

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

June 26, 2023

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

Absent: Mr. Tommy Hughes

Administrative Managers Present: Don Allen, Accounting Manager; Karen Allen, Youth Services 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 12:04p. He stated that due to several outbursts at previous meetings which included the use of profane language directed at Board Members, a zero tolerance for that type of behavior at today's meeting was in effect.

RECOGNITION OF MESSINEO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mr. Hill recognized two of the four recipients of the Greenville Library Staff Education Fund/Messineo Scholarship who were present at the meeting: Kirstin McWaters, Youth Services, and Rebekah Fields, Augusta Road Branch. Following a round of applause, each recipient was invited to share how they planned to use the scholarship funds in furthering their education.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hill informed the audience present that the Board would be relocating to another area to go into Executive Session momentarily. He explained that no action could be taken during an Executive Session. Mr. Poore moved to go into Executive Session for the receipt of legal advice, where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim. Mr. Pinkston seconded. All were in favor and trustees relocated into Executive Session at 12:09p.

The public session reconvened at 1:57p. Mr. Hill announced that no action had been taken in Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hill called for the approval of the minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, April 24, 2023, as presented. Mr. Baxter noted the need for a spelling correction on page two. Mr. Poore moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Hoard seconded. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Poore provided an overview of the request for a cross easement that was received, related to the Mauldin Branch Library parking lot. He concluded that based on feedback from the Mauldin Branch Manager, Mr. Hester, Ms. James and others regarding significant concerns about traffic from the planned adjacent business cutting through the branch parking lot, the committee voted unanimously against the request. Following comments and questions, Mr. Hill asked for those in favor of the Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to vote in the affirmative. All were in favor.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Pinkston stated that the Board approved revisions to the *Display of Library Materials and Promotional Information Policy* at the April Board of Trustees Meeting. He noted that of the 50 approved displays, ten

displays included the same theme, giving an appearance that the Library System was being very one-sided in its use of displays. He stated that the Operations Committee met on June 16th and adopted the following motion:

"The Operations Committee believes the materials display policies that were put in place have proved to be inadequate to address concerns of both the community and County officials. Thus all material displays, other than displays of new materials, are to be removed within a week, and no new displays of materials may be mounted until further notice."

He stated that the committee, in conjunction with Library System Administrative staff and the Board are working on policies which will be fair, inclusive, and workable, toward displays that are attractive, engaging and relevant. He acknowledged that this was a tall order and may take several steps back before going forward. He proposed a bird's eye view of possible steps that Administration could take during the coming months in working to develop procedures and processes related to displays.

Mr. Aufmuth moved to amend the Operations Committee motion by replacing "until further notice" with "for 60 days or until further notice." Mr. Baxter seconded. With a show of hands, five members voted in favor and five voted opposed to the amendment. As a result of a tie vote, the motion failed.

Mr. Poore moved to insert a period after "concerns" and to strike the remainder of the existing sentence which read, "of both the community and County officials." Mrs. Collins seconded. Mr. Hill called for a vote on the amendment. All were in favor and the amendment passed as presented.

Following discussion, Mr. Poore moved to replace "until further notice" with "for 90 days or until further notice." Mrs. Odom seconded. All were in favor and the amendment passed.

Following discussion on the meaning of "display," Mr. Poore moved to remove the word "materials" where "materials displays" was written. Mrs. Collins seconded. All were in favor and the amendment passed.

Following additional discussion, Mr. Aufmuth moved to table the discussion. Mr. Baxter seconded. With two votes in favor of the motion, the motion failed.

Mrs. Collins moved to amend the motion by adding, "Displays related to Library events are permitted if approved by the Executive Director." Mr. Aufmuth seconded. All were in favor and the amendment passed.

Mr. Poore moved to adopt the committee's motion as amended. Mrs. Collins seconded. The following motion passed unanimously:

The Operations Committee believes the display policies that were put in place have proved to be inadequate to address concerns. Thus all displays, other than displays of new materials, are to be removed within a week, and no new displays may be mounted for 90 days or until further notice. Displays related to Library events are permitted if approved by the Executive Director.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Request for Library System Closure on September 24, 2023

Ms. James stated that the Library System would be migrating to the new Integrated Library System and will need to close the Library System on Sunday, September 24th to go live on the new system when the Library System opens on Monday, September 25th. Mr. Hoard moved to approve the closure. Mr. Poore seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Travelers Rest Branch

Mr. Hill informed all members of the public present about two calls that the Travelers Rest Branch received on Thursday, June 22nd that were being treated as potential security issues. Mr. Hill stated that there was no justification for anyone on either side to make threats. He then entertained a motion for Contingency Funds to be used as determined by Executive staff. Mr. Poore moved to authorize up to \$25,000 in Contingency Funds for use at the Travelers Rest Branch on an as-needed basis. Mr. Baxter seconded. With none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. Hoard moved to adjourn. Mr. Hill noted that members of the public had signed up to speak, so Mr. Hoard rescinded his motion.

APPEARANCES

Mr. Hill announced that several individuals had signed up to appear before the Board. He recognized the following individuals who made comments concerning their Purpose of Appearance recorded below:

Name	Purpose of Appearance
Rhett Burns	"Speak"
Josh Spurgeon	"Speak"
Susan Brown	"Speak"
Russell Kluge	"Speak"
Tyler Prescott	"library safety"
Susan Hart	"Library speak on _?"
David Rasberry	"Speak for 1 st Amendment"

Mr. Hill disallowed an individual who had signed up from presenting on the basis of that individual going over the allotted three minutes speaking time more than once before. Shortly thereafter, he ended the time for appearances and entertained a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hoard moved to adjourn. Several trustees seconded. With no further business, Mr. Hill adjourned the meeting at 3:10p. Following the meeting, Mr. Poore requested that his vote of "no" on adjournment be recorded in the minutes.

S. Allan Hill
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James
Executive Director

Jill Cornwell
Recording Secretary