



BERKS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Board of Directors Meeting
August 17, 2022 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, August 17, 2022.

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

Board Members Absent: none

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:

Jason Wenrich, Bernville Area Library

Mike Najarian, Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library

Rob Kistler, Boyertown Community Library

Charles Wohl, Boyertown Community Library

Amy Crouse, Brandywine Community Library

Karen Winegardner, Brandywine Community Library

D Michael Bennethum, Exeter Community Library

Lois Geist, Fleetwood Area Public Library

Chelsea Williams, Hamburg Public Library

Dorothy Brobst, Hamburg Public Library

Gerry Hynes, Kutztown Community Library

Janet Yost, Kutztown Community Library

Becky Wingenroth, Mifflin Community Library

Linda Roebuck, Muhlenberg Community Library

Melissa Adams, Reading Public Library

Mindy Cohen, Robesonia Community Library

Laura Yazemboski, Robesonia Community Library

Ben Robitzer, Sinking Spring Library

Lisa Hoopes, Spring Township Library

Cindy Line, Village Library

Maria Long, Village Library

Deborah Scull, Wernersville Public Library

Sarah Bair, Womelsdorf Community Library

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

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

Public Comment: We had two public comments this evening:

- Susan Sorrentino expressed concerns about delivery cancellation due to heat advisories.

- The Board of Trustees for the Brandywine Community Library, as submitted by Amy Crouse, Board President, voiced concern with the proposed funding formula using 2021 data for 2023 funding formula

Approval of Minutes: Debbie Noel made a motion to accept the minutes, of May 18, 2022. Charles Jones seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Noel reported that the budget continues to be in line with expectations. She pointed out that one area that has exceeded the budget is in the area of gasoline expenditures. That is no surprise with the current prices and will continue to exceed the budgeted amount as the year continues.

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

Correspondence: One piece of correspondence was received from Susan Banks, Deputy Secretary, State Librarian and Commissioner for Libraries for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding the 2022-2023 state aid and waivers.

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

A few items were highlighted:

- Resh shared that she recently appeared on the BCTV show *County Connections* with Commissioner Leinbach. This interview/discussion show about our System focused heavily on the new Library of Things collection which includes tools, equipment, and other unique accessories for patrons to utilize as they need. The video can be found at <https://www.bctv.org/video/berks-county-library-system-8-8-22/>
- The Preschool Program Specialists have transitioned into Community Engagement Specialists. Hiring for these positions will begin this month.
- Resh submitted the first draft of the 2023 County budget in June and with input from library Directors drafted the 2023 County Coordination Aid grant.
- The bibliographic services staff started switching the Story Rider and Bookasaurus collections to the children's floating collection.
- Stephanie Williams purchased the final installment of Overdrive titles using ARP-IMLS funds allocated by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.
- Resh highlighted a number of upcoming events:
 - *Reading Library District's author event on September 7 at the Reiffton School*
 - *County of Berks' Health Fair at the Services Center on September 13*
 - *County of Berks' Health Fair at Berks Heim on September 14*
 - *Berks County Pretrial Services' Job Fair at the Doubletree on October 3*
 - *Berks Encore's Senior Expo on October 5*
 - *LGBT Center of Reading's Out in the Park on October 8*

Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee: Arleny Pimentel reported the Advocacy Committee met in June to review results of survey sent to library staff. Following receipt of the surveys the committee collated responses and established goals based on the survey results. Goals include: creating infographics on the importance of per capita funding, the role of System Advisory Board as compared to local library boards, and the responsibilities of the System Advisory Board committees. This committee asked Amy Resh to create a video tutorial of the 2023 funding formula.

Finance Committee: Debbie Noel reported that the Finance Committee met on May 24. The purpose of the meeting was to review the revisions made to the two drafts of the 2025 funding formula, and to update the 2023 funding formula draft and instructions. We also reviewed the overall process for the Finance Committee to recommend the 2023 formula and instructions to the full board for approval at the August 17, 2022 Advisory Board Meeting. All libraries received the 2023 funding formula spreadsheet and instructions with the increase in municipal support and increase in distance support allocations earlier this month.

Since the May meeting of the Finance Committee, the state advised us to estimate an increase in library aid of 17%. These additional funds will be distributed to our system libraries using the 2023 funding formula.

Debbie Noel moved to approve the 2023 funding formula that was distributed to libraries. Mary Ellen Wells seconded the motion.

A discussion related to the concerns expressed by the Brandywine Community Library was brought up by Helen Flynn. The funding formula changes had been presented to library members in May 2021. The Finance Committee had spent time carefully reviewing the impact.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion to approve the 2023 funding formula.

Nominating Committee: Jason Brudereck reported that the nominating committee met to discuss potential replacements. Helen Flynn has agreed to stay on for another term. The committee has not yet been successful finding a replacement for Charlie Jones; his term expires at the end of this year. Mary Ellen Wells suggested the local library Boards could send suggestions to the Board.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

Floating collection policy - The final draft of the request for reconsideration of floating collection materials was presented. This policy will allow patrons to complete a form indicating why they are requesting reconsideration of the materials. The form is available online. Mary Ellen asked that the word 'complainant' be changed to 'petitioner'. Jason moved that the Floating Collection Materials policy, with the edited change to 'petitioner' be accepted. Arleny Pimentel accepted. The motion was unanimously approved.

Berks County Public Libraries By-Laws were presented for review. Any feedback needs to be sent to Amy before the by-laws are approved at the November meeting.

District Consultant Reports:

From Becky Wanamaker, District Consultant

Throughout the late Spring and Summer, several projects have been focuses for district service, including...

- encouraging participation in the upcoming Pennsylvania Library Association conference, and coordinating the provision of hotel accommodations using district funds. We have a large majority of our libraries attending some or all of the conference and representing Berks County;
- working through new director searches and transitions with several libraries. All but two of our libraries now have permanent library directors, and a Cohort/Mentorship program will be offered in the fall to help train and acclimate first-time directors;
- redesigning and relaunching The Trustee Talk, the monthly newsletter for all board members of libraries throughout the county;
- amending our 2022-2023 district budget and District Negotiated Agreement to account for the additional state funding for libraries.

As always, the support and collaboration from Berks County Public Libraries is so effective and valuable for all district services. Thank you again.

From Marissa Guidara, Youth Services District Consultant, as read by Becky Wanamaker

The district's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee, is hosting an author visit this fall with Amy Sarig King (A.S. King) to launch her new book, "Attack of the Black Rectangles." The event will help lead a conversation with our libraries and our communities about book censorship and challenges. The event will be held on Wednesday, September 7 at 7 pm at the Reiffton School in the Exeter School District. It is a free event and is open to all. Each library location will receive 20 copies of the book that can be used in programming this fall.

More information can be found at www.berkslibraries.org/rectangles

Announcements:

Deborah Scull, from Wernersville Public Library, announced that the Wernersville Public Library is now a GoldStar Library in the Pennsylvania Library Association's PA Forward program. Congratulations!

Executive Session:

The Advisory Board moved in to an Executive Session to discuss the elimination of overdue fines for standard library materials proposal from the County Board of Commissioners. Following the Executive Session, Jason Brudereck made a motion to accept the Commissioners' proposal to eliminate overdue fines for standard library materials. Charlie Jones seconded. The proposal was unanimously accepted to be sent to the Berks County Commissioners in support of sending offers to the member libraries.

Adjournment: Arleny Pimental moved for adjournment. Helen Flynn seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Noel
Secretary, BCPL Board

***Next Meeting: November 16, 2022 7:00PM
System Headquarters: 1040 Berks Road, Leesport PA 19533***