



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
6:00 PM March 21st, 2024
Sarlin Library

PRESIDING: Ms. Susan Childers, Chair – District 6 (Dacusville)

Mr. Alfred Wheeler – District 1 (Clemson) Ms. Alesa Pinkerton – District 4 (Liberty)
Ms. Nancy Miller – District 2 (Six Mile/Central) Ms. Karen Culley, Secretary – District 5 (Easley)
Mr. Danny Parton – District 3 (Pickens) Ms. Lori Osborn – At Large

1. Staff Presentation

Beth Buchanan – Sarlin Library Branch Manager

This summer we are partnering with BRIEF and Liberty Primary to do a summer STEM camp. We expect 50-60 participants. The seed library is going well. Thus far we have given 5000 seeds to 700 people. Part of this was made possible through a grant from the Native Plant Society. We are doing a lot of food and nutrition programming and have partnered with Foodshare to become a pickup location. Our numbers are increasing greatly. We are on track to exceed our projection of processing 20 passport applications per month this fiscal year. So far, we have processed 151. In February we saw a record number of visits with 3000 which is the highest in the last two fiscal years. Over 1500 people attended 97 programs. We have had 52 Book-a-librarian appointments this year, last year we had 11.

2. Public Comment Policy Review & Vote

Motion by Mr. Alfred Wheeler. 2nd by Ms. Karen Culley. All in favor, motion passed.

3. Public Comment

a. *Comments are limited to 3 minutes per participant and 30 minutes total.*

- Rachel Cox spoke about freedom of speech and book challenges, specifically *Drama*.
- Katherine Byrd spoke about harassment of the library board and staff.
- Johnelle Raines spoke about books available to minors.
- Michael Nelson spoke about sexually charged and explicit content. Mr. Nelson had a serious addiction that stemmed from early exposure to pornography. He did not access pornography from the public Library, but received it from friends.
- Denise Davidson spoke about school libraries and books available to minors.
- Mark Kilburn spoke about filtering books like computers are filtered.
- Debbie Smith spoke about pornographic books and minors.
- Deborah Hudson spoke about challenging *The Bluest Eye*.
- Reba Cruz spoke about advocating for free and open inquiry and censorship as well as attacks on the library director.
- Alyssa Fuller spoke against censorship and how books help survivors of sexual abuse.
- Sylvia Linvill spoke about how *Drama* is one of the most influential books she has ever read.
- Sue Shannon spoke about sexually explicit material in the library.
- Kathleen Campbell spoke about book displays at the Easley library.
- Juliet Penna spoke against banning books and misrepresenting books as pornography.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. January 18, 2024

Motion by Mr. Danny Parton. Second by Mr. Hap Wheeler. All in favor. Motion Passed.

5. Library Director's Report

We have two author talks coming up. Alicia D. Williams on April 23rd at 6pm and Craig Johnson (Longmire series) on June 5th (time TBD). The theme for this year's Summer Reading Program is Adventure. I attended the State Library Director's Training Summit. The drawings for the renovation project at Hampton Memorial Library are still being worked on. They are currently working on the HVAC portion. We are continuing to have staffing issues. We are doing multiple rounds of interviews for single positions and being turned down.

Ms. Alesa Pinkerton commented that the last board meeting minutes that were posted are from September.

6. Planning & Finance Committee

Financial Report

We are where we are supposed to be with the budget. We are working with the bookkeeper to make an easier to read report for you. Update on the renovation fund breakdown. The outdoor furniture purchased was taken out of it, but the Foundation wrote a check to replace it. Issue with building maintenance funding this year. We had proposed \$75000 but were only given \$15000. The county administrator had said maintenance would be paid for from general fund this year but now we are expected to find it in the budget. Ms. Nancy Miller wants to see the law regarding the budget of the library. Mr. Wheeler commented that the building fund is losing value as inflation rises. Ms. Pinkerton would like more information about the law regarding library funding added to the next meeting agenda. Mr. Parton said the State Librarian made it clear that is the library's money and we need to know what the steps are to move forward. Mr. Wheeler said there is a high demand for public meeting spaces, and we need to provide evidence to put pressure on moving forward. Ms. Susan Childers said the money in the reserve fund was set aside for renovations as directed by County Council.

7. Library – Foundation

Foundation Report

We sold one t-shirt. There is an interest in doing more fundraising with the foundation.

8. Library Board Officer Nominations

Ms. Childers nominated Ms. Osborn as Chair. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ms. Osborn nominated Ms. Childers as Vice Chair. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ms. Culley expressed interest in remaining secretary. All in favor.

Ms. Osborn nominated Mr. Wheeler as treasurer. Ms. Culley seconded the motion. All in favor.

9. Reconsideration Request Appeal to Board

Drama by Raina Telgemeier

Mr. Wheeler motioned for the book to remain in the juvenile section. Ms. Osborn seconded. Discussion.

Mr. Wheeler commented the publisher recommendation is for ages 10-14 which is 5th-8th grade, there is minimal text and no profanity, violence, sex, or drug/alcohol use. Ms. Pinkerton believes it should be for ages 12+, that there should not be any sexuality in the plot of any juvenile book. Mr. Parton said originally was written for high school age. Ms. Miller commented that the themes are for an older audience, but the reader is younger. Ms. Culley said the parents oversee what their children read. Ms. Pinkerton said a parent wouldn't know the content included in the book from the summary. Mr. Parton read from an interview with a college librarian and said the book doesn't need to be in the childrens section. Mr. Wheeler commented the review is from an adult perspective. Ms. Osborn said the appeal is due to homosexuality, but the kiss happens because the male character is filling in for a female character. Ms. Miller stated it is more than two boys kissing, there is a lot about sexuality.

Mr. Parton motioned to amend the original motion to move the book to the Young Adult section. Ms. Pinkerton seconded. Ms. Miller, Ms. Pinkerton, and Mr. Parton voted in favor. Opposed: Ms. Childers, Ms. Osborn, Ms. Culley, Mr. Wheeler.

Original motion voted in favor by Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Childers, Ms. Osborn, Ms. Culley. Opposed: Mr. Parton, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Pinkerton

10. Reconsideration Policy Review - Discussion and Update

- Proposed addition concerning items that have already been appealed to the Board

Mr. Parton motioned that until a new policy is put in place, items that the Board has already voted on can be brought back to the board for a vote to revisit if the majority vote to reconsider again. Ms. Pinkerton seconded. All in favor.

Suggestions by Ms. Pinkerton and Mr. Wheeler were briefly discussed, and all other items related to reconsideration policy were tabled until the next meeting.

11. New Business

Mr. Parton made a motion to meet monthly instead of bimonthly beginning in May. Ms. Osborn seconded. Discussion. Ms. Culley said would be a big commitment for her. All in favor.

12. Review, Discussion and Vote to approve proposed Library Budget for FY25

The letter for the budget to present to council needs to be signed. It includes 2 part-time positions. Ms. Childers made motion to approve. Mr. Parton seconded. All in favor.

13. Executive Session - Personnel

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 16th, 2024 6:00pm at Hampton Library, Easley