

**Community Library Network
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday 17 March 2022
Hayden Library Meeting Room**

2:00 - 5:00 pm

We Empower Discovery

Agenda

Call to order: The meeting was called order at 2:01 pm

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

Public Comment

Speakers must live within the District.

Speakers must state name and address and speak for no more than 3 minutes.

Blank thanked the public for coming. The library is founded on the First Amendment. Please be respectful and civil with each other. Everyone who wants to speak will be allowed and will be given 3 minutes. Please address the Board, not the audience and address library issues.

- Judith Farrey - She is against censorship of any kind. Each of us will see and have different experiences in our lives and libraries help everyone with that opportunity.
- Jason Lauritzen - This is Idaho, we believe in freedom. Let everyone raise their children to their own values. If objectionable material is found, don't read it, help your children pick out books, and discuss your values.
- Teresa Borrenpohl - Libraries allow people to find refuge and adventure depending on what is needed in that moment. She is disappointed that a member of the board supported HB666 and is grateful the Senate declined to hear the bill.
- Luke Emerson - His parents taught him about being American and patriotic and is why he joined the military. He has seen first-hand oppression and the sacrifices that people make to have the rights that we have. He is opposed to the removal of "George". Our community is made up of a variety of different people and no one should feel they are not part of the community.
- Suzy Martin - The library's focus should be providing free and equal access to all members of the community. If a board member cannot support that, they should resign. If someone has a problem with any book, don't read them or let your children read them - those are your choices.
- Sarah Lynch - She has read all the books that have been recently challenged. None of them contain pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit content.
- Chris Centers - She will be attending more meetings if requests for censoring continues. This library system is phenomenal. She was able to get information from the library to help her learn about the LGBTQ+ community and how best to support her grandchild.
- Jessica Mahuron - She is with the North Idaho Pride Alliance (NIPA). She has confidence that the Board will not remove "George" from the library. She is upset that people try to use culture wars in the library.
- Betsy Kavatch - She is a mother of two. Please do not ban the book "George".

- Emily Christopherson - She thanked the Board, the Director and Kari Wilson, who does an incredible job of purchasing books quickly with little wait time. Her family reads thousands of books a year. She does not support the removal or banning of books.
- Tamara Sines-Kermelis - Her family has enjoyed the using the public library. Even if “George” is removed, there will always be more books because there will always be LGBTQ people. These books are not dangerous, censorship is dangerous.
- Kara Claridge - She expressed mounting concern about what is being injected into the minds of children in our local libraries. She is not asking to remove books but wants books targeted for the LGBTQ community to be segregated to the adult section and develop a policy to only allow adults to checkout those books.
- Kari Cederquist - She came to speak about attempted censorship of literature with LGBTQ themes. The same First Amendment that guarantees religious freedom for individuals also prevents public officials from making decisions based on religious beliefs. Cisgender and heterosexual people have no understanding of the isolation that LGBTQ people endure. The isolation drives many of that community to suicide.
- Marianna Cochran - She stated that it is fitting to start today by commemorating that this past Saturday was De-Trans Awareness Day. She holds the First Amendment in the same regard as the library, but it is not a hall pass to harm children.
- Russel McClain - His daughter was a slow reader. He took her to the library, and they found books that worked to help her. His daughter ended up graduating with a 4.0 GPA. She succeeded with the help from the library. He thanked the library for the good work they do.
- Anita Dupzyk - She thanked Trustee Ottosen. It takes courage to stand up and support what you believe is right and what others believe is right.
- Joyce Jones - She has been a teacher in all grades. When a child has been exposed to these harmful ideas, they do not have filters, and share that with other children. Children need to be protected.
- Salix Hansen - He is a 16-year-old transgender. He did not choose this. Every day in school, he is bullied and told to kill himself. Anyone who says people choose this is lying because this is not an experience anyone would want to go through.

Board Procedures

United for Libraries Ethics statement

- Meyer recalled the statement discussed at the February meeting and would like to have an executive session for discussion. Blank is looking into the rules for executive session.

Rotation

- Each trustee will have an opportunity to speak in rotation. Rotation will include the Director and Treasurer. Ottosen asked about the pledge of allegiance at board meetings.

Adult Programming Annual Report

- Twylla Rehder is the Adult Programming coordinator. She discussed her background and her 35 years of experience in this library. Programs bring together people to learn new skills and provide connection to their community, especially those that feel marginalized. The pandemic has been one more change for libraries to learn how to serve their community. She helps staff bring their ideas into successful programs. In the future, Rehder sees more community collaborations and partnerships, more hybrid, experimental, and civic engagement programming and to reach out to underserved and isolated communities.
 - Meyer - Thanked Rehder for her 35 years of service. Robinson asked about public attending programs that are not library members. Rehder noted that attending programs brings people to the library that may not normally be a library member and the program can offer the launching point to become a member.

Consent agenda: action item

Minutes of the regular meeting of 27 January (corrected)

Minutes of the regular meeting of 15 February

Minutes of the CIN meeting of January 2022

February CIN Financial Statements

Community Library February 2022 reports

- Meyer would like more information on how the Social Media information is presented. Ottosen asked about the CIN meeting minutes and Parent Guarantor. Rodda explained that it relates to the parent or guardian that is signing up a minor for a library card. The guarantor is listed on the minor's account and is dependent on each individual library within the consortium. McCrea noted 5 changes to the February 15, 2022 meeting minutes.

McCrea moved to the accept the consent agenda with noted changes.

M, C - McCrea

Community Library Network February 2022 financial statements: action item

Ottosen moved to accept the February 2022 financial statements

M, C - Ottosen

Circulation Statistics: February

- Rodda noted the increase in program attendance.

Response to public comment

Petition

- Rodda talked about the petition received at the January and February meetings. She forwarded the approved programming policy to Pastor Hemmings. Ottosen asked how many signatures. Rodda estimated approximately 230 to 240 signatures but will email the Board with the exact number of signatures.

Director's report

- Rodda included copies of several court cases in the board packet based on last month's discussion. One about internet filtering and others about the right to assemble. Three of the five book challenges are complete. McCrea appreciated the court cases but was looking for cases related to freedom of association, specifically cases about places of public accommodation and the public has a right to associate with like-minded individuals. Ottosen finds the statement from the Director that no sexually explicit material is found in the children's section at our libraries false. McCrea noted Idaho Code 18-15-14, that describes and defines obscenity. She agrees with the Director that materials in our children's section do not meet this definition. Robinson asked about children's versus young adult and whether the teen books fall under the same standards for obscenity and pornography. Rodda said children's books are for ages 12 and under. Teen books are for ages 11 to 18. Rodda noted we do not have anything pornographic in the library but there may be some novels with racy content. There is a wide variety of books in the teen section that do tackle some hard and difficult subjects.

Break from 3:39 pm to 3:45 pm

Financial Management guidelines: action item

- Rodda talked about the reason for updating the Financial Management Policy. The prior policy is more than 10 years old. This policy reflects current practice and Sells noted this policy has been vetted by the district auditor. The policy shows dual controls and separation of duties in place. Ottosen would like a copy of the old policy before voting on the new version. She asked about how many staff have credit cards. Sells noted the list of staff that can have a credit card has not changed. McCrea requested updating verbiage in the policy to phase out the Business Operations Specialist for Administrative Assistant. Blank requested adding language to page 2 regarding utilizing the auditor to review changes to the chart of accounts and noted a typo on page 7. Sells noted that

as part of the annual audit, the auditor reviews the chart of accounts. Staff will make noted changes, provide a copy of the old policy, and bring the new policy back next month for approval.

Administrative Assistant (formerly Business Operations Specialist) job description: action item

- This is a current, existing position that has been vacant. The board approved this position to become a 28-hour position. Much of the duties remained the same but some additional duties include assisting the Admin Team on projects have been added.

Meyer moved to accept the Administrative Assistant Job Description dated 3-17-22

M, C - Meyer

Programming policy follow-up discussion

- The final, approved policy was provided in board packet.

Review of Request for Reconsideration of book “George” by Alex Gino

- Blank reminded the Board that their duty is to see if the staff followed the approved policy.
 - Rodda went over the procedure. It includes a group of staff reading the material, checking to see if the book met the selection criteria, and background research on the book and author. Rodda read the response letter to the community member requesting reconsideration. This book has been recommended to be retained in the collection. Staff do a great job leaving personal opinions aside when selecting materials. Less than 1% of the collection represents LGBTQ materials. Meyer noted that the group followed the approved policy. She said there are books in the library that she does not like but is not going to oppose someone else reading it. Veale believes the policy was followed, staff did a thorough job, and came to a reasonable conclusion. Ottosen quoted from Idaho Statute 33-2701, “...part of the provisions for public education...” and stated that miseducation is not the same thing. This book encourages children to read dirty magazines, to be sexually confused, to use drugs, and cut off body parts. The law that created libraries supersedes library policy. She believes the book was incorrectly judged. State law states that libraries are created to provide education, not miseducation. McCrea stated that information is power, and she reviewed all the materials in the board packet and public comments. For McCrea, the analysis begins with Idaho Code 33-2702(6) that states library services shall meet the standards established by board of library commissioners. The adopted guidelines include intellectual freedom for minors. McCrea reminded the Board that, through court cases, homosexual and transgender individuals are a protected class in the United States. She believes the staff selected and reviewed the book appropriately and policy has been followed. Robinson quoted from the document provided last meeting “Book Challenges - Censorship in Public Libraries”. She sees a problem of the ongoing push of LGBTQ and like communities to saturate every aspect of life, especially targeting children. Upcoming PLA conference has 6 of 18 programs that are LGBTQ classes. She believes that the existing policy was followed, and the book should be retained but she does object to the book. The guidelines should be updated to take into consideration future, inappropriate material. Blank was very impressed with the thoroughness of the staff review process and the many reviews in favor of the book. She also likes that the content is noted in the catalog and on the book cover so no one is surprised.

Action item was not noted on the agenda. This will be voted on next month.

Strategic planning update

- Rodda shared an update on the strategic planning process. The consultant toured some of our facilities and met with the members of the steering committee. Next steps include developing the community survey and brainstorming people for the community focus groups. A staff survey will be sent out in the next few weeks. The community survey will be online and available in paper. The survey will be available to all community members. The steering committee consists of 2-3 staff members, 2 Board members, a member from the Friends

group and members of the public for a total of 10 members. The consultants recommend one large focus group so that people hear about experiences in other communities. The survey will help drive discussions in the focus group. Approximately 40 to 60 members will participate in the meetings. McCrea said the meeting went well. Board members were encouraged to provide names of people they think would be good to be in the focus groups. Ottosen hopes that focus group members are not cherry picked to ensure that the community is truly represented. Robinson asked how to find people to attend the focus group meeting. McCrea explained that the consultant team will reach out to the names of people we have provided.

Public Comment policy discussion: action item

- The final draft was presented to the Board for approval.
 - Meyer noted the draft should be dated March 17, 2022. Ottosen would like to see each item be voted on individually. Ottosen moves to strike the first bullet point: “Public comment at Board meetings...” because it is redundant with the next to last bullet point and was added by the Director. “No personal attacks or disruptions...” could be misapplied to not allow comments that are not liked and allowing ones that are approved of. She does feel that bullet points 6,7, and 8 are redundant. She would like to modify the last bullet point to read “The Board Chair may first redirect, then may terminate...” Blank noted that the Board asked the Director to draft an updated policy. Board procedures have been that policies are prepared by staff, reviewed by the Board, modifications made during discussion, and then voted on in total. McCrea noted that every policy presented to the Board has been drafted by staff. She does not think it is appropriate to take a policy as a whole and make a motion just pertaining to a particular section. It is not how policies have been handled by the Board. She wants future meetings to include an agenda item to discuss public comment, as noted in the policy. She does not see anything objectionable in this policy. Robinson does not think that the two bullet points are redundant at all.

Ottosen moved to strike the first bullet point: “Public comment at Board meetings is limited...”

M, Failed - Ottosen; McCrea, Robinson and Meyer objected

Meyer moved to approve the Public Comment Policy Draft 2-16-22 as presented on 3-17-22.

Ottosen moved to divide the question and vote on each change creating 10 separate motions.

Motion to divide the question:

M, Failed - Ottosen; McCrea, Robinson, Meyer objected

Motion to approve the Public Comment Policy as presented:

M, C - Meyer; Ottosen objected.

Meyer moved to extend the meeting to 5:30 pm

M, C - Meyer

Trustee Continuing Education

ICRMP training

Meyer would like an executive session for self-evaluation of the Board.

PLA Conference

Blank would like to have Ottosen report back on her attendance at the conference and said that she will be representing the library while there.

Facilities updates

Legislative updates

There are some other property tax bills that appear to be tabled to next legislative session. House Bill 666 is being followed closely. Rodda reminded the Board that as the governing body of the district if House Bill 666 were to pass, it would criminalize staff the Board is ultimately responsible for. She appreciates the Board members that have contacted legislators in objection of HB666. Ottosen noted that 7 other states do not have this exemption and that it is easy and cheap to comply with the law.

Community announcements

Discussion of future agenda requests (The board will decide via consensus whether these items will be moved to a future agenda)

McCrea would like to have response to public comment on future agendas.

Set Special and regular meeting dates: action item

Budget hearing date proposed August 11

Meyer moved to establish the Budget Hearing date as August 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

M, C - Meyer

Traveling schedule

Blank is very concerned about space available at the small libraries and the amount of public wanting to comment. One option would be conduct meetings at larger libraries and establish other days to tour the smaller libraries. The second option is to meet at the smaller libraries prior to opening to accommodate public comment. The next meeting will be in Athol. The board discussed the importance of being at the other libraries and deepening the understanding of the branch libraries. The meeting could be held nearby and include a tour of library. Rodda will investigate if the community center in Athol is available for the Board meeting.

Meyer moved to extend the meeting 10 minutes

M, C - Meyer

Adjournment: action item

McCrea moved to adjourn at 5:37 pm

M, C - McCrea

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Rodda, Janelle Sells

Calendar of events:

21 Apr 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Athol
19 May 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Rathdrum
16 Jun 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Spirit Lake

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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