

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

September 26, 2022

**Present:** Mr. Brian Aufmuth, Mr. Kenneth Baxter, Dr. Sid Cates, Mrs. Elizabeth Collins, Mr. James Hoard, Mr. Tommy Hughes, Mrs. Kristen Odom, Mr. Bill Pinkston, and Mr. S. Allan Hill, presiding.

**Absent:** Mr. Joe Poore

**Managers Present:** Don Allen, Accounting Manager; Karen Allen, Youth Services Manager; Jed Cridland-Hughes, Discovery Manager; Amy Grubbs, Five Forks Branch Manager; Greg Hester, Operations Manager; Laurel Hicklin, Circulation Manager; Teresa Lanford, Access Manager; Brian Morrison, Access and Discovery Director; Nathan Schmaltz, Travelers Rest Branch Manager; Danielle Thornton, Simpsonville Branch Manager; Jimmy Wooten, Community Engagement Manager; Beverly James, Executive Director; and Jill Cornwell, Administrative Projects Manager, acting as Recording Secretary.

**Presenters:** Matt Phillips, CPA, McKinley, Cooper & Co., Inc., and Jennifer Pinkerman, Greenville County Library System Children's Area Supervisor.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 12:04p.

**PRESENTATION OF THE AUDIT**

Mr. Phillips, CPA, McKinley, Cooper & Co., Inc. reviewed several sections of the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2022. He noted that the report cited a "clean opinion" of the Library System's financial statements, meaning that its financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. In response to a question from Mr. Hill, he noted that the Library System's financial health and processes were very good, and that the Library System's financial position was excellent.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

2022 PR Xchange Awards Competition Winning Entries

Ms. James recognized staff present who contributed to the development of the Library System's two winning publications. She stated that the submissions had been assessed on the quality of content, format design, creativity, and originality, and that the jury, made up of marketing professionals, graphic designers, and visual artists, was very impressed. Ms. James shared the two publications with trustees and displayed the framed award certificates as the following staff were asked to stand, if present, to be recognized for their contributions to each:

- 2021 Summer Reading Log and Activity Book in the "Reading Programs" category  
Concept and Design: Michelle Hannon  
Editors: Daneen Schatzle, Karen Allen
- Fall 2021 issue of *Library Now* in the "materials promoting collections, services, resources" category  
Concept and Design: Michelle Hannon  
Editor: Daneen Schatzle  
Contributors: Karen Allen, Jed Cridland-Hughes, Beth Anne Farmer, Michelle Hannon, Rachel Inabinet, Kelsey Law, Nathaniel Lord, Shanna Raines, Daneen Schatzle, Savannah Sondov, Jimmy Wooten

A round of applause was given in recognition by trustees and staff present.

2023 Holiday/Closing Schedule

A Draft 2023 Holiday/Closing Schedule was presented to trustees for action. Mr. Hughes moved to accept the Draft as presented. Mrs. Baxter seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### State Aid Agreement and Library Budget Form FY23

Mr. Hill noted that the completed form had been included in meeting packet received by the trustees. Mr. Pinkston moved to accept the form as presented. Dr. Cates seconded. All were in favor and the State Aid Agreement and Library Budget Form FY23 was signed in the presence of a quorum, as required by the State Library.

Ms. James then drew attention to the current issue of *Library Now* and the *Book Bingo card*, noting the Book Bingo dates scheduled in December. She passed around the current library card designs and coordinating bookmarks created in recognition of National Library Card Sign-Up Month.

### Teaching Totes

Ms. James called on Mrs. Pinkerman who presented information about Teaching Totes. Mrs. Pinkerman placed a Teaching Tote at each trustee's seat and informed them that the totes are themed collections of library materials that families, teachers, and caregivers may use to provide engaging and interactive learning experiences with children. She stated that one of the goals for the *FY21-22 Strategic Operations Plan* was to rebrand "Quik-Kits" as "Teaching Totes" and refresh their contents to align with Palmetto Basics concepts or South Carolina academic standards. Mrs. Pinkerman stated that Teaching Totes began circulating on June 6, 2022 with the start of Summer Reading. She added that of the 53 totes in circulation, a third to a half of the collection was currently checked out. Mrs. Pinkerman informed trustees that in addition to aligning the totes to academic standards Youth Services staff set specific literacy based goals when choosing materials for the totes to:

- Connect a specific area of interest with literacy and learning
- Foster interaction between caregiver and child
- Encourage language development and comprehension through print rich, age-appropriate books

Following the presentation, Mrs. Pinkerman responded to questions. Mrs. Odom complimented Mrs. Pinkerman and Youth Services staff on the development of the Teaching Totes.

### **APPEARANCES BEFORE THE BOARD**

Mr. Hill recognized those who had signed up to appear before the Board and reminded those present that each individual would be allowed three minutes to present comments. The following eight individuals appeared before the Board of Trustees:

- Stephen Shelato regarding "Freedom in Libraries Advocacy Group"
- Daneen Schatzle regarding "Nature of Leadership"
- Miles Dame regarding "Freedom in Libraries Advocacy Group"
- Albert Hill regarding "Travelers Rest Branch Library"
- Tyler Prescott regarding "LGBT Library Displays"
- Jim Yuill, PhD regarding "LGBT Displays"
- Jed Cridland-Hughes regarding "Leadership"
- Sheryl Guarniero regarding "Equality in libraries"

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Hill displayed a copy of a Banned Books flyer that had been made available to the public at the Traveler's Rest Branch Library and that he had gone to the Branch to see after receiving complaints about it from members of the public. He explained that parents had expressed concerns to him about the flyer being within reach of children when it included information regarding how to get a card so they could access materials online from another library system. Mr. Hill described his visit and the conversation he had with staff at the branch, then asked the branch manager some questions.

Following an exchange of questions and responses between Mr. Hill, Library System staff and members of the public who were present, Mr. Hill stated that the Library System needed to be a neutral place. He added that the Library System did not need to promote nor denigrate anyone's sexual proclivities, noting that the Library System is not here to promote LGBTQ things or to be against LGBTQ things. He also requested that the Library Materials Committee look into the books that were mentioned at a

recent County Council meeting and report back to the Board about their placement in the Library System's collection.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Mr. Hill asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Baxter so moved. Dr. Cates seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:18p.

S. Allan Hill  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James  
Executive Director

Jill Cornwell  
Recording Secretary