



Berks County Public Libraries Board Meeting
November 7, 2018 7:00 pm
System Headquarters

- Attendance:
 - Library System Administrator: Amy Resh
 - Board Members Present: Charles Jones-Chair, Eve Kimball-Vice President, Mary Edwards-Treasurer, Deborah Noel, Peter Schuchman, Andrea Vernon
 - Board Members Absent: Chris Daubert
 - Directors present:

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|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Pat Adams | - | Hamburg |
| Lisa Betz | - | Village Library of Morgantown |
| Erica Burch | - | Schuylkill Valley |
| Kelli Burgos | - | Bernville |
| Denise Darrah | - | Exeter |
| John Emerick | - | Spring Township |
| Michelle Herman | - | Brandywine |
| Paul Hoh | - | Reading |
| Kevin Kurtz | - | Robesonia |
| Lindsey Mason | - | Boyertown |
| Mike Najarian | - | Bethel-Tulpehocken |
| Allison Plevrakis | - | Wernersville |
| Ben Robitzer | - | Sinking Spring |
| Judy Schwambach | - | Muhlenberg |
| Diane Schwab-Sullivan | - | Womelsdorf |
| Rebecca Worley | - | Mifflin |
| Jennifer Yetter | - | Spring Township |
| Janet Yost | - | Kutztown |
| Joanne Yoder | - | Kutztown |
- Public Comment: None
- Minutes of August 15, 2018: Approved with amendments to the Finance committee section
- Treasurer Report: moved, seconded and approved
 - Final 2019 budget request was submitted to County
 - Amy is working on purchasing our year-end items - The worksheet is pulled at beginning of November so some of the items in the budget have been spent by the time of the meeting.
 - It was noted that many of the budget categories have items in which the projects occur towards the end of the year.
- Correspondence: None
- Administrators report:
 - Our new System Administrator, Amy Resh gave a brief resume of her background as follows:
 - Master of Library and Information Science from Drexel University
 - Master of Business Administration from Alvernia University
 - Bachelor of Science in Library Science from Kutztown University

- Worked in a variety of library environments but passion is delivering high-quality equitable library service to the people we serve.
 - Amy followed with a recap of her first 60 days as Library System Administrator:
 - Created a draft of a revised mission and vision statement for the Berks County Public Libraries system; enhancing service to the people of the county through increased support of the member libraries. Amy is also working on a new strategic plan for 2019-2021. She requested that the board review it and email their input before the next meeting. This plan will be submitted for approval at the January board meeting.
 - Our cataloging and processing department continues to catalog between 3,100 and 4,000 items per month. We are beginning the stages of investigating an authority control clean-up project in Polaris, our circulation system.
 - The van drivers drive 3 routes around the county over 200 miles a day and deliver approximately 3,500 items a day to get materials to patrons quickly.
 - Outreach services:
 - Working with Meals on Wheels to deliver materials to homebound seniors with a small pilot launching this winter.
 - Partner with the Berks County jail for book talks to begin in January 2019
 - Working with Tower Health to let new parents know about free baby step bags and how valuable their public library can be to early literacy.
 - Marketing has increased their delivery of streamlined and cohesive advertising to member libraries to ensure a consistent patron experience across the county.
 - An infographic about the new funding formula was created to make it easier to share and understand.
 - Our digital services will be streamlined to one platform, Overdrive, to create a better patron experience.
 - The Library directors also voted to change the financial structure to a model that is more cohesive and easy to understand.
 - She is creating a new director training to present to member library directors as they are hired as well as a new trustee orientation currently being scheduled in the spring to educate the member library's new trustees.
- Advocacy – no report
- Old Business: none
- New Business:
 - The changes to the Circulation policy that were approved by member library directors were moved, seconded and approved. These include:
 - Streamline fines and fees schedule.
 - 2 available renewals for non-new items will trial for 1 year.
 - All new print books will circulate immediately for 6 month trial period.
- District reports:
 - Reading
 - Their meeting is after ours so no report
 - Paul Hoh invited people to the reading library at the “Celebration Event” with free parking at 4th and Cherry Garage (validate ticket) on November 15 from 5:30-7:30 to celebrate their award (one of 5 libraries in the country) –email RSVPs to pjmkhoh@aol.com
 - Bernville Community Library – Kelli Burgos

- Venom Institute demonstrated reptiles at Bernville Community Library – Kelli Burgos – very successful
- Schuylkill Valley stated that they were called by the same group but did not have them come because they had no insurance
- Question was raised re the status of the Oley Valley Library
 - There are many questions.
 - Request was made for Amy to ask the County Commissioners for additional funds in the amount needed for the Oley Library if we are going to add them to the BCPL system.
- Exeter library will continue Teachers in the Park programs started this year

Adjournment moved and seconded at 7:45 pm.