

PCLS Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

3/16/23

Board members present: Danny Parton, Lori Osborn, Karen Culley, Susan Childers, Rebecca Hemphill

Public Comment

Three members of the public, Becky Turner, Carrie Quist and Retha Cruz, expressed their concerns about books being removed from shelves and stated that there is support from the community on this issue.

Stephanie Howard explained that the book in question, "Let's Talk About It", was removed from the children's section and is now in the adult section of the library.

Approval of Minutes

Lori Osborn made a motion to approve the minutes. Danny Parton seconded. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Stephanie Howard informed the Board that the Easley Police Department is using the back of the Hampton library for their drone. She asked the drone pilot to be part of the Summer Reading program.

Stephanie is meeting with the State library to talk about possible grant funding for renovations. She will keep the Board informed on this.

All of the County Friends boards agreed to merge into one board.

Stephanie is working to fill staff vacancies, there are 5 or 6 open positions currently.

County Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill toured all the County libraries with Stephanie.

The Pickens County Library system won the Pillar of Community award from the Easley Chamber of Commerce. All Board members were encouraged to attend to award ceremony on March 21.

Carolina Furnishings supplied furniture in the digital archives space at the Hampton library for a cost of \$12,000.

Planning & Finance Committee

Stephanie Howard expressed concern about the costs for repairs to buildings and grounds. Approximately \$52,000 is needed immediately to repair the HVAC at Hampton library and replace one unit at Sarlin library. This may need to be presented before the County Council in April. Stephanie will try to find funds to cover this from payroll since there are so many vacancies.

Susan Childers made a motion to request funds from County Council from Reserve funds to cover replacement and repair of HVAC. Lori Osborn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephanie Howard met with Ken Roper to discuss the budget. He said the budget amendment would come out of the General Fund. He is considering doing away with millage for the library system and putting the library in the General Fund. He wants to use library funding to widen Highway 183. Ken will present this to the Council for the fiscal 2024 budget.

Stephanie talked with the County HR Director about 2 new positions and raising Library Branch Assistants pay from \$13/hour to \$15/hour. The HR Director believes the library system has enough funding to do this in the current budget. The change in compensation would start 3/20/23.

Stephanie stated that the budget packet needs to be brought to the April County Council meeting.

Stephanie passed out a letter that will go to the Council regarding our budget, mileage and renovations and asked for feedback from board members.

Library-Foundation

Donations are coming into the Foundation in memorial for a local resident.

Stephanie Howard presented the idea of a T-shirt fundraiser for the Foundation. The shirts will have a "bee" designed by a local artist and will come in two colors. The cost will be \$9 or \$10 per shirt and they will be sold for \$15 each. They can be purchased online but picked up at the library. Library staff will be able to buy one shirt at cost. The total cost is \$1,863.

Lori Osborn made a motion to purchase the T-shirts as a Foundation fund-raiser. Karen Culley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Stephanie Howard gave an update on a Friends of the Library policy to include a statement about professional behavior similar to the library volunteer policy. Rebecca Hemphill made a motion to approve the policy. Lori Osborn seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Stephanie stated that the Sarlin library will be temporarily closed for a day or two in order to install new shelving. The shelves will be lowered to 66" in order to create more open space. This will result in fewer books available.

The library system will be using a new Integrated Library System (ILS) called TLC. There will be no extra cost to move to this new system. The public will not notice much change although the new system will be more user friendly. The initial cost will be \$10,000 more, but subsequent costs will be \$12,000 less. The library system will have to close for one day to install the new system. This will probably take place the last week in July.

Danny Parton made a motion to accept installing the new ILS system. Lori Osborn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Stephanie Howard stated that the County Council wants to see the library budget in April. Stephanie has received timelines for construction and wants discussion about the library renovations and completion during the Committee of the Whole meeting in May. All board members were encouraged to attend County Council meetings.