June 23, 2022

Statement from the Board of Trustees of The Smithtown Library:

Earlier this evening the Board of Trustees of The Smithtown Library rescinded our earlier decision to remove Pride displays from our Library’s Children’s Departments. The majority of the Board recognizes that our earlier decision was made without the time, care and due diligence that a decision of this type deserves and that it was the wrong decision. Moving forward we will commit our collective energies toward ensuring that we get the advice and guidance needed from our Library Administrators, staff, outside experts, legal counsel and most importantly from Smithtown residents before we make important decisions regarding our Library.

The Board’s goal for The Smithtown Library is to be a place that welcomes openly all Smithtown residents. We recognize that we have our differences but we believe that what we have in common outweighs those differences. We know that a good library will contain things that may trouble each of us but understand that our primary role involves representing many different viewpoints and opposing ideas. We do this by giving voice - and space - to each.

The Board looks forward to reviewing our decision-making processes and our policies related to our Library’s collections, displays, programs and services to ensure that they are helping us fulfill our mission of “providing access to diverse information, lifelong learning and entertainment resources through outstanding service for all residents of the Library District.”

We will report back to the community regularly on our progress.