

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

August 26, 2024

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

Absent: None

Library System Managers Present: 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 12:01p.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hill called for the approval of the minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, June 24, 2024. With all in favor, the motion carried.

LIBRARY MATERIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Proposed Revision for Collection Development and Maintenance Policy

Mrs. Moston read aloud the proposed revision recommended by Library Materials Committee, noting in her opening comments that the revisions were in keeping with the new South Carolina law passed recently which does not permit public funds to be used directly or indirectly for gender transition procedures for minors through age 17. Mr. Hill opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Poore inquired about the purpose for the proposed revision. Mr. Hill stated that the change would bring the collection in line with the new state law given that the library is a user of public funds and should not be seen as promoting transgender materials to anyone under the age of 18 which includes the age group the Young Adult section serves. He stated the revision would move books with transgender issues from the Young Adult section to the Adult section of the library, and the books would only be able to be checked out to someone with a library card that allows checkout of Adult section materials.

Referencing the use of the word "portray" in the third paragraph of the proposed language, Mr. Poore inquired if a book including a transgender character would be moved to the Adult section. Mrs. Moston confirmed that it would. Mr. Poore voiced his opposition to the broad nature of the proposed policy language.

Mr. Hill stated that he wanted to remind everyone that when a book is relocated to the Adult section, it does not mean that anyone will not be able to find the book and read the book in the library. He added that someone would only be prevented from checking out a book in the Adult collection if they did not have a card that allows it, noting that the choice of library card type for a minor was up to the parent of the minor.

Mr. Aufmuth agreed with Mr. Poore and stated that he would be in favor of sending the policy back to the committee. No motion to table the matter was made.

Mrs. Collins stated that she felt that the discussion reflected trustees disagreeing on terminology. She then moved to Call the Question. Mr. Hoard seconded. Mr. Hill explained that a motion to Call the Question needed to be voted on immediately when seconded. He explained that a vote in favor of the motion meant that trustees were ready to end discussion and vote on the proposed revision. Furthermore, a "No" vote meant that trustees would like to hear more debate. He then asked those in favor of calling the question to vote in the affirmative. With 8 in favor and 3 opposed, the motion to Call the Question carried. Mr. Hill then called for a vote on the proposed revisions to the *Collection Development and Maintenance Policy* as recommended by the Library Materials Committee. With the majority in favor, the proposed revisions carried.

Following the vote, Mr. Poore asked Mrs. Cornwell to ensure that the meeting minutes reflected that the policy had not been reviewed by outside counsel.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

State Aid Agreement and Library Budget Form

Ms. James referred to the *State Aid Agreement and Library Budget Form for FY2025*, and stated that the form was provided to the State Library and required to be signed in the presence of a quorum of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Hoard moved to approve and sign. Mrs. Collins asked if the form referred to the recent proviso passed by the state legislature. Ms. James stated that the form didn't address the proviso and that she and the Library Board Chair had a separate document that they were asked to sign which certified that the Library System had a collection development policy and a process in place to address requests for reconsideration of materials. She added that the burden was on the State Library to comply with the proviso and determine the distribution of state aid. Ms. James stated the State Librarian has asked for the opinion of the state Attorney General concerning the proviso. Following discussion, Mr. Aufmuth stated that he had no concerns about the Library not being in compliance with the State Aid Form and seconded Mr. Hoard's motion. With all in favor, the motion carried and the form was certified with the required signatures.

Board of Trustees Vacancy – Secretary Position

Ms. James stated that she had received notice from Kristen Odom that she was resigning from the Library Board position as Secretary. Ms. James suggested that the Board charge the Nominating Committee with filling the vacancy when they meet later this year to propose the Slate of Officers for Calendar Year 2026. She added that the position did not need to be filled immediately. With no nomination from the floor, Mr. Beckner moved to leave the position vacant. With no opposition, Mr. Hill stated that the Board of Trustees would leave the position of Secretary vacant until it was filled for the next term.

Other Announcements

Ms. James referred to the *September/October Event Guide* at trustees' seats. She provided an update on the Summer Reading program, noting that 4,913 people completed the Summer Reading challenge, an increase of 12.3% over the 2023 number of completers.

Ms. James reported the building permit for the Blue Ridge Branch Library received approval this morning, adding that the retention pond was in place. Grading for curb and gutters would be finished tomorrow with the pouring of curb and gutters scheduled for next week. She stated that contractors would begin digging footers this week after rebar arrives.

Mrs. Collins congratulated the couple who had just gotten married in front of the Hughes Main Library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Aufmuth moved to direct the Executive Director to seek outside legal counsel specializing in the First Amendment to review the Collection Development and Maintenance Policy. Mr. Baxter seconded. With four in favor, the motion failed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

APPEARANCES

Mr. Hill called on individuals who had signed up to speak. Lindsey Molina did not appear when called. Maria Catherine appeared for the purpose of "MLIS"; Beth Wadsworth spoke regarding "Against LGBT Books. Only in Adult Sec."; and Sheila Kihne spoke regarding "Speak to Materials Policy."

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hoard so moved. Mr. Aufmuth seconded. Mr. Hill adjourned the meeting at 1:13p.

S. Allan Hill
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James
Executive Director

Jill Cornwell
Recording Secretary