

**Community Library Network  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 18 November 2021  
Post Falls Library Meeting Room 2**

**2:00 - 5:00 pm**

**We Empower Discovery**

**Agenda**

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm

Roll call: Board Trustees present: Katie Blank, Vanessa Robinson, Judy Meyer, Rachelle Ottosen, Regina McCrea  
Treasurer: Michele Veale  
Staff Present: Amy Rodda, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells, Kristi Ellstrom

Public Comment: Public present but none wished to speak  
Speakers must live within the District.  
Speakers must state name and address and speak for no more than 5 minutes.

Introduction of Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Assistant Director  
Rodda introduced Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller. Her first day was October 25, 2021, Miller-Escarfuller briefly described her library history.

Presentation of Communication statistics - Kristi Ellstrom  
The Board introduced themselves to Ellstrom. Ellstrom presented her statistics that are in the October monthly report. She discussed the difference in the numbers. Reach refers to those who have seen our posts, Engagement is those that interact with the posts. The engagement graph describes how the engagement occurred. Ellstrom noted that we have two Facebook accounts. She also showed the statistics from our YouTube videos. The website overview uses Google Analytics to report effectiveness of the website. There are approximately 8000 people that used our website in October and a breakdown of where people come from was illustrated. The Idaho Commission for Libraries reports annual website visits to all Idaho libraries that we could use for comparison. Ellstrom also described and illustrated how people have accessed the website and what type of platform was used - desktop, mobile, tablet. She listed the top visited pages on the website. The new history site is up and staff are pursuing avenues to increase visibility.

Consent agenda: action item

Minutes of the special meeting of 14 October  
Minutes of the regular meeting of 21 October  
Minutes of the special meeting of 25 October  
Minutes of the CIN meeting of September 2021  
October CIN Financial Statements  
Community Library October 2021 reports

The CIN meeting minutes in the packet were from the October 2021 meeting. A table packet including the CIN September meeting was available. The October minutes will be included in the December meeting packet.

Changes:

- Special meeting of October 14, 2021, refer to Michele Veale as Treasurer instead of Finance Committee.
- Special Meeting minutes of October 25, 2021
  - Public comment:
    - Under Julie Saad, add “libraries should not be a place...”
    - Under Jessica Mahuron, add “to stop the campaign of hate...”
    - Under Jason Lauritzen, add “We need to protect...”
- Please number the pages in the Community Library reports from the managers and coordinators

McCrea moved to accept the consent agenda with changes noted.

M, C - McCrea

Robinson moved to amend the motion to accept the consent agenda with noted changes and remove the addresses of public comment from the October 25, 2021 meeting minutes.

M, C - Robinson

#### Community Library Network October 2021 financial statements: action item

The financial reports reflect the first month of the fiscal year. It was noted the amount of income received is very low and is why the district needs to have a carryforward balance.

Robinson moved to accept the October 2021 financial statements.

M, C - Robinson

#### Carryforward discussion: action item

Rodda discussed that we no longer need carryforward for additional databases as the district received a federal grant. The databases will be for workforce development. The money from the database request has been proposed to add to CARRF. Blank does not want extra carryforward not assigned. Veale agreed that all carryforward money should be assigned. McCrea believes the “Additional carryforward” of \$100,000 would be used for additional quarter one expenses. Rodda explained that the \$100,000 would be available for unexpected cost increases. Medical benefits will be renewing with a 15% increase. Rodda described some of the other cost increases that will be occurring. McCrea moved to accept the Carryforward FY 2022 proposal as listed reserving the \$100,000 Additional carryforward to be allocated by the Board at a later date. Rodda listed some items that may be allocated from the \$100,000. The FY’ 22 budget will need to be re-opened to accept the additional carryforward. The public hearings may be scheduled in January. McCrea withdrew her motion. Blank requested staff to bring back a carryforward allocation of all additional carryforward monies. Meyer would like to see the Facilities spreadsheet showing the longer-term facilities projects. Discussion will continue at the December meeting.

#### Circulation Statistics: October

Rodda noted in comparison to last October, numbers have increased but not to 2019 statistics. Meyer asked if curbside was a separate number. Rodda indicated circulation is a total number and is not divided out.

#### Director’s report

Rodda stated that the IMLS grant was not included in the report. Robinson presented a portion of a 7-page article from the American Library Association, “Hateful Conduct in Libraries: Supporting Library Workers and Patrons”.

#### Resolution of change to bank signature cards: action item

McCrea moved to adopt Resolution CLN 11.18.2021-1

M, C - McCrea

### Strategic planning discussion

Rodda reached out to four consultants. Two of four proposals have been submitted. All proposals should be in by the week after Thanksgiving. Rodda will email the proposals as soon as they are all submitted. She will present a summary of the proposals with the email.

### Programming policy draft discussion

Suggested change on page 1 from Meyer to be combined with initial proposed bullet point.

Ensure that the program follows best practices, is researched and fact-based with clear outcomes and purpose.

Suggested changes on page 2:

McCrea believes that there is a fundamental misunderstanding of the purpose of libraries. The duties of a trustee must be based on law. The district is governed under Idaho Code Title 33, Chapter 27. Public library service means the provision of planned collections of materials and information. These services shall be provided at a facility, accessible to the public at regularly scheduled hours and set aside for this purpose. Services shall be governed by a citizen board appointed or elected for this purpose and shall be administered and operated by paid staff who have received appropriate training in library skills and management. The services shall meet standards established by the board of library commissioners. The board of library commissioners is the designated policymaking body for the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). Their powers and duties include promoting and facilitating the use of libraries, so all Idahoans have access to the resources of those libraries. ICfL policies include: Intellectual Freedom and Patron Privacy, ALA's Definition of Intellectual Freedom, The Universal Right to Free Expression, Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, Access to Library Resources and Services, Universal Access and Intellectual Freedom for Minors. McCrea stated that the district cannot choose what policies and laws to follow or not - all policies and laws must be followed. To carry out the purpose of this act, an independent, nonpartisan board shall govern the library. If a board member cannot follow the law, then they should not remain on the Board. The Facebook post by a fellow Board member was incendiary, inflammatory, and borderline defamatory by insinuating the other board members lacked a moral compass. Viewpoint discrimination is wrong and illegal. McCrea feels personally attacked. She appreciated all the comments from the public from the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Being transparent about what is available for programming and materials is very important.

Ottosen believes that taxpayer money should not be used to promote or encourage a sexual agenda in children. She indicates that programs promoting sexual behavior is against God and is wrong. 40% of young people aged 18 to 24 nation-wide identify as LGBTQ is due to programming and recruiting, not a natural tendency toward species destruction. Encouraging this behavior is child abuse. What's next? Will materials promoting bestiality and pedophilia be made available in the library?

McCrea stated that the library is not recruiting or endorsing alternate lifestyles. She said the library is offering a safe place for these marginalized members of society to gather. By excluding a particular group, we are thereby endorsing all other groups.

Blank noted that libraries offer services and materials for all. The library does not take a stand on moral or ethical agendas. They provide information and knowledge for the public to make their own determination. Blank recalled her attendance at the Rainbow Squad - Parent Edition. There was no discussion regarding LGBTQ issues, just kids participating in a craft and parents visiting with one another. The library is offering the opportunity for the community to form their own choice by making all information available.

Meyer asked what the Rainbow Squad was promoting. Ottosen noted that the effect of having those programs, endorses it. Offering programs that promote some sort of sexual agenda is wrong. There are always unintended effects of having these programs.

Veale noted internet filtering for pornography is required by law and that adults can ask to have the filters removed during their internet session at the library. She also stated people that identify

differently are now in a federally protected class and should not be discriminated against. The library is a place to gather and a place for ideas from all sides of any given topic.

Rodda noted that “The Library will not provide:” section of the policy currently only lists items the library cannot legally provide. She also discussed what occurs during Rainbow Squad programs and that library staff are always present throughout the program. She worries about discontinuing a successful program based solely on its intended audience.

Blank stated that minors have the right to intellectual freedom. Parents are the authority to decide what they want their children to have access to. Libraries are the ultimate freedom of choice institution and provide access to all viewpoints. Ottosen added she would like all presenters for minor programs to pass a background check and be free of sexual misconduct crimes. Robinson does not want programs labeled, like the Rainbow Squad. She does not say that those groups cannot gather at the library, just not have it labeled. Ottosen suggested a “Respect Club” that will be teach children to be kind to everyone and respectful of others’ opinions and viewpoints. The creation of specific programs is considered “operational” and falls under staff direction not policy. Staff will present the policy with suggestions to the attorney for review. Discussion will continue in subsequent meetings.

Break from 4:11 to 4:24

Trustee continuing education

ICRMP training discussion

Blank reminded the Board that the attorney suggested training from ICRMP, the district risk management insurance company. An ICRMP representative will be in the area the first Friday in December (Dec. 3). He would be available to offer a training session in the early afternoon for a couple hours. Not all board members are available at that time. The Board would like to find a time when all Board members can be available. Staff will reach out to the representative and coordinate another time for training.

Legislative updates

Legislature goes into session on January 10, 2022

Community announcements

Idaho Public Television will be televising the legislative session.

Agenda discussion and requests

- The director’s COVID-19 emergency authorization (request from Rachelle)
  - o Ottosen quoted the April regular meeting minutes regarding COVID and the Directors emergency authorization. Blank quoted the motions from the April 28, 2020 minutes and the June 18, 2020 that limited the Director’s emergent authority. Both motions were specifically related to COVID-19. Ottosen would like to rescind the authority or put a time limitation. The environment now is very different from the spring of 2020. Blank asked if there should be something in place for the Director to make procedural decisions versus when the Board needs to be involved. This will be an agenda action item at a future meeting.
- Patrons versus members (request from Katie)
  - o Blank does not like using the term members. She prefers library users or patrons. Rodda noted that this is a marketing and/or branding issue and is procedural. She will be working with the communications coordinator to determine the marketing strategy moving forward. Robinson prefers patron over member. This will not be a future agenda item.
- Reconsideration of fines (request from Vanessa)
  - o Robinson would like this agenda topic on a future meeting. All Board members agreed.
- Public comment policy (request from Rachelle)

- Ottosen would like to not have a home address provided by public in order to speak at a meeting due to fear of retaliation. Blank agrees that the policy should be reviewed. This will be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Set Special and regular meeting dates: action item

Meyer would like the room layout changed so the Board members face the public.

Meyer cannot attend the January 20, 2022 meeting. Meeting may be rescheduled for January 27, 2022. Staff will confirm room availability.

Adjournment: action item

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

M, C - McCrea

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Rodda, Janelle Sells

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Calendar of events:

16 Dec 2021	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Post Falls
20 Jan 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Post Falls
17 Feb 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Post Falls

Please let us know if you need auxiliary aids or services to enjoy our libraries. This includes providing a sign language interpreter, assistive listening devices, or print materials in a digital format. We can also modify programs, services, or activities, within reasonable limits. Please request these services through Randy Zepeda, ADA Coordinator, preferably 15 days in advance, but no later than 72 hours before the event.

Phone: 208-773-1506 ext. 329

Email: ADACoordinator@communitylibrary.net

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