



**BERKS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Board of Directors Meeting
February 15, 2023 7:00PM
Hybrid Meeting
MINUTES**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of Berks County Public Libraries was held using a hybrid format, in person and via the Microsoft Teams platform, on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

Board Members Present: Ginny Hand - President; Helen Flynn - Vice President; Dr. Debbie Noel - Secretary/Treasurer; Mary Ellen Wells, Jason Brudereck, Arleny Pimentel, Xiomara Toledo

Board Members Absent:

System staff present: Amy Resh, Library System Administrator; Stephanie Williams, Deputy Administrator/Outreach Services Coordinator; Jeff Smilko, Technology Coordinator

District staff present: Marissa Guidara, District Youth Services Consultant, Becky Wanamaker, District Consultant

Advisory Committee members present:

Mike Najarian, Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library
Jason Wenrich, Bernville Area Community Library
Nicole Sapna, Boone Area Library
Robert Kistler, Boyertown Community Library
Amity Grim, Brandywine Community Library
Karen Winegardner, Brandywine Community Library
D Michael Bennethum, Exeter Community Library
David Crissman, Fleetwood Area Public Library
Chelsea Williams, Hamburg Public Library
Dorothy Brobst, Hamburg Public Library
Gerry Hynes, Kutztown Community Library
Janet Yost, Kutztown Community Library
Natasha Donaldson, Mifflin Community Library
Jennie Rodriguez-Priest, Mifflin Community Library

Linda Roebuck, Muhlenberg Community Library
Melissa Adams, Reading Public Library
Julia Becker, Reading Public Library
Laura Yazemboski, Robesonia Community Library
Stephanie Schreiber, Schuylkill Valley Community Library
Laurel Quigley, Spring Township/West Lawn Wyomissing Hills Library
Lisa Hoopes, Spring Township/West Lawn Wyomissing Hills Library
Ben Robitzer, Sinking Spring Library
Wenonah Reigel, Sinking Spring Library
Cindy Line, Village Library
Maria Long, Village Library
Kristi Brant, Wernersville Public Library
Sarah Sechrist, Womelsdorf Community Library
Aislinn Staaby, Womelsdorf Community Library
Debbie Worrell, Womelsdorf Community Librar

Ginny Hand reminded all virtual attendees to enter their first and last name and library name into the Q & A box on Teams for the meeting minutes.

Call to Order: Ginny Hand called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ginny Hand led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2023 BCPL Board Officers : Jason Brudereck moved to accept the following officers for 2023: Ginny Hand - President; Helen Flynn - Vice President; Dr. Debbie Noel - Secretary/Treasurer. Mary Ellen Wells seconded this motion. It was unanimously accepted.

Public Comment:

In-person comments: Steph Kocher, community member from West Lawn, thanked the public libraries for the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program. She started in the Robesonia library with her 1-year-old and 2.5-year-old children in 2012 or 2013. This program was a blessing to her family and she would like to see it continue. Now, her third grader is reading a whole grade higher and her fifth grader is in the Reading Olympics.

Virtual comments: One comment from Robert Kistler amending the November meeting minutes and three comments from Laurel Quigley, the Wernersville Library Board, and the Brandywine Library Board regarding the draft Uniform Requirements and Responsibilities.

Approval of Minutes: Mary Ellen Wells made a motion to accept the minutes of November 16, 2022 with the proposed change (adding Robert Kistler from the Boyertown Community Library, to the list of attendees). Jason Brudereck seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Debbie Noel reported that the library system’s County budget, County Co-ordination Aid, and State Aid were all spent down almost completely in 2022. No detailed financial report is yet available for 2023.

Debbie Noel moved that the report be accepted as presented. Helen Flynn seconded. The report was unanimously accepted.

Correspondence:

An email from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries accepting our plan for county coordination aid in 2023 was received in December 2022.

Administrator’s Report: Amy Resh shared her report with the Board and Advisory Committee members (The full report is attached)

Amy highlighted the following from the 2022 year in review:

The year-long celebration of the System’s 35th anniversary year which first began in the summer of 2021 concluded. The System receive a proclamation from the county commissioners and a delegation citation sponsored by four Pennsylvania senators, both commending the system on the triumphs over the past three-and-a-half decades. Efforts for our celebratory year culminated in the launch of a new collection: the Library of Things. A first for Berks County, this collection

expanded the definition of libraries to include the lending of non-traditional materials for library cardholders.

Highlights from the Administrator's Report:

Amy Resh and Stephanie Williams created a 2023 funding formula tutorial video. Resh finalized a System Administrator yearly tasks calendar for succession planning purposes. Resh and Becky Wanamaker scheduled five new trustee orientation dates for member library trustees in March 2023- the flyer can be found on the HQ under the Trustee Resources page. Resh is working on the System's annual state report with support from System staff. Preparations for The System Awards ceremony on March 1, 2023 continue to be a priority.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee:

In addition to electing the officers for the 2023 calendar year (noted at beginning of minutes), Jason Brudereck reported that the County Commissioners appointed a new member to the Berks County Public Libraries Advisory Board. Xiomara Toledo, from Reading, has joined the Board with a three year term.

Old Business: *none*

New Business:

- Mary Ellen Wells moved to change the language on the "Material Loan Periods" section of the Berks County Public Libraries System Borrowing Policy from "Non-standard item loan periods are set by owning libraries." to "Non-standard item loan periods, including loans from the Library of Things Collections, are set by owning libraries." Helen Flynn seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Helen Flynn moved not to send back the revised copy with the changes mentioned above to the Directors. Mary Ellen Wells seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- The final version of the Berks County Public Libraries System Borrowing Policy was presented to the Board for approval. Mary Ellen Wells moved that the Berks County Public Libraries System Borrowing Policy be accepted. Jason Brudereck seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- The draft of the updated Uniform Requirements and Responsibilities for System Member Evaluation was presented. Comments on this draft can be forwarded to comments@berks.lib.pa.us prior to our next meeting.

District Consultant Reports:

Becky Wanamaker, District Consultant and Marissa Guidara, Youth Services District Consultant

Marissa Guidara shared the following regarding two PA initiatives, the One Book program and the Remake Learning Days in May program:

- The PA One Book program, which is an Office of Commonwealth Libraries initiative done in collaboration with Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has announced the book, “Mel Fell” by Corey Tabor as this year’s title. All of the libraries and early learning centers across the state are encouraged to read this book in April and use that as a catalyst to promote early childhood literacy. The district library center has purchased 20 copies for each location that can be used as giveaways for children or to give to classrooms they provide outreach for.
- Libraries are participating in Remake Learning Days in May, which is supported by the PA Department of Education. Libraries (as well as schools and out-of-school time organizations across the state) are asked to host a STEAM program to help foster fosters awareness of community learning opportunities for families. The district library center is going to be providing materials from its TEA Box initiative, which will include solar robotic bugs, paper circuits and sun print paper, for all library locations to support their participation.

Announcements:

The 20th Annual Berks County Public Libraries’ Library Excellence Awards will be held on March 1, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Berks County Agricultural Center. The snow day is March 2, 2023. Virtual participants were reminded to enter their full name and library name into the Q&A box for attendance purposes.

Adjournment: Helen Flynn moved for adjournment. Mary Ellen Wells seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Arleny Pimentel
on behalf of Debbie Noel
Secretary, BCPL Board

The BCPL Awards Presentation will be held Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM
(snow date Thursday, March 2) at the Agriculture Center Auditorium
RSVP to libadmin@berks.lib.pa.us

***Next Meeting: May 17, 2023 7:00PM
System Headquarters: 1040 Berks Road, Leesport PA 19533***