

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

HELD ON
May 8, 2023

A meeting of the Library Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library was held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 4:00 PM via Zoom and in-person in the board room at New Main.

The following Board Members were present:

Dr. M. Blackwell	Ms. C. Tawney
Ms. S. Haden	Ms. A. Silbernagel
Mr. J. Holliday	Dr. K. Sullivan
Ms. T. Hurney	Mr. B. Thomas
Mr. J. Jarrett	Dr. R. Wallace
Ms. B. King	

KCPL staff members present were Ms. Erika Connelly, Ms. Sarah Mitchell, Ms. Marsha Alford, Mr. Stan Howell, Mr. Teddy Claypool, Ms. Adele Thumm, Mr. Ben Ball, Mr. Tim Venitsanos, and Mr. Michael Polak.

Others in attendance were Mr. Christopher Winton, library counsel.

Mr. Thomas presided and reported that a quorum was present. The Director served as Secretary. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion made, seconded, and ADOPTED the minutes of the Board meeting on April 10, 2023 were approved.

Director's Report

Ms. Connelly noted that the circulation stats reported this month show that the library is making a climb back to what is hoped to be the norm. She feels stats are about 80 percent of the way to where she'd like them to be. The library is currently averaging a visitor count about five thousand a week less than it did pre-pandemic, but this is a common trend for libraries across the country. Because of the construction project, KCPL is ahead of the national curve for both visits and circulations.

Ms. Connelly is working with the administration of the CAMC hospital's training facility to begin a deeper partnership between it and KCPL. She feels the sky is the limit for collaborations which will include programming for their students, special trainings, and more use of KCPL's deep digital resources.

Ms. Connelly then showed the board SORA, a digital platform specially designed for children. This will allow schools to access the library's children's digital collection through a program catered to their students.

Dr. Blackwell asked if SORA linked in with literacy programming and Ms. Connelly confirmed that it does. It also allows schools to target specific ages for their accessible collection. While the resources can only be accessed on WIFI, you are able to download them for offline use.

Mr. Ben Ball, KCPL's Programming Manager, gave the Board of Directors an overview of the 2023 Summer Library Club. The theme for the year is "All Together Now." He discussed grand prizes for the event and

the marketing department's guidebook which will include all of the major events. There will be five major Saturday programs that will run every two weeks through the summer.

Mr. Howell briefly discussed marketing for the event. WCHS is going to do an e-mail blast targeting Kanawha County towards the end of May and the end of June to promote. The Library will feature SLC news regularly on social media, it will also be featured on the new KCPL apps.

Ms. Connelly fielded a question from Dr. Blackwell about usage caps on the Library's digital resources. Hoopla in particular often will reach between 12-14,000 downloads from KCPL users in two weeks. She's looking into upping limits as the digital collection is presently responsible for over half of the system's checkouts. She will work with the new Collection Manager on making sure the library is not disproportionately spending, and utilizing funds based upon where the demands are.

Action Items

1. Resolution Honoring the Service of Ms. Jennifer Pauer

Long-time Board member Ms. Pauer decided not to renew her term which expires on June 30, 2023. Ms. Haden and Mr. Thomas expressed their appreciation for Ms. Pauer's work and Ms. Haden read the following into the record.

WHEREAS, Ms. Jennifer Pauer's tenure with the Kanawha County Public Library Board of Directors ends July 1, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Pauer has been a dedicated member of the Board of Directors since July 1, 1999, actively serving with grace and dignity for two and a half decades; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Pauer served tirelessly on several Board committees. Inspired by her colleague Ms. Gina Rugeley, she was a passionate advocate and a soothing presence for KCPL staff in her service as a long-standing member of the Personnel Committee; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Pauer and her partner, Mark Bolton, donated regularly to the Library's annual "A Tisket, A Tasket, A Literary Basket" fundraiser and were constant supporters of Friends of the Library and Library Foundation projects; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Pauer was an instrumental member of the KCPL Board during the Reimagine Your Library project; and served on the search committees for three different Library directors in her tenure; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors acknowledges Jennifer Pauer "will be greatly missed" as she has come to the end of her tenure with the Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Board wishes to express its heartfelt and warmest appreciation to Ms. Pauer for her faithful service and dedication to the Library; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be given to our esteemed colleague, Jennifer Pauer, with gratitude and appreciation for a job well done.

It was approved by the Board of Directors by a vote of 9-1 with Dr. Blackwell humorously opposing, "maybe it will change her mind and she'll come back."

2. Introduction of Mr. Larry Moore, a candidate for the KCPL Board of Directors.

Ms. Haden and the Membership/Board Development committee met with Mr. Larry Moore this month and discussed bringing him on as a new member. Mr. Moore is a Behavioral Interventionist at Capital High School and serves as a representative of Charleston's West Side on the City Council. He impressed the committee with his passion for libraries and dedication to the community. The committee recommends Mr. Moore be presented to the Board of Education for a six-year term beginning on July 1 to replace Ms. Pauer.

The following resolution was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors:

RESOLVED, that Mr. Larry Moore be recommended to the Kanawha County Board of Education as a Director of the Kanawha County Public Library for a term to end June 30, 2029.

3. Board member term renewal

Ms. Haden's final Membership resolution pertained to the new term of Mr. Ben Thomas. Mr. Thomas elected to renew membership, his current term expires on June 30, 2023.

The following resolution was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors:

RESOLVED, that Mr. Benjamin Thomas be recommended to the Kanawha County Board of Education for reappointment to a six-year term as a Director of the Kanawha County Public Library to end June 30, 2029.

Reports of Committees:

1. Special Eastern Region

The Committee looking over the Library's services to the Eastern part of Kanawha county met this month. On Friday, they will meet in the Library and take the van out through the region to explore/visit the locations. The committee currently feels that there are many options available and they have carte blanche to explore different ideas.

2. Long-Range Planning

Dr. Sullivan said he's glad that Ms. Connelly linked both the Eastern Region and the Long-Range Planning committee together. The LRP will also meet on Friday after the tour. He feels that distribution of services will be a key component in the plan. At their last meeting, the committee met with Mr. Bryan Cokeley and Ms. Mary Kay Bond of the Library Foundation Board, and Ms. Betty King of the Board of Directors. They will meet to "plan for the plan" and discuss the new patron survey that will gather more data for the LRP.

3. Membership

Ms. Haden joked that the Board had "heard enough from me," and explained all of the Membership committee's updates were handled in the action items for the month.

New Business

Mr. Thomas nominated Ms. Silbernagel, Mr. Hurney, and Dr. Wallace as the 2023 Officer Nomination Committee. They will take care of the nomination of the three Board leadership positions — President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President and bring them to the June meeting.

There being no further discussion of business, a motion was made to adjourn this meeting. Motion was seconded, and the meeting ADJOURNED at 4:45 PM.

