



**BERKS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Board of Directors Meeting
November 16, 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, November 16, 2022.

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

Board Members Absent: Arleny Pimentel

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	Linda Roebuck, Muhlenberg Community Library
Chrissy Mittura, Boone Area Library	Melissa Adams, Reading Public Library
Mary Picariello, Boone Area Library	Mindy Cohen, Robesonian Community Library
Charles Wohl, Boyertown Community Library	Laura Yazemboski, Robesonian Community Library
Robert Kistler, Boyertown Community Library	Ben Robitzer, Sinking Spring Library
Karen Winegardner, Brandywine Community Library	Stephanie Schreiber, Schuylkill Valley Library
D Michael Bennethum, Exeter Community Library	Cindy Line, Village Library
Lois Geist, Fleetwood Area Public Library	Maria Long, Village Library
Chelsea Williams, Hamburg Public Library	Greg Mazurek, Wernersville Public Library
Dorothy Brobst, Hamburg Public Library	Sarah Bair, Womelsdorf Community Library
Gerry Hynes, Kutztown Community Library	Sarah Sechrist, Womelsdorf Community Library
Janet Yost, Kutztown Community Library	Debbie Worrell, Womelsdorf Community Library

Call to Order: Ginny Hand called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

Public Comment: We had one public comment this evening: Karen Winegardner of Brandywine Community Library contacted us to let us know that Karen Winegardner and Amy Crouse were both in attendance at the last BCPL virtual Board meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Following comments and an email regarding additions to the attendees from our last meeting (Karen Winegardner, Amy Crouse, Brandywine Community Library and Ben Robitzer, Sinking Spring Library), Mary Ellen Wells made a motion to accept the minutes, of August 16, 2022, with those corrections. Charles seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Noel reported the budget remains healthy entering the last month and a half of the calendar year. Some funds were shifted to address areas of need, like gasoline. We will also have spent our county coordination funds by the end of the year.

Debbie Noel moved that the report be accepted as presented. Mary Ellen Wells seconded. The report was unanimously accepted.

Correspondence: None

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:

The System's Plan for State Aid was submitted to the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Amy completed all 19 System Member library visits for 2022. She will begin working on a funding formula explanation video later this month. The New Trustee Orientation dates 2023 will be released soon. 20 STEM kits were added to the accessibility collection and in 2023, we will focus on adding braille and sign language items. Stephanie Williams attended multiple outreach events and was on BCTV with Abilities in Motion to advertise the accessibility collection. The Return on Investment calculator is now live on the website- berkslibraries.org. 2022 Awards celebration planning has begun- get those nominations in! Tech continues to focus on upgrading computers to windows 10 and will begin the computer lab and laptops in 2023.

Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee: Jason Brudereck reported that the Advocacy Committee met October 5, 2022 at 2:30PM via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to review the advocacy letter created for member libraries and the talking points about the per capita portion of the funding formula. The committee also discussed ideas regarding the infographic to be shared with libraries presenting the per capita amounts specific to them. The group agreed that the letter was ready to go out. Amy sent trustee email addresses to Arleny to send the letter via email.

Finance Committee: Debbie Noel reported the Finance Committee met on September 30 at 10:30 AM via zoom to discuss concerns expressed by one member library regarding the recently approved funding formula. The Library Board Chair had expressed unique restrictions that had been placed on their library causing a drop in circulation and computer use data. The Committee determined that other libraries had, over the years, experienced other unique challenges and the Committee members decided there would be no exceptions made for one library for three

reasons: the formula had already been approved, we have not made similar exceptions in the past, and any changes would impact the funding to the other libraries in the system.

Membership Committee: Jason Brudereck reported that the nominating committee met September 12, 2022 and again on October 14, 2022 via Zoom to discuss potential replacements. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential recommendations to present to Commissioner Rivera. Two names were forwarded for his consideration.

Old Business:

The Berks County Public Libraries Bylaws final draft was presented. Mary Ellen Wells moved that the Berks County Public Libraries Bylaws be accepted. Helen Flynn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business:

- The Berks County Public Libraries Board Meeting Schedule for 2023 was presented. Meetings will be held, at 7:00 PM, virtually on Teams or at the BCPLS Headquarters at 1040 Berks Road, Leesport, PA 19533 on:
 - Wednesday, February 15, 2023
 - Wednesday, May 17, 2023
 - Wednesday, August 16, 2023
 - Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Awards Presentation:

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM (snow date Thursday, March 2) at the Berks County Agriculture Center Auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Rd, Leesport, PA 19533

Jason Brudereck moved that the Berks County Public Libraries Board Meeting Schedule for 2023 be accepted. Helen Flynn accepted the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- The final version of the Berks County Public Libraries System Strategic Plan 2023-2025 was presented to the Board for approval. Mary Ellen Wells moved that the Berks County Public Libraries System Strategic Plan 2023-2025 be accepted. Jason Brudereck seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

District Consultant Reports:

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

First, the consultants extended an ongoing thank you for the partnership and support from BCPL, and this board, for all district services.

Two updates were highlighted:

- The PaLA Conference was held in mid-October in Harrisburg. As a result of the District Library Center purchasing 19 hotel rooms for librarians through the district, and the conference ex-

penses covered by the BCPL Friends, we had a large number of participants from Berks libraries. The conference was an all around success, filled with connection opportunities and perspective on positive things happening in libraries across the state.

- Marissa, Youth Services Consultant, recently facilitated a successful district-wide partnership with the Reading Science Center for a new program called “Library Days at the Reading Science Center.” On specific dates, library patrons could spend the morning at the Reading Science Center for free simply by showing their library card. Libraries participated in multiple ways: some advertised the program to their patrons, others conducted storytimes at the center, and others hosted “field trips” and had their patrons meet them at the center to explore together. The first event garnered 75 participants, and the second had over 100. The program proved so popular, we will be conducting it again in the spring and are looking for other community partners to co-host similar “library days.”

Announcements:

The Board awarded Charles Jones a certificate of thanks for his years of service to the Berks County Public Library System Advisory Board. Charlie’s tenure ends in December 2022.

Review of 2023 Funding Formula

Amy Resh, System Administrator, reviewed the 2023 Funding Formula for member libraries. She reviewed the specifics on County Funding and State Funding and how allocations are determined. Amy reminded anyone with questions on how the funding formula works should email her directly for assistance: amy.resh@berks.lib.pa.us

Adjournment: Charles Jones moved for adjournment. Helen Flynn seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Noel
Secretary, BCPL Board

***Next Meeting: February 15, 2023 7:00PM
System Headquarters: 1040 Berks Road, Leesport PA 19533***