



Keith F. Thompson

9 hrs · 🌐

Brookline friends, this evening, for the second time, a member of the public threatened the Library with "consequences" over our Drag Queen Story Time program. Please read to the bottom for action items.

Tonight was the first meeting of the Board of Trustees since the program, and a small group of people showed up to complain about the program. I missed most of the meeting because I also had another meeting, a much happier one. But I got there in time to find people speaking almost a half hour into the public comments section.

I recognized Eric and Diane Pauer and Valerie Ogden, some of the usual suspects from Brookline's conservative cabal. I got there in time to hear Eric Pauer tell the trustees they will oppose future funding for the Library at Town Meeting. I did not mis-hear that folks, he directly threatened to oppose Library funding because of his or their objections to one program.

I also arrived in time to hear Valerie Ogden say that this program "silenced" them. I didn't mis-hear on that one either, folks.

None of these folks are regular patrons, they had to be shown where to access the upper level of the Library. I did not recognize the 4-5 others who attended, and apparently, neither did they recognize each other, as they introduced themselves to each other outside the meeting.

That was when I heard the biggest line of the night, as they stood in the children's room and talked. Eric Pauer said, again I fucking kid you not, that they will use the talking point that they are addressing the "morale problem" at the Library. That is a massive lie, there is no "morale problem" at the Library. And no, he was not mis-pronouncing "moral," even though that is the crux of their issue.

This is no surprise, Pauer is a skilled liar.

So, I apologize for not giving folks a heads up for attending tonight's meeting, I was not very focused today.

Here's what I recommend as action items-

Attend the next Trustees meeting. Just show up, and be there in case the usual suspects are more persistent than usual. I expect the Trustees mostly want to put this issue to rest, but use your judgement about letting them know you support the Library. If speaking at a meeting isn't your cup of tea, or doesn't seem needed, write a letter to them.

Keep an eye out for further meetings where these folks might raise the issue, including the Selectboard, the Brookline-Mason Republican Committee, the Library Trustees and especially Town Meeting.

Protecting our Town and our Library from these hateful liars is going to require vigilance, folks. These bigots are bent out of shape because they were not paying attention to the Library and then we went and did something they didn't approve of, and we didn't even check in with them first.

Seriously, we have to pay attention. They have no problem lying, they have no problem threatening to defund the Library because they are unhappy about one program.

(full screen grab or original follows)



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