

**GREENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

March 27, 2023

Present: Mr. Brian Aufmuth, Mr. Kenneth Baxter, Mrs. Elizabeth Collins, Mr. James Hoard, Mr. Tommy Hughes, Mrs. Marcia Moston, Mrs. Kristen Odom, Mr. Bill Pinkston, Mr. Joe Poore, and Mr. S. Allan Hill, presiding.

Administrative Managers Present: Don Allen, Accounting Manager; Karen Allen, Youth Services Manager; Ann Bishop, Human Resources Manager; Greg Hester, Operations Manager; Brian Morrison, Access and Discovery Director; Jimmy Wooten, Community Engagement Manager; Beverly James, Executive Director; and Jill Cornwell, Administrative Projects Manager, and acting as Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 12:06p.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hill called for the approval of the minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, February 27, 2023, as presented. Mr. Poore moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Baxter seconded. Motion carried.

LIBRARY FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Proposed FY24 Operating Budget

Mr. Baxter called attention to the FY24 Proposed Budget and called on Mr. Allen to provide comments and entertain questions. Mr. Aufmuth inquired about landscaping improvements that had been brought up previously by Mr. Pinkston, noting no increase in the proposed budget for Grounds Maintenance. He asked if there were sufficient funds to address landscaping improvements. Ms. James stated that staff would be bringing a proposal for landscaping improvements to the Buildings and Grounds Committee in the future.

Mr. Aufmuth inquired about the use of funds designated for Staff Development and stated that he would like to be sure the Library was looking at funds to develop current staff. Ms. James stated that she thought the amount in the proposed budget would be enough to cover the costs of anticipated training as well as opportunities that may come up.

Mr. Hughes stated that due to concerns about safety, he was requesting increased security measures at all of the branches to enhance safety of both patrons and staff. He provided an example of the school district's security measures that had been implemented at every school in the county. Mr. Allen acknowledged that while the proposed budget line item for security reflected an increase to provide for additional security personnel at Board meetings and other events as needed, it would not be enough to cover the scale of enhancement that Mr. Hughes was suggesting. Mr. Hughes stated that a gradual move toward increased security was okay, and he would be willing to provide information he has gathered from the school district.

Following discussion, Mr. Baxter informed trustees that the Finance Committee was recommending the FY24 Proposed Operating Budget as presented. The FY24 Proposed Operating Budget passed unanimously.

Blue Ridge Branch Library Conceptual Project Estimate Cost

Ms. James stated that the requested amount was an estimated total project cost of \$4,726,225 which would allow the architectural firm to move forward. The figure represents the firm's professional opinion of probable construction costs at the time the estimate was prepared and actual costs will likely vary. Mr. Hill asked for those in favor of Ms. James request to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Treasury Bills Investment Option

Mr. Baxter called on Mr. Poore to provide information about the currently used investment tools by the Library System. Mr. Poore explained the laddered Certificates of Deposits (CDs) that were approved by the Library Board in 2017. He stated that adding the option to use Treasury Bills would increase the interest earned on invested Library System funds.

Following discussion, Mr. Hill asked for those in favor of the motion coming from the Finance Committee, to authorize the Library System to invest up to 10 million dollars in US Treasury Bills or Certificates of Deposits with the limitation that CDs in any single financial institution be capped at the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), to vote in the affirmative. All were in favor and the motion carried as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. James announced that she was seeking approval to spend up to \$15,000 of contingency funds to add a non-slip texture to the sidewalk at the exterior public entrance at Hughes Main. Mrs. Collins moved to approve the expenditure. Mr. Poore seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

LIBRARY MATERIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Relocation of PEC Collection at Main

Mrs. Collins stated that all trustees were present at the Library Materials Committee Meeting on 3/13/23. She reported that the committee was recommending that the Parenting/Early Childhood (PEC) collection at the Hughes Main Library be relocated to the area near magazines for adults and the holds pick up area on the main level. Ms. Collins noted that the proposed relocation was in response to comments from parents citing difficulties in accessing the materials since the PEC collection was moved to the adult nonfiction area upstairs. Mr. Hill added as a reminder that the PEC section was previously located in the children's area for parents' convenience but appeared to be part of the children's collection due to the proximity. Mr. Hill called for a vote in favor of relocating the PEC Collection at the Main Library to the main level. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Collection Development and Maintenance Policy Proposed Revisions

Mrs. Collins stated that the committee was suggesting relocation of books for young readers containing certain topics. She moved that several amendments be made to the language which was approved by the Library Materials Committee. Mrs. Collins read aloud the following three amendments:

Amendment 1 – to change point # 2 in Motion 1 pertaining to materials in the Juvenile Collection:

FROM “*Description of depictions that affirm gender transition ideology.*”
TO “*Material that deals with gender identity as a primary subject.*”

Amendment 2 – to change point # 3 in Motion 2 pertaining to materials in the Young Adult Collection:

FROM “*Materials that affirm gender transition ideology as a primary or significant subject.*”
TO “*Material that deals with gender identity as a primary subject.*”

Amendment 3 – to strike the sentence, “*Gender transition ideology is anything that affirms that a person’s gender is other than that person’s biological sex at birth.*” from the descriptive paragraphs in both the Juvenile Collection and Young Adult Collection sections.

Mr. Hoard seconded the amendments as read.

Following discussion, Mr. Poore moved to table the proposed revisions for at least 30 days to allow staff input and a legal review concerning First Amendment conformity. Mr. Aufmuth seconded.

During discussion of his motion, Mr. Pinkston made a motion that the current proposal of amendments to the Juvenile and Young Adult Collections sections of the *Collection Development and Maintenance Policy* be referred to the Library Materials Committee for revision and for a meeting of the committee to finalize its revised proposals prior to the April 24th Library Board of Trustees Meeting. There was no second.

Mr. Hill stated that the Board needed to act on the first motion made by Mrs. Collins. He asked for those in favor of the proposed amended language to indicate by a show of hands. Six trustees were in favor. He asked for those opposed to indicate by a show of hands. Four trustees were opposed. The motion carried as read.

Mr. Hill asked if Mr. Poore wanted to re-state and/or amend his motion but Mr. Poore renewed his motion to table the proposed revisions. Mr. Hill called for a vote asking those in favor to indicate by a show of hands. Four trustees were in favor. Mr. Hill asked those opposed to indicate so by a show of hands. With six trustees opposed, the motion failed.

Mr. Aufmuth moved to further amend the newly amended language by striking the phrase, "*Material that deals with gender identity as a primary subject*" from both Motion 1 and Motion 2 and leaving all other language as amended. Mr. Baxter seconded. Mr. Aufmuth read aloud the entire text as presented with the stricken phrase and incorporating all other approved amendments. Mr. Hill called for a vote. With a show of hands, six trustees were in favor and four were opposed. The motion carried.

Mr. Hill asked for all in favor of the proposed revisions as amended and presented to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the proposed revision to the *Collection Development and Maintenance Policy* carried unanimously.

APPEARANCES

Mr. Hill announced that he had requested two sign-up sheets for public comments: one sheet for those speaking in favor of the proposed revisions by the Library Materials Committee and one for those opposed. He alternated calling on speakers who signed one sheet with those who signed the other sheet with their stated purposes for appearing as follows:

1. Miles Dame - "censorship"	6. Dianne Mitchell - "support the move of books"
2. Beth Wadsworth - "protect children move books"	7. Susan Ward - "Censorship"
3. Andrew Farmer - "Censorship"	8. Marissa Aulick - "support"
4. Sheilia Kinne - "Support decision to move books"	9. Elizabeth Serricchio - "Censorship"
5. Tory Sherril - "Censorship"	10. Idelle Kurry - "support"

Mr. Hill announced at the conclusion that he allowed ten extra minutes for public comments beyond the 30 minutes allowed, to accommodate an equal amount of speakers on both sides and to make up for any time he had used in providing comments during the Appearances portion of the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Moston so moved. Mr. Hoard seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:04p.

S. Allan Hill
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James
Executive Director

Jill Cornwell
Recording Secretary