



**BERKS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Board of Directors Meeting
November 20, 2019 7:00PM
System Headquarters
MINUTES**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of Berks County Public Libraries was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at System Headquarters.

Board Members Present: Eve Kimball - Vice President, Mary Edwards - Treasurer, Debbie Noel - Secretary, Ginny Hand, Peter Schuchman

Board Members Absent: Charles Jones - Chair, Chris Daubert

System staff present: Amy Resh, Library System Administrator; Alison Trautmann, Outreach Coordinator,

Reading district library staff present: Stephanie Williams, District Consultant

Advisory Committee members present:

Mike Najarian, Bethel-Tulpehocken	Solomon Lausch, Schuylkill Valley
Lindsey Mason, Boyertown	Ben Robitzer, Sinking Spring
Karen Winegardner, Brandywine	John Emerick, Spring Twp.; West Lawn/Wyomissing Hills
Denise Darrah, Exeter	Jennifer Yetter, Spring Twp.; West Lawn/Wyomissing Hills
Lois Geist, Fleetwood	Lisa Betz, Village
Mindy Wagaman, Kutztown	Kristi Brant, Wernersville
Marilyn Eaken, Mifflin	Tim Kreider, Womelsdorf
Dr. Joseph Yarworth, Muhlenberg	
Paul Hoh, Reading	
Kevin Kurtz, Robesonia	
Laura Yazemboski, Robesonia	

Call to Order: Eve Kimball called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Welcome and Introductions: Advisory Committee members were welcomed along with visitors

Public Comment:

Solomon Lausch expressed congratulations to the system staff for their work on the 2020 census.

Dr. Lausch then expressed concerns regarding page 2, section 3. **SYSTEM PARTICIPATION AND TRUSTEE EDUCATION**, of the *Envisioning Excellence Requirements*. Specifically, Dr. Lausch believed the requirements contained within this section would place an undue burden on the volunteer trustee staff

and believed it would impact the ability to keep volunteers. He stated it would create, "...a chilling affect on some people and their involvement." Joseph Yarworth, Jennifer Yetter, and Karen Winegardner expressed similar concerns that they would lose volunteers if this requirement were mandated. Winegardner also wondered if there was a penalty for not following this expectation.

Lois Geist asked if any member libraries would be willing to share personnel policies. These policies can be forwarded to her email at lokem2741@gmail.com

Approval of Minutes: Ginny Hand made a motion to accept the minutes, of August 21, 2019. Debbie Noel seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report : Mary Edwards reported that we are under budget in both county and county coordination aid. Nothing extraordinary in the budget. Debbie Noel made a motion to accept the budget report. Ginny Hand seconded. The report was unanimously approved.

Correspondence: No correspondence to report

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

Committee Reports: No Reports made

Old Business:

- **BCPL Bylaw Revisions:** Mary Edwards moved to accept the bylaw revisions as written. Peter Schuchman seconded. During discussion it was noted that there will be one edit made to ARTICLE III MEETINGS, Section 3.02 to remove the specification of January as the required date of reorganization meetings. This section will now read as follows:

Section 3.02 The annual reorganization meeting, which shall be for the purpose of the election of officers and appointment to committees, shall be ***conducted at the first Board meeting*** of each year, at such time and place as designated to the Board.

The bylaws, with this revision, were unanimously approved.

- **Envisioning Excellence:** Peter Schuchman moved to accept the Envisioning Excellence requirements. Eve Kimball seconded. During discussion concerns about losing volunteers again arose if section 3 remained as written. The following members expressed concerns about section 3 at this time: Lindsey Mason, Karen Winegardner , Solomon Lausch, Denise Darrah, Tim Kreider, and Marilyn Eaken. Paul Hoh expressed appreciation for the training workshop he recently attended. The requirements were not approved, by a vote of 1 yea - 4 no.
- **Membership Policy:** Ginny Hand made a motion to accept the membership policy as written. Debbie Noel seconded. The policy was unanimously approved.

New Business

- The 2020 meeting schedule was shared with the group. BCPL Board Meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays at 7:00PM: February 19, May 20, August 19, November 18
- The 2020 System Awards event will be held on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 6:30PM at the System Headquarters
 - Amy Resh encouraged everyone to nominate individuals, or organizations, for recognition at this event
 - Nominations are due by Christmas Eve at Noon
 - The snow date for the event is February 5, 2020
- The Borrowing Policy, as developed by Berks County library directors, was presented. Ginny Hand made a motion to accept the policy as written. Peter Schuchman seconded. The policy was unanimously accepted.
- The Internet Policy, as developed by Berks County library directors, was presented. Mary Edwards made a motion to accept the policy as written. Peter Schuchman seconded. The policy was unanimously accepted.

District Center Update: Paul Hoh passed out a very detailed report from the library's Executive Director, Bronwen Gamble (see attached document). Mr. Hoh recognized, and thanked, Stephanie Williams, who recently visited the Reading Library. He also shared a staff development that occurred on Tuesday, November 5 at the DoubleTree Hotel. Mr. Hoh said the fellowship and teamwork among the approximately 100 attendees was uplifting; generational insights were enlightening; safety training was provided; office yoga was presented, and open carry laws were reviewed. Additionally, the library is looking forward to the opening of the Jerome Marcus Learning Center for both the learning potential of this modern, technologically equipped, multi-use facility, and also for the much needed revenue expected from rental of the space.

Announcements: Amy Resh introduced Stephanie Williams the new district consultant. Ms. Williams has met with approximately 50% of the library leadership to date and expects to meet and visit the remaining Berks County libraries. Ms. Williams is mandated to attend at least one Board Meeting at each member library per year. She asked that members contact her as early as possible to set a date for her attendance. She can be contacted at stephanie.williams@reading.lib.pa.us

Adjournment: Peter Schuchman moved for adjournment. Ginny Hand seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Noel
Secretary, BCPL Board

***Next Meeting: February 19, 2019 7:00PM
System Headquarters: 1040 Berks Road, Leesport PA 19533***