

**Community Library Network
Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes
Monday 25 October 2021
Post Falls Library Meeting Room 2**

3:30 - 5:00 pm

We Empower Discovery

Agenda

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm

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

Public Comment: Public Present

Speakers must live within the District.

Speakers must state name and address and speak for no more than 5 minutes.

- Per Board Chair, public comment has been reduced to 3 minutes to accommodate all requested speakers.
- Staff recorded comments to the best of their ability and used notes on talking points provided by some of the speakers for clarification.
- David Russell
 - Not directed at any particular agenda item, spoke to removing leftist and liberal board members. Voters are paying attention
- Nathan Hansen
 - Spoke to the Board regarding his transgender child. Spoke to the bullying his child has received, vandalism to his home, a board members words of “immoral, sexualized and warped” posted on a public forum regarding children like his, and now the library is being presented as unsafe. The library should be a space of welcoming for all, not just a few. Libraries are a place where ideas get to exist even when they are in opposition. They are place where children like his have someplace where they feel welcomed, respected, and accepted.
- Marianna Cochran
 - Recalled childhood memories about books and magazines about sexuality. At age 14 she was horrified to hear a neighborhood friend describe how babies were conceived. 40 years ago, some magazines and books were edgy. Confusion and curiosity about sexuality were compounded by reluctance to ask her parents. These concepts are best understood with mature guidance. She also talked about the Goodreads.com booklist that lists an abundance of books with gay and transgender issues. Libraries should not be a place for young children to receive this material.
- Julie Saad
 - As a parent, she does not want materials in the library that will corrupt a young person’s mind. Libraries should not be a place where taxpayers’ money is used for unwanted materials.
- Jessica Mahuron, Outreach Coordinator for the North Idaho Pride Alliance
 - A volunteer organization working to make a more inclusive North Idaho. The Community Library Network is a valued partner. The Rainbow Squad, a teen GSA group, has been a safe space for young people and their supporters to gather for

socialization. Many youths do not feel safe in our schools or their homes. Having a safe space and accepting adults is what helps prevent suicide. It is wrong for a library board member to post on social media a call for a moral compass. She reminded the Board they need to uphold the Library Bills of Rights. She highlighted libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas; libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment; libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval; books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation. If a board member has a problem abiding to the Library Bill of Rights, she suggests resignation from the board as it is the board's duty to uphold these rights. She asks to stop the campaign of hate and harassment. Stop harassing staff and disturbing the community. There has been an increase in the number incidents with bullying and discrimination in the last few weeks.

- Marci Clark
 - Library user for years of a son that is now 19 years old. Anyone that wants to censor LGBTQ, this is a slippery slope. Libraries should be a place of inclusion. While she may not agree with all ideas available at the library, she can choose not to read about ideas she does not agree with. This library has always been a great place for all people. Censoring ideas is exactly what cancel culture is.
- Ralph Shaw
 - Spoke to the reality of change. He was raised in a homophobic home. He was able to overcome and accept homosexuality. He is an ally and stands with all LGBTQ people. Censoring is not accepting and tolerating all peoples.
- Wendy Smith
 - Shared an article written by a man that attended the Gay Pride Parade in San Francisco in 2019. The article exposed the open agenda of the LGBTQ community to corrupt America's kids. Participants in the parade commented that they were down for the kink with kids, that child involvement in drag is cool and that love has no age. It also stated a virtuous pedophile that does not act on his attraction to children was later accused of sexually assaulting one of his young foster daughters. The book, *The Hips on the Drag Queen go Swish, Swish, Swish* by Lil' Hot Mess is inappropriate and may encourage children to go into the illegal profession of prostitution. Children need protection as they walk through the library and look at books. They deserve a chance to browse the shelves without being assaulted by a dangerous ideology.

Blank clarified that the Community Library Network does not own this book.
- Kara Claridge
 - Discussed that the Coeur d'Alene library has books for young children about drag queens and LGBTQ topics that are inappropriate for kids.
- Jason Lauritzen
 - He is an Idaho native and attended this library. We need to protect our children from outsiders coming and bringing bigotry. LGBTQ have a higher rate of suicide and depression not because of how they identify but the lack of family support and hate in the community. In Idaho, students have been bullied and there is a lack support for the LGBTQ community. We cannot take away the one safe place for this community.
- Jeanette Laster, Executive Director for the Human Rights Education Institute

- The Community Library Network is a strong partner with the Human Right Education Institute. They partnered with the district to present Story Time: The More We Get Together. The program's intent was encouraging inclusion. Stories, songs, snacks, and crafts occurred at these programs. Opponents that do not attend the programs, do not always understand what happens in these programs. Censoring books is not the answer.
 - Nina Beasley
 - Mother of 5 children. 100% opposes LGBTQ materials and ideas to be available for children. Idaho constitution notes the first concern for all good government is the virtue and sobriety of the people, and the purity of the home. The legislature should further all wise and well directed efforts for the promotion of temperance and morality. Does the Board think they are above the legislature or God? She loves all people but chooses not to expose her children to LGBTQ ideas.
- Blank clarified that same-sex marriage has been legal in Idaho since 2014.
- Randy Neal
 - Son has a friend that decided to change from a woman to a man. She now regrets that and cannot afford to change back. He talked about the rape of some children by transgendered persons. It is up to the parents to teach children about these issues. Young minds cannot comprehend these concepts.
 - William Ehrmantrout
 - Came to this meeting on very short notice. It is common sense what PG stands for. What LGBTQ does is not any of his business but is appalled by the sexual exploitation of minors. He is a veteran and fought for this country for 22 years. This whole country is run by pedophiles.
 - Kenny Shove
 - Thanked everyone that came here today. He works in security and bullying is not ok and he is there to help. Kids should not be exposed to a high level of sexuality in our schools or in our library. Challenges the Board to hear the community. Not all ideas are good ideas. There are ideas that are harmful. As a parent, you can choose when to expose your children to LGBTQ ideas.
 - Laura Bonneville
 - She was born and raised in Idaho. She is a licensed professional counselor. LGBTQ individuals have a four times higher rate of suicide due to family and community rejection. Peer support clubs certainly help mitigate suicide and depression. How did LGBTQ get to be so political? LGBTQ persons make up a minor section of the total pedophilia population.
 - Amanda Barringer
 - She does not understand why so many think they can police love. Eliminating books is eliminating representation of that community. When you eliminate, you breed hate. It is fine to pro or con on this issue, but don't sexualize it.

Blank thanked everyone for attending and the civility of the audience.

Executive session: Director evaluation 90 day - review onboarding plan (Idaho Code 74--206(1)(b) Employee Evaluation)

It was moved to move into Executive Session, Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) Employee Evaluation by Meyer at 4:31 pm

Roll call vote:

Blank - Aye

Meyer - Aye

Robinson - Aye

Ottosen - Aye

McCrea - Aye

Moved out of executive session at 5:07 pm.

Roll call vote:

- Blank - Aye
- Meyer - Aye
- Robinson - Aye
- Ottosen - Aye
- McCrea - Aye

Motion to extend meeting to 5:30 pm

M, C - Robinson

Motion to move back into Executive Session, Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) Employee Evaluation by Meyer at 5:08 pm

Roll call vote:

- Blank - Aye
- Meyer - Aye
- Robinson - Aye
- Ottosen - Aye
- McCrea - Aye

Moved out of executive session at 5:33 pm

Roll call vote:

- Blank - Aye
- Meyer - Aye
- Robinson - Aye
- Ottosen - Aye
- McCrea - Aye

Agenda discussion and requests - Tabled

- "The director's authority to unilaterally impose any medical procedures/restrictions/requirements on employees" - Request from Rachele Ottosen
- Patrons versus members
- Reconsideration of fines

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm

M, C - McCrea

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Rodda, Janelle Sells

Calendar of events:

18 Nov 2021	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Post Falls
16 Dec 2021	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Post Falls

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Phone: 208-773-1506 ext. 329

Email: ADAcordinator@communitylibrary.net

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