, and feel this title offers an approach that must remain accessible to our diverse audience.

With regards,

Ranjna Das
Library Director