

**Community Library Network
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday 19 January 2023
Hayden Library**

2:00 – 5:00 pm

We Empower Discovery

Agenda

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

Roll call Trustees: Katie Blank, Regina McCrea, Rachelle Ottosen, Vanessa Robinson
Treasurer: Michele Veale
Staff: Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells, Michelle Fansler, Kari Wilson
Guest: Katie Brereton, Library attorney

Pledge of Allegiance

Public comment

Speakers must state name and community and speak for no more than 3 minutes.
Persons addressing the Board are expected to observe a level of civility and decorum appropriate for a public meeting.

No personal attacks or disruptions from audience members will be tolerated.

- Marty Modance – He discussed his former employment overseeing child molesters. He talked about the child molester’s goal and how sexual predators manipulate young children.
- Lance Barnes – He would like more information about the book noted by the previous speaker. He does believe explicit sexual material should not be in the children’s section. He also does not believe that members of the LGBTQ community make up the majority of sexual predators. He is not for demonizing them.
- Josiah Mannion – He loves libraries. They were a place of magic for him and wishes that to continue to current patrons, both adults and minors. He does not think that it is the librarian’s job to determine who is represented in library materials. Libraries are for everyone regardless of socio-economic status.
- Becky Harro – She uses several libraries in the area. Her parents encouraged her to use the library. She took her child to many programs. Libraries are free, open to the public, and a neutral place.
- Lois Moore – She has become aware of many books in the children's section depicting sexual acts and adult behaviors. The pornographic books should be removed.
- Kenny Moore – He is a long-time library user. He noted the Idaho constitution prohibiting pornography. Encouraging deviant behavior is wrong. Adults are different from children. Children should be protected from pornography.
- Emily Christopherson – She quoted from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. She believes libraries serve all the community. It punishes the community to defund the library. The end game for others is not only to sterilize the library but to destroy the library, librarians, and the community they serve.
- Tamera Kermelis – She is a regular user of all the libraries in the area. Her children attend Rainbow Squad. She assures there are no pornographic books in the children’s

section. Libraries should have a wide variety of materials and parents should have the choice.

- Theresa Birkett – She uses the library. She is concerned about censorship. At another meeting, it was noted that any child can check out pornographic books, specifically, “Gender Queer”. Children can only check out books if a parent has authorized them to have a library card and parents can monitor their materials by linking accounts. Birkett noted that “Gender Queer” is not owned by CLN and the owning libraries house the book in the Adult Biography section. She is concerned that groups are now going after books in the adult section. She quoted from a December 2022 Publishers Weekly article. Parents control a minor’s access to libraries.
- Glen Sealy – He noted that books targeted for banning are geared for ages 12 and under. He stated that books can be banned for children. He believes it is unrealistic for a parent of multiple children to monitor the children while in the library. Trustees up for election will not win.
- Kara Claridge – She asked if people would be in a different place if they were exposed to obscene books in their youth that today’s children have access to. Children should not be exposed to certain topics. Trustees should be aware of the outrage from the community. She quoted the newspaper article quoting the Board Chair. 40% of youth are gender confused.
- Dr. Sara Marrow – She is a child psychologist. As a homeschool parent, the library has been an invaluable resource. She said that yes, there is a children’s mental health crisis, but, no, it is not the books. It is a parent’s sole responsibility to monitor their children’s choices. Humans are diverse. To ban books is oppression, anti-freedom and anti-American.
- Suzanne Kearney – She holds a degree in psychology. Please set boundaries on materials with sexual content for children. Her childhood led her to an unhealthy idea of a sexual being. She became a statistic. Pornography is addictive. Protecting children is the library’s job.
- Jessica Mahuron – She is very concerned about ongoing hateful rhetoric targeting members of the communities and the destruction of libraries through misinformation. Libraries across the nation are being defunded. To defund the library will destroy the programs and services that serve all the community. Libraries serve all people and do not discriminate.
- Lis Worcester – She thanked the Board for adding language to the policy noting the Idaho Code. She presented five books to be considered for reconsideration. These books are extremely graphic describing sexual conduct. Booklooks.org provides reviews about books.
- Jessica Bruner – She quoted from a professor for children’s literature. Representation in literature is vital. Her children have sought out books that have helped them deal with the changes to their family over the past year. She objects to other people’s desire to control what her children read. It is a violation of her rights as an American and a parent. Our country was founded on the ideas of freedom from religious and political oppression.
- Gary Pomeroy, Rathdrum – He talked about his exposure to pornography at a young age and how it changed his life. He requests that the library carry books to show all sides of the story. He is not for defunding the library. If the library has books with pornography, they should be removed. A library is no place for pornography.
- River Kermelis – Queer people exist in real life. Banning books about them will not make them not exist. Their existence in books is not inappropriate. You cannot ask for freedom for yourself while taking away freedom for others.

- Miller-Escarfuller addressed how the Materials Selection Policy’s additional language regarding the Idaho Code will be implemented for existing and future materials. She stated that CLN has been and will continue to be compliant with state and federal laws. No material in the library is intended to include content that impairs the ethical and moral development of youth and no material in the library has been declared obscene by a U.S. Court of Law. Library materials have not been removed and changes have not been made to library operations in response to the adoption of the updated policy. Ottosen thought the new policy would remove obscene and pornographic books. Ottosen noted that some books have been quietly removed. McCrea appreciates Miller-Escarfuller’s statement. She disagrees with Ottosen that the new policy is useless. As an elected official, she governs by policy and staff implements policy. Blank commented on the emails from members of the public. By law, librarians must look at books as a whole, and not just excerpts. Brereton noted that the reconsideration responses provide due process – notice and an opportunity to be heard. As a public entity, the library must provide due process considerations. Robinson noted that at times trustees ask questions for clarity. Miller-Escarfuller provided documents to the Board as requested at the last meeting. She discussed confidentiality policies and staff training. She is serving as the chair for INCOL continuing education committee. McCrea thanked Miller-Escarfuller for stepping up as temporary Interim Director.

Technical Services / Collection Development annual report – Kari Wilson (*15 minutes*)

- Kari Wilson introduced herself and her staff. She reviewed the duties of the Technical Services department and how member suggestions for purchasing materials are considered. 71% of suggestions were purchased, 16% were obtained through inter-library loans, and only 13% were unable to be filled. Wilson discussed why materials may be removed. She noted the top fiction and non-fiction titles for December 2022 at each library. McCrea asked how materials are selected. Wilson noted some of the sources utilized to select books. Robinson asked what vendors are used and why some purchase requests may not be filled. Wilson stated that materials removed from the collection generally go to the Friends of the Library for their fundraising efforts. Ottosen asked if books not available through regular sources can be donated. Wilson said that donations still need to meet the Materials Selection Policy criteria.

Consent agenda: action item (*10 minutes*)

Minutes of the special meeting of 01 December
 Minutes of the regular meeting of 15 December
 December CIN Financial Statements
 Community Library December 2022 reports

McCrea moved to accept the consent agenda with no changes.

M, C - McCrea

Community Library Network December 2022 financial statements: action item (*10 minutes*)

- Blank asked about capital expenses from current revenues. Explanations can be found in the balance sheet section. McCrea moved to accept the December 2022 financial statements.

M, C - McCrea

Salary schedule (*5 minutes*)

- Miller-Escarfuller supplied the adopted salary schedule.

Carryforward proposal (*10 minutes*)

- Miller-Escarfuller presented Draft 2 of the carryforward proposal. The total amount of carryforward has not changed but individual lines within the budget have been adjusted. She reviewed the changes from the first proposal.

Circulation statistics: December (*10 minutes*)

- December 2022 and comparisons to 2019 and 2020 statistics were included in the packet. Miller-Escarfuller noted that total program attendance has increased three-fold. While not up to 2019 statistics, there is progress. Ottosen noted that current cardholders are down 4% from 2019 despite the population growth. She feels the District has a reputation problem. McCrea noted that purges of expired cardholders do occur.

Board packet discussion: action item (*30 minutes*)

- Robinson asked what documents might be placed online. McCrea's concern is regarding drafts that may be presented for consideration. Brereton noted that is a valid concern. Clearly note "draft" and highlight language changes are ways to address those concerns. Post documents as a PDF and not in a workable format. The stories in the Board reports contain names and pictures of children but the stories help share what is happening at the libraries. Privacy is a concern and redactions can be made with statements about why the redaction was made. Another option is to change how the reports are written by staff. McCrea asked how much staff time would be needed to redact the report. Miller-Escarfuller noted that it takes time but can be done. Robinson is concerned that librarians may self-censor knowing that the reports would be online. She is in favor of just posting the business side of the packet. Veale agrees with Robinson. She also asked if there is another way to share the stories with the public. Blank suggested removing the Board reports from the Consent agenda and make it a separate agenda item that is not an action item. Then all documents that relate to action items can be posted. McCrea moved to publish the Board packet online limited to business and action items only.

M, C – McCrea

Brereton left the meeting at 3:59 pm

Break taken from 4:27 pm to 4:35 pm

Observed holidays discussion: action item (*15 minutes*)

- Miller-Escarfuller presented a draft policy change from a section of the Personnel Policy regarding the recognized holidays. She also shared what other organizations recognize as holidays. Discussion held to change the second sentence and how to refer to Columbus Day. McCrea moved to accept the revision of the Personnel Manual section 5.3.6 draft date 1/19/2023 with changes noted.

M, C - McCrea

Director recruitment update (*10 minutes*)

- The search committee will meet with the consultant on January 23, 2023, at 2:00 pm via Zoom. This will be an executive session meeting.

Trustee continuing education (*5 minutes*) – no discussion

Facilities updates (*10 minutes*)

- Miller-Escarfuller noted the generator repairs to the bookmobile and water leaks in three buildings due to ice dams.

Legislative updates (*2.5 minutes*) – no discussion

Community announcements (*2.5 minutes*) – no discussion

Public comment overview (*5 minutes*)

- McCrea requested the handout from public comment. Ottosen noted the definition of banning. She expressed concern about comments of threats to trustees and library staff. Miller-Escarfuller noted

that library staff do feel threatened. Blank noted the five requests for reconsideration presented during public comment.

Discussion of future agenda requests (The board will decide via consensus whether these items will be moved to a future agenda) (5 minutes)

Personnel Policy manual (request from Ottosen) – will be scheduled after new Director is hired.

Set Special and regular meeting dates: (10 minutes) – no discussion

Adjournment: action item

McCrea moved to adjourn at 5:07 pm

M, C - McCrea

Calendar of events:

19 Jan 2023	Budget Hearing	5:30	Hayden
16 Feb 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Post Falls
16 Mar 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Hayden
20 Apr 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Athol

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Phone: 208-773-1506 ext. 329

Email: ADAcoordinator@communitylibrary.net

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