



ADA COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS'
OFFICE
200 W. Front Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
(208) 287-7000
Fax: (208) 287-7009
boccl@adacounty.id.gov
www.adacounty.id.gov

MARCH 29, 2023

ORDER ON THE PETITION TO DISSOLVE THE MERIDIAN LIBRARY DISTRICT

The Board of Ada County Commissioners (“Board”) was presented a petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District (“District”) pursuant to Title 33, Chapter 27, Idaho Code, by the group Concerned Citizens of Meridian with the required number of signatures on February 16, 2023. The Board subsequently provided the requisite notice through publication in the newspaper to the qualified voters within the District and separate notice to the Board of the Meridian Library District to conduct a public hearing on the petition on March 20 and March 22, 2023. The public hearing was well attended, and the Board heard testimony for several hours on both nights from everyone who wanted to testify, including the petitioners and Board of the Meridian Library District. The Board also considered over two-thousand pages of written testimony in the form of emails, letters and postcards that were submitted before and after the hearing. After considering the written submissions and oral testimony, the Board convened on March 29, 2023, to deliberate on whether to place the issue of dissolution of the District on the ballot for the November 2023 election. Having now deliberated, the Board makes the following findings and order pursuant to Idaho Code § 33-2704:

That the issues raised by petitioners that minor children had access to inappropriate material without parental permission raised concerns;

That despite these concerns, the Board agrees that the District is unique, very popular, provides valuable services to the community, and that no one on either side wanted to see the District dissolved;

That the level of support expressed by written and oral testimony was overwhelmingly against dissolution of the District and against placing the issue on the November ballot;

That the time, cost, and uncertainty of dissolution, along with potential absence and reinstatement of a new library district, would be substantial to the public and not in its benefit;

That the petitioners and District are encouraged to resolve their differences, and that if they cannot be resolved, alternatives exist to dissolution that are more narrowly tailored to the issue of selection and placement of books within the District;

That based upon these findings, the Board finds that dissolution of the District is not in keeping with the declared public policy of the State of Idaho in regard to library districts, which services should be available to all people of Idaho, and that dissolution would be overwhelmingly disruptive.

Pursuant to the oral motion by Commissioner Dayley and seconded by Commissioner Davidson at the March 29, 2023, meeting, the Board of Ada County Commissioners voted unanimously to **DENY** the petition to dissolve the Meridian Library District.

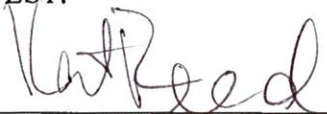
Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the issue of dissolution of the District shall not be placed on the November 2023 ballot.

Chairman Beck was authorized to sign this Order on behalf of the Board.

Board of Ada County Commissioners

By: 
Rod Beck, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Trent Tripple, Ada County Clerk

by Katie Reed, Chief Deputy Clerk