



For Immediate Release

Contact: St. Mary's County Library
301-475-2846 ext. 1013

Statement from the St. Mary's County Library Board of Trustees

March 22, 2017 – Leonardtown, Md. - The St. Mary's County Library had announced a program of sex education which evoked considerable comments and criticism on both sides of the topic. The Library Board and Director immediately suspended implementation of that program until further board discussion could be initiated and resident opinions could be fully heard. After careful review and unanimous decision, the Library Board and the Library is not moving forward with a program on sex education.

This decision is based on our concern for the polarization of the topic in our community. We believe that any value to the proposed educational program would be smothered by diverse and divisive positions. While many have come forward and objectively stated their views, regrettably, the issue of sex education has been overwhelmed due to politicization: of disagreement on content, of rancor over opposing opinions, of perceived homophobia, and of the questioning of religious tenets. These issues go far beyond the capacity of the Library or any single institution to address successfully; we plead for community unity and hope appropriate agencies and social and educational organizations can help ameliorate underlying misperceptions and promote effective community dialogue on sensitive matters in non-confrontational ways.

Finally, it is important to restate that the Library historically and currently offers programs that are well received and attended. Our staff is knowledgeable of and supportive to all our customers. We are confident in the future of St Mary's County and our Library and look forward to changes in our facilities, services, and resources to continue our support to residents.

###

Administrative Offices	Charlotte Hall Library	Leonardtown Library	Lexington Park Library
23250 Hollywood Road	37600 New Market Road	23250 Hollywood Road	21677 FDR Blvd
Leonardtown, MD 20650	Charlotte Hall, MD 20622	Leonardtown, MD 20650	Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-475-2846 x1012	301-884-2211	301-475-2846	301-863-8188
FAX: 301-884-4415	FAX: 301-884-2113	FAX: 301-884-4415	FAX: 301-863-2550
info@stmalib.org	hall.manager@stmalib.org	stma.manager@stmalib.org	lexi.manager@stmalib.org

www.stmalib.org