

# SEXUAL ATTRACTION TERMS AND DEFINITIONS, DISPLAYED IN SCHOOL HALLWAYS AND IN SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS, ARE CAUSING A BACKLASH.

Social media had heated debate in April because of this display in a hall at Rockwood Summit High School.



This post about it, from the Chair of the Republican Central Committee of St. Louis County, attracted more than 300 comments, and screenshots of it wound up on other platforms like Twitter, garnering thousands of views.

This is GOING WAY TO FAR @ Rockwood Summit High School!  
I will not vote for any tax increase and or bond issue again!  
Rockwood Tax Payers if this is disturbing to you please make your voice be heard and call the Rockwood School District Administration at 636 733 2000!



Comments were both in support of the display and against it. Supporters said it gives LGBTQ students more of a chance to be understood and accepted. Those against the display expressed concerns that it defines sexual terms and is on display at school with minors.



### WHAT'S ON THE DISPLAY

The display has the title "Rockwood Summit Celebrates," and lists LGBTQ terms such as Genderqueer, Genderfluid, Transgender, Non-Binary, Demiboy & Demigirl, and Agender.

It also defines sexual attraction terms such as lesbian, gay, and bisexual. It's difficult to read some of the words in the picture, but, bisexual, for example, is

defined on the display as "People who are attracted to more than one gender." Queer/questioning is also defined, as well as the term "Intersex."

One poster title reads: "At Summit, We Say Queer!"



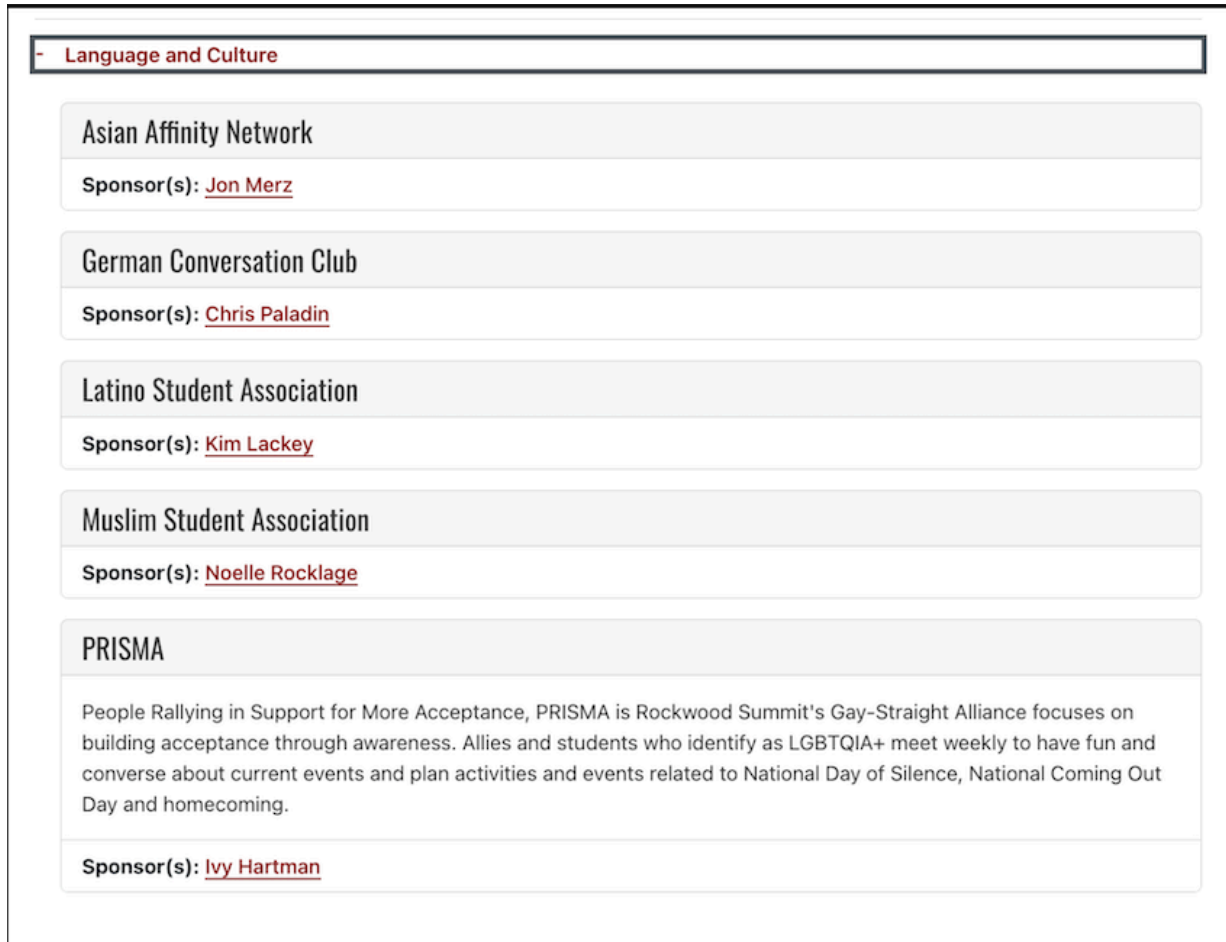
## STUDENT GROUP AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Some of the comments mentioned that the student group that created the display also gave a presentation at the last Rockwood School Board meeting and described its group, PRISMA, as active in the school with issues like promoting a safe space, the use of the word queer, and encouraging teachers to use their preferred pronouns in emails and display them on the name plates outside their doors.

You can hear the group's presentation [here](#) at the 17:25 mark. Note: other student groups such as Best Buddies also gave presentations prior to this one.

## WHAT IS PRISMA?

On Rockwood Summit's website, PRISMA (People Rallying in Support for More Acceptance) is listed as a student club under the subheading language and culture.



The image shows a screenshot of a website menu titled "Language and Culture". The menu lists several student organizations, each with a description and a sponsor. The organizations listed are: Asian Affinity Network (Sponsor: Jon Merz), German Conversation Club (Sponsor: Chris Paladin), Latino Student Association (Sponsor: Kim Lackey), Muslim Student Association (Sponsor: Noelle Rocklage), and PRISMA (Sponsor: Ivy Hartman). The PRISMA entry includes a detailed description of the organization's focus on building acceptance through awareness and weekly meetings.

Organization	Sponsor(s)
Asian Affinity Network	<a href="#">Jon Merz</a>
German Conversation Club	<a href="#">Chris Paladin</a>
Latino Student Association	<a href="#">Kim Lackey</a>
Muslim Student Association	<a href="#">Noelle Rocklage</a>
PRISMA People Rallying in Support for More Acceptance, PRISMA is Rockwood Summit's Gay-Straight Alliance focuses on building acceptance through awareness. Allies and students who identify as LGBTQIA+ meet weekly to have fun and converse about current events and plan activities and events related to National Day of Silence, National Coming Out Day and homecoming.	<a href="#">Ivy Hartman</a>

## NOT THE FIRST TIME: ALSO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Previously, parents and teachers expressed concern about another display that has since been taken down, at Rockwood South Middle School:



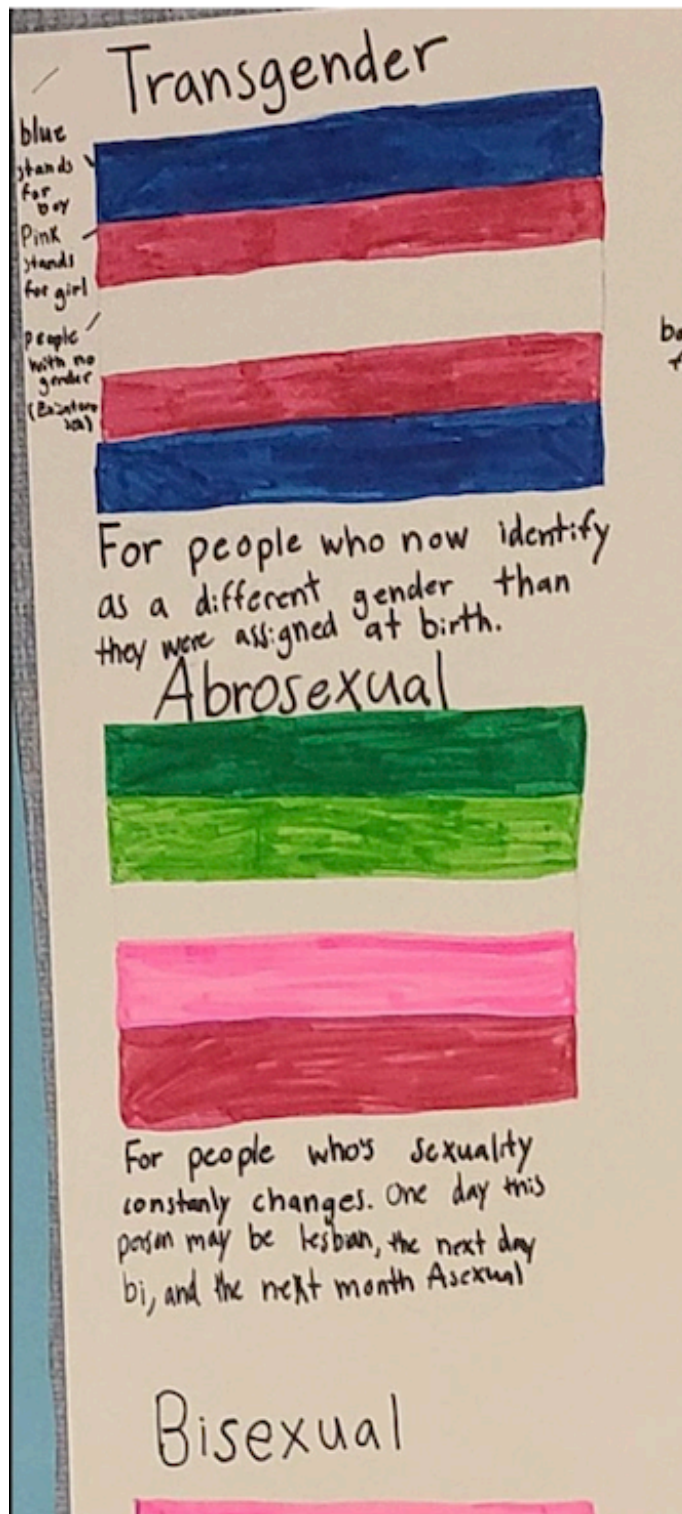
Rockwood South school principal, Laurie Birkenmeier, told parents the display was also created by a student club, 2 years ago at school, and shows students' handwritten definitions for terms such as lesbian, bisexual, and transgender.

## EXAMPLES

Transgender: "For people who now identify as a different gender than they were assigned at birth."

Abrosexual: "For people who's sexuality constantly changes. One day, this person may be lesbian, the next day bi, and the next month Asexual."

The flag colors were explained as blue for boys, pink for girls and the stripe with no color represents "people with no gender."



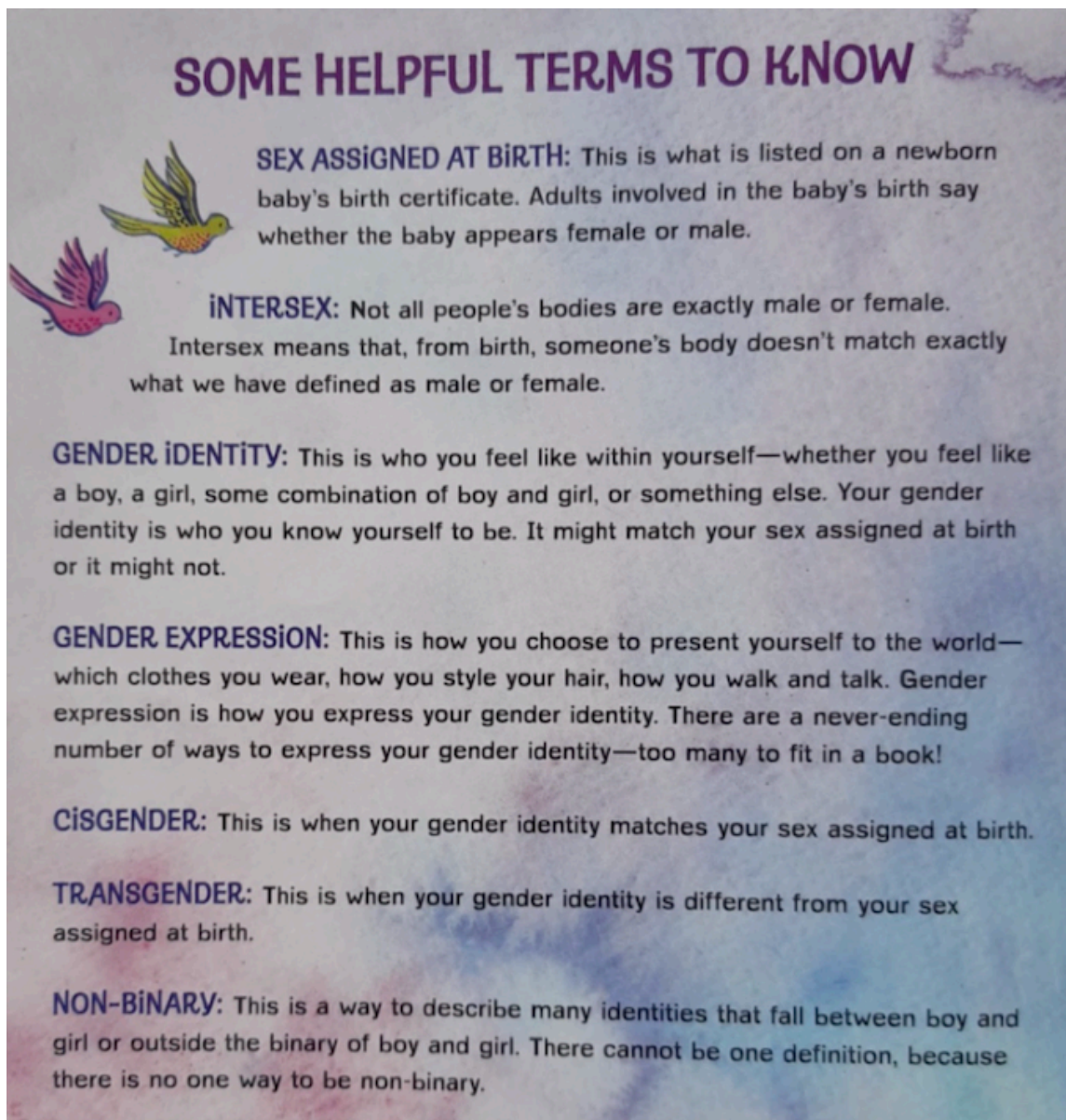
## AND, ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The same terms and definitions displayed in the halls are found in elementary school libraries of every district represented in the St. Louis County Family Association (SLCFA).

## “IT FEELS GOOD TO BE YOURSELF: A BOOK ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY”

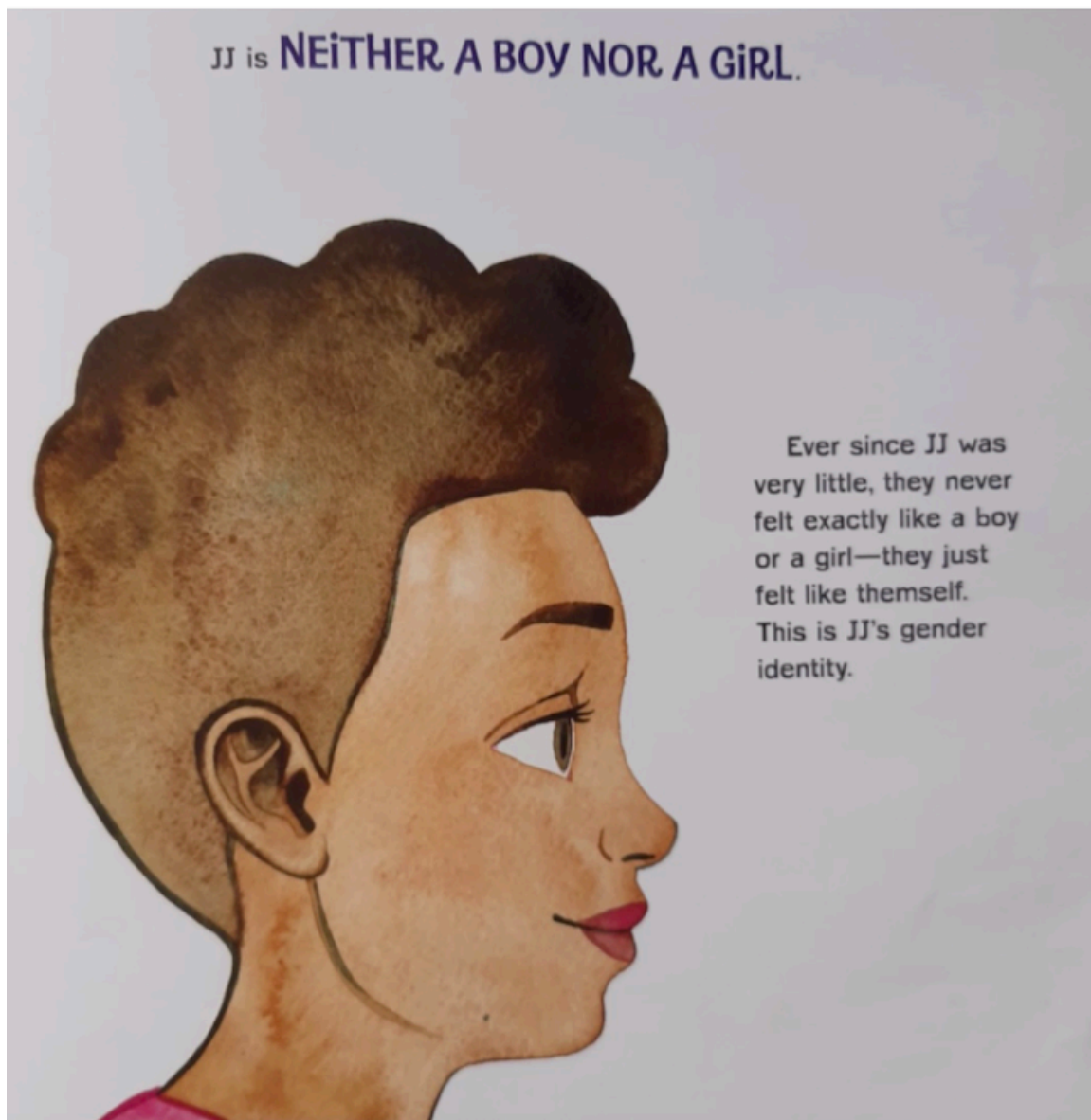
One of the books is "It Feels Good To Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity."

Pages from the book include this one, that defines terms like intersex, cisgender, transgender, and non-binary:





This page reads: “Ever since JJ was very little, they never felt exactly like a boy or a girl—they just felt like themselves. This is JJ’s gender identity.”



You can see the rest of the book’s pages in this video: [It Feels Good to be Yourself - Read Aloud Book](#).

2ND GRADER CONFUSED WHY DOCTORS ARE SOMETIMES WRONG

The mom of a 2nd grader in Rockwood expressed concern about the book after her daughter read it in her school's library. The book had been displayed prominently. The mom says her daughter seemed concerned that the book said she might be a boy, and, that she was confused. She asked why doctors are sometimes wrong about whether you're a boy or a girl when you're born.

## PARENTS TRIED TO TAKE ACTION

The book was formally challenged by another parent in Rockwood and the challenge committee struggled to reach a decision about whether to remove the book. It met twice so it could consult what it called experts to help them make the decision. This is a [previous post](#) about that.

The committee ultimately voted to keep the book in all 16 elementary school libraries, but it appears the committee was never told about the 2nd grader and her mom. You can read more about that [here](#).

Information that details where the book is in your district is at the bottom of this post.

## SEXUAL ACTS: NOT JUST DEFINITIONS

Books with illustrations of explicit sex acts were also in Missouri school libraries, but, due to a new law, had to be removed before this school year began. These are the 22 that [have been removed](#) from Rockwood. Rockwood posted its list for parents. Not all districts have done so. You can ask your district what books librarians removed.

## STILL THERE, THOUGH

Books that describe sexual encounters in explicit detail, but don't have images in them, are still allowed in Missouri's school libraries. You can see a sample of those books, [here](#).

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Such books and hall displays are in schools to provide "windows and mirrors" for students. "Mirrors" help LGBTQ students see themselves represented at school, and "windows" are intended to give students insight into students that are different from themselves. That's what Rockwood administrators have told parents there.

## TAKEN DOWN

The post about the hall display is no longer on Facebook.

Parents did agree on one thing while commenting on the post: they want all students to feel safe and included at school.

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## WHICH SCHOOLS HAVE “IT FEELS GOOD TO BE YOURSELF: A BOOK ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY”

**Kirkwood:** Keysor Elementary, Robinson Elementary, Tillman Elementary

**Ladue:** Conway Elementary

**Lindbergh:** Concord Elementary, Crestwood Elementary, Dressel Elementary, Long elementary

**Mehlville:** Beasley Elementary

**Parkway:** Bellerive Elementary, Carman Trails Elementary, Claymont Elementary, Henry Elementary

**Rockwood:** the list of schools is in the image below, and Webster Groves is below that.

**16 Rockwood elementary school libraries and one early childhood center at Lafayette high school.**

Babler Elementary	Geggie Elementary
Ballwin Elementary	Green Pines Elementary
Blevins Elementary	Kehrs Mill Elementary
Bowles Elementary	Kellison Elementary
Chesterfield Elementary	Pond Elementary
Ellisville Elementary	Ridge Meadows Elementary
Eureka Elementary	Westridge Elementary
Fairway Elementary	Woerther Elementary
	Lafayette High School

Source: Destiny library database

**Webster Groves:** Bristol Elementary, Givens Elementary

We only checked districts that are in the St. Louis County Family Association.  
If you'd like to add your district to the association, email us at [info@stl-family.org](mailto:info@stl-family.org).

In the meantime, if you'd like to check your district on your own, start with the web page of the school you want to check, under library and catalog.