

Berks County Public Libraries Board Meeting November 16, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Berks County Public Libraries was called to order on November 16 , at 7:00 p.m. 2016 at System Headquarters.

Board Members Present:

Mary Edwards, Vice President/ treasurer; Judy Schwambach, Secretary; Peter Schuchman ; Andrea Kurzweg; Dr. Eve Kimball.

System Staff Present:

Denise Sticha, Administrator

Library Representatives:

Bernville, Kelli Burgos	Reading, Paul Hoh
Bethel-Tulpehocken, Mike Najarian	Robesonia, Pat Sabold
Boone Area, Cheryl Martinozzi	Schuylkill Valley, James Dailey, Cathy Hartman
Brandywine, Marie Ballantyne	Sinking Spring, Lisa Domeshek, John Nelka
Exeter, Denise Darrah	Spring Township, John Emerick
Fleetwood, Lois Geist	Wernersville, Deb Frei, Christine Santoro
Hamburg, Pat Adams	Womelsdorf, Tim Kreider
Kutztown, Joanne Yoder	
Muhlenberg, Linda Roebuck	
Oley, Deb Hanno	

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of October 19, Board Meeting approved as read.

Correspondence:

None

Treasurer's Report:

Expenditures are at, or close to 100%. 55% of Automated Network has been spent. Staff is working through contractual issues with the Reading Public Library.

Fuel monies will go back into the County budget if they are not spent by end of year. The same is true for Wages and Benefits. The closeout date is December 10 for all 2016 purchases. Spending is being monitored on a daily basis.

Administrator's Report:

Budget changes for 2017 include the deletion of Bookasaurus funding. Changes in PreSchool Literacy Outreach are being considered as the program was not re-funded.

Additionally, the Youth Services Coordinator and Technology Coordinator positions were eliminated effective January 1, 2017.

Staff will be working through 2017 to find new ways to meet community needs.

Projects updates and current status: A revised contract with Reading Public Library for Telecommunications and Internet services is still in the draft/negotiations process. The RFP for our website redesign project should be released for proposals by December 1.

Jay Dailey read portions of a letter to County Commissioners stating that the Community Foundation of Berks County Library Task Force Report was unanimously rejected by the BCPL four years ago. The administrator's response was that the Report is a "resource" and will be treated as such as wt the Board Finance Committee moves forward to revise the current funding formula.

The new survey questions being generated should be helpful.

Calendar dates for 2017 Board meeting have been revised.

Senator Schwank attended a Reading Public Library meeting recently. She was not optimistic about future funding. Anyone interested in libraries should contact legislators to let them know how libraries impact job training, technology, and employment preparedness.

It was suggested that BCPL organize interested individuals to attend County Commissioners' meetings.

Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee:

Meeting to plan town hall will be held December 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee:

Next meeting will be held in January.

Unfinished Business:

Proposed Bylaws Revision/ Amendment: Article III Meetings

Section 3.01 Regular meetings of the Board shall be held no less than 4 times each year at such time and such place as agreed upon by members of the Board.

Motion: Schwambach, Second, Kimball. Approved.

Motion to suspend the "Uniform Requirements and Responsibilities" for 2017 and for 2016 as well.

Motion: Schwambach, Second, Schuchman. Approved.

Motion to require a designated trustee or an alternate from each library to attend all meetings of the Advisory Board.

Motion: Kimball, Second, Kurzweg. Approved.

District Center Update:

The District Center now has a new director, Bronwen Gamble.

E-books usage is going up; hard back circulation is going down.

The Northeast Branch will reopen in summer with a new air conditioner.
Vote will be taken to have Northeast and Southeast branches open 35 hours per week.

Reading's goals as a Resource Library:

- 1) To become a 21st century library.
- 2) To secure more private donations (philanthropy).
- 3) To reach out to Latino community and the elderly.
- 4) To provide services that would create a smaller margin between cost and budget. (Reading is still \$250,000 a year short of budget.)

RPL is now going to businesses and offering to teach computer information.

They have also become a Passport facility.

Mission Moments:

New library director at Fleetwood, Carin Mileschosky.

Mifflin has organized Search Committee to replace Helen Flynn who is planning to retire in early 2017.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.