

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

June 24, 2024

Present: Mr. Brian Aufmuth, Mr. Kenneth Baxter, Dr. Gene Beckner, Mrs. Elizabeth Collins, Mrs. Stephanie Cunningham, Mrs. Marcia Moston, Mrs. Kristen Odom, Mr. Joe Poore, and Mr. S. Allan Hill, presiding.

Absent: Mr. James Hoard, Mr. Tommy Hughes

Administrative Managers Present: Don Allen, Accounting Manager; Karen Allen, Youth Services Manager; Brian Morrison, Access and Discovery Director; Beverly James, Executive Director; and Jill Cornwell, Administrative Projects Manager, acting as Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hill called for the approval of the minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, March 25, 2024. With all in favor, the motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF MESSINEO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mr. Hill recognized the three recipients of the Messineo Scholarship who were present: Kimberley Burley Brush (Pelham Road Branch), Kirstin McWaters (Main Library Children's Area), and Rebekah Fields (Augusta Road Branch). The recipients received a round of applause. Mr. Hill congratulated them on being awarded a scholarship by the Greenville Library Staff Education Fund in memory of Anthony Messineo, and asked them what coursework they were pursuing. Ms. McWaters and Ms. Fields are pursuing a Master's degree in Library and Information Science. Ms. Burley Brush is pursuing Library Support Staff Certification and a Library & Information Technology Associate in Applied Science degree.

LIBRARY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Spaces Use Policy

Mrs. Collins reported that the proposed revisions by staff primarily provide clarifications to wording. Mr. Hill called for any discussion. Hearing none, he asked for those in favor of approving changes to the *Meeting Spaces Use Policy* as presented to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the revisions were approved.

Code of Conduct

Mrs. Collins stated that minor wording and organization changes were being proposed by staff, and the Operations Committee further suggested adding categories for the prohibited statements which were included on the draft *Code of Conduct* sent to trustees. Mr. Aufmuth suggested the addition of wording to prohibited activity statement #8 that would make it clear that groups using the meeting spaces were free to distribute materials within the confines of those spaces.

Following discussion, Mr. Hill suggested adding a reference to the *Meeting Spaces Use Policy* in the statement. With no further discussion, Mr. Aufmuth moved to add "or Meeting Spaces Use Policy" to #8 in the Code of Conduct. Mrs. Collins seconded. All were in favor and the addition carried. Mr. Hill then called for those in favor of the proposed revisions to the *Code of Conduct* as suggested to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the revisions to the *Code of Conduct* were approved.

LIBRARY MATERIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Moston reported that the Library Materials Committee had considered five appeals for library materials as well as proposed revisions to the *Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Regulations* and the associated *Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form*, which were being suggested to clean up the documents. She provided the committee's recommendations pertaining to the five appeals received:

Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Appeals

- 1) *What About Will* by Ellen Hopkins: Mrs. Moston provided a brief synopsis of the book and stated that its intended audience was through age 12. She read reasons why the appellant had requested that the book be moved to the adult collection. She stated that following discussion about the book's message ending on a positive note, the committee was recommending leaving the book in its current location as part of the juvenile collection. Mr. Allan asked for those in favor of the committee's recommendation to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the committee's motion carried.
- 2) *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me* by Mariko Tamaki: Mrs. Moston provided a brief synopsis of the book, noting that it is a graphic novel located in the young adult section. She read the appellant's reasons for requesting that the book be relocated to the adult collection. She stated that the committee recommended relocating the book to the adult collection per the appellant's request. Without further discussion, Mr. Allan asked for those in favor of the committee's recommendation to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the committee's motion carried.
- 3) *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes: Mrs. Moston described the book's content and noted the protagonist was 12 years old, the upper end of the age range of the juvenile collection where the book was currently located. She shared the appellant's objections to the book, including the questioning of accuracy of some information presented. She stated that the committee was recommending retaining the book in the juvenile collection. Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Allan asked for those in favor of the committee's recommendation to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the committee's motion carried.
- 4) *Gabi, a Girl in Pieces* by Isabel Quintero: Mrs. Moston described what the book was about and shared the reasons given by appellant for requesting it be removed from the young adult section, She stated that the book contained a heavy emphasis on sex with content believed to be in violation of the *Collection Development and Maintenance Policy*. Mrs. Moston stated that the committee was recommending relocating the book to the adult collection. Mr. Hill asked those in favor of the committee's recommendation to indicate in the affirmative. With all in favor the recommendation carried.
- 5) *Gilded* by Marissa Meyer: Mrs. Moston provided a brief synopsis of the book that is geared to the upper end of the age range of the book's teen/young adult target audience. She shared the appellant's complaints about the book and stated that the sexual content didn't appear to violate the *Collection Development and Maintenance Policy*. She stated that the committee was recommending to leave the book in its current location as part of the young adult collection. Mrs. Moston added that the appellant's request form also acknowledged that the book contained inexplicit rather than explicit sexual activities. With no further discussion, Mr. Hill asked for those in favor of the committee's recommendation to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the recommendation carried.

Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Regulations

Mrs. Moston called on Ms. James who stated the recommended revisions were mostly for clarification of the process. Mr. Poore stated that he would like to have a question on the form concerning whether or not the requester had read the book. Prior to further discussion about the form, Mr. Hill called for questions concerning the *Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Regulations*. Hearing none, he asked those in favor of the proposed revisions to the regulations to indicate in the affirmative. All were in favor and the proposed revisions to the *Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Regulations* were approved.

Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form

Mr. Poore stated that in addition to a question about reading the book, he would like to see a question on the form about how the requester came across the book. Mr. Hill noted that if a question was added to the form, he would prefer that it be optional. Mr. Baxter agreed that a question on the form concerning whether or not the requestor had read the book would be helpful since there appeared to be a concentrated effort by people to relocate books they may not have read. Mr. Poore stated that a question about how someone found the book would gather data to help determine how often someone consequently comes across material they then ask to be reconsidered. Following discussion, Mrs. Collins moved to approve the form as presented and follow up with the requestor with the two discussed questions once the final decision of the Board had been reached. Mr. Aufmuth seconded. With 8 voting in favor and one opposed, the motion carried.

In discussion about who would send the questions, Ms. James was directed to do so and was instructed to inform the requester that their response was optional. The questions will include 1) whether or not the requester read the book; and 2) how the requester came across/found out about the book. Mr. Hill asked for those in favor of the form as presented to indicate in the affirmative. With 8 in favor and one opposed, the proposed revisions to the *Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form* carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Proposed Designated Fund Balance

Ms. James referenced the *Designated Fund Balance* document sent to trustees and called attention to two new items on the list which had been added since the Board last moved to designate the funds on 4/24/23. She added that other updates to quantities and costs for existing items were noted on the updated *Designated Fund Balance* document. Ms. James called on Mr. Allen who provided an overview of the assigned (designated) and unassigned (undesignated) aspects of the Library System's Fund Balance. Mr. Allen stated that with the updates to the items list, the Designated Fund Balance total had increased to \$5,656,000 and staff were asking for the Board's approval on the updated figure.

Mr. Baxter moved to approve the Designated Fund Balance with the revised total balance as presented. Mr. Aufmuth seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Additional Services for Blue Ridge Branch Library Project

Ms. James explained that the \$7,215 was being requested to cover architectural services related to the redesign of the branch's driveway entrance in response to a request from SCDOT. Mrs. Collins moved to approve the expenditure of the funds. Mr. Aufmuth seconded and the motion carried.

Contingency Fund Requests

Ms. James reported that the first was for Bookmobile repairs that are needed at the quoted cost of \$16,773.37. Following questions, Mr. Aufmuth moved to approve the request. Mrs. Collins seconded. The motion carried. Ms. James stated that the second request for Contingency funds was for repairs to the parking deck on Heritage Green at the quoted cost of \$62,145 and replacement of the associated parking equipment. In exchange for paying for these items, she stated that the Library System would be able to suspend its payment for staff and volunteer parking until the repair and equipment costs have been recovered. Mrs. Cunningham moved to approve the request. Mrs. Moston seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. James called attention to the Summer Reading Activity Book and reported that it had been distributed to over 12,000 students in Greenville County's Title I schools. Additionally, the Summer Reading video has been viewed by over 15,000 students according to reports received from school media specialists. Mr. Hill inquired about the Summer Reading kickoff events. Ms. James reported that over 3,000 people attended the kickoff at the Five Forks Branch, overwhelming parking spaces at surrounding retailers. She added there were close to 500 attendees at each of the two kickoff events held at the Main Library and Greer Branch.

APPEARANCES

Mr. Hill announced that two individuals had signed up to speak. Leah Narro spoke regarding "Support librarians"; and Leslie Johnson spoke regarding "discrimination."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Collins so moved. Mrs. Odom seconded. Mr. Hill adjourned the meeting at 1:27p.

S. Allan Hill
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James
Executive Director

Jill Cornwell
Recording Secretary