

A board in northeast Arkansas has spent months debating how to handle what some are calling “sensitive materials” at a Jonesboro library. Now, as KASU’s Brandon Tabor reports, a former board member is taking her colleagues to court.

News15 1:05 “...I’m Brandon Tabor.”

Fort Smith attorney Joey McCutchen has filed a Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, complaint on behalf of former Craighead County-Library Board member Amanda Escue. In the complaint, Escue and McCutchen claim that a sensitive content subcommittee of the library board met on October 6th without giving prior notice to the public. According to Arkansas' FOIA law, special meetings or emergency meetings from public entities require prior notice to local media - quote - "at least 2 hours before the meeting takes place in order that the public shall have representatives at the meeting." Escue resigned from the board in September following questions of her residency status. She had received pushback from some in the community for introducing policies requiring the board to pre-approve “sensitive materials” before entering the library – a move that some called “censorship.” The policies were created after some in the community complained about some materials shown in a Pride Month display in the Children’s section of the library. On Monday, the Craighead County Quorum Court appointed Michael Watkins to complete Escue’s term.

In Jonesboro, I’m Brandon Tabor. KASU News.