

Berks County Public Libraries Board Meeting
April 19, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Berks County Public Libraries was called to order on April 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at System Headquarters.

Board Members Present:

Charles Jones, President; Mary Edwards, Treasurer; Judy Schwambach, Treasurer, Peter Schuchman, Andrea Kurzweg.

System Staff Present:

Denise Sticha, Administrator

Library Representatives:

Bernville, Kelli Burgos
Bethel Tulpehocken, Mike Najarian
Boone Area, Chery Martinozzi
Brandywine, Marie Ballantine
Exeter, Denise Darrah
Fleetwood, Dan Stafford, Carin Mileschosky
Hamburg, Pat Adams
Kutztown, Mary Laub
Mifflin, Rebecca Worley
Muhlenberg, Linda Roebuck

Reading, Paul Hoh
Robesonia, Kevin Kurtz
Schuylkill Valley, Erica Burch, Christie
Himmelreich
Sinking Spring, Lisa Domeshek, John Nelka
Spring, John Emerick
Wernersville, Jeannine Campbell, Christine
Santoro
Womelsdorf, Tim Kreider
Village, Lisa Betz

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the January 18, 2017 Board Meeting were approved as read.
Edwards, Schuchman moved and seconded

Library Showcase:

Representatives from Muhlenberg, Fleetwood, and Schuylkill Valley gave presentations of their successes in the Star Library Initiative of PA Forward.

Treasurer's Report: After the first three months of the year, computer programs are being updated and the County has charged us for installing GPS systems in our vehicles.

Correspondence: Bingaman-Hess Law Firm has notified us of a bequest by Esther Seidel for \$57,000. We must consider what to do with this money.

Administrator's Report:

Staffing situation- we are now down three full time and one part time positions. This has created work flow difficulties. The Community Relations Officer will be replaced soon.
Website Redesign- Eight proposals have been submitted; two survived the checklist and were within our price range. Interpersonal Frequency (IF) signed the contract in March and is now working on the first step – information gathering.

Included are the use of Google Analytics, “why did you visit the library?” Also, why and how people are using the website. Data collection should take four to six weeks. We are hopeful to have the website project completed by the end of the year.

Two vehicles should be replaced soon.

In terms of the office situation; we are looking at office spaces in order to repurpose rooms.

Book Bonanza- This year it has moved from one VF location to another. The sale will be the second week in July, Thursday through Saturday. No one knows what will happen after this sale is over. The Friends and AAUW volunteers must be openminded about what they want to do in the future.

Federal and State Budgets- Funding remains flat. The House has kept library funding as it was.

At the Federal level, the Agency is targeted for removal (this means that funding for State libraries will be discontinued.) The “trickledown effect will force many programs to go away. The FCC will need to maintain the e-rate to discount the cost of internet connectivity.

Committee Reports:

Finance: We are continuing to work on the revision of the funding formula. We received a great deal of input and able to move forward.

Advocacy: A Community Conversation will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Berks Ag Center. Representatives from four levels of government will present their view on libraries. Discussion will follow with members of the audience asking questions to round out the program.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

District Center Report: Things are going well. (Refer to *Statistics* and *Director’s Report* for more information.) The recent fundraiser netted more than \$74,000. Private funding should reach \$200,000.

The new director is hopeful concerning cooperation with other directors.

Announcements:

State and Community Partner Session was held in Hershey. Sticha met with Pa Dept. of Ed and other, including Health and Human Services and gathered information we should have at our disposal.

Muhlenberg will host a Wellness Fair on May 6.

Womelsdorf will host a 5K Race as a fundraiser on April 22.

Mifflin will have an Edible Books Program from 10 a.m. to noon on the same day.

Bernville will have a Battle of the Books at it Community Days.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: August 16, 7:00 p.m. at System Headquarters.