

Berks County Public Libraries Board Meeting January 18, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Berks County Public Libraries was called to order on January 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at System Headquarters.

Board Members Present:

Mary Edwards, Vice President/Treasurer; Judy Schwambach, Secretary; Peter Schuchman; Dr. Eve Kimball.

System Staff Present:

Denise Sticha, Administrator

Library Representatives:

Bernville, Kelli Burgos	Reading, Osmer Deming
Bethel-Tulpehocken, Mike Najarian	Robesonia, Kevin Kurtz
Boone Area, Cheryl Martinozzi	Schuylkill Valley, Erica Burch
Brandywine, Marie Ballantine	Sinking Spring, Lisa Domeshek, John Nelka
Fleetwood, Dan Stafford	Spring Township, John Emerick
Hamburg, Pat Adams	Wernersville, Jeannine Campbell, Christine Santoro
Kutztown, Janet Yost, Cathy Ruhf	Womelsdorf, Tim Kreider
Mifflin, Rebecca Worley	
Morgantown Village, Lisa Betz	
Muhlenberg, Linda Roebuck, William Baer	

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of November 16, 2016, Board Meeting approved as corrected. It was noted that the Reading Public Library is NOT a passport facility, but is now offering notary services.

Correspondence:

Letters were received from the Muhlenberg Community Library (November 17) and the Schuylkill Valley Community Library (December 15) expressing concerns about the freezing of the funding distribution formula.

Letter was received from Glenn Miller, Deputy Secretary of Education, Commissioners of Libraries regarding our request to carry over surplus County Coordination Aid. The request to use the surplus to purchase replacement vehicles for delivery and to support the website redesign project were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Monies for the promotional award for 2016 were not spent as we did not have an awards presentation in 2016.

The contract for Internet and telecommunication services with the Reading Public Library on behalf of our members has been finalized and approved.

Any remaining balance in Wages and Benefits at the end of the year, is returned back to the County's general fund. This has ongoing impact to our County Coordination aid surplus. Jennifer and Denise will be working closely with the Budget Office to monitor this better.

Administrator's Report:

Website redesign project: 10-15 vendors have submitted proposals. Two pre-proposal conferences were held to address the project and answer questions. All proposals had to be received by January 17th. 5 companies submitted proposal and the County's Purchasing and Contracts department will begin the vetting process.

Due to department budget reductions, the full time positions of Youth Services Coordinator, Technology Coordinator, and Library Assistant, Bookasaurus were eliminated as was the Bookasaurus StoryRider position. All of the van driver positions are now funded by County Coordination Aid, and the Technology Support Assistant position was also transferred to County Coordination Aid.

Carol Burkhart, Community Relations Coordinator announced her retirement effective February 7, 2017.

Plans are to eliminate the former Bookmobile collection by offering it to the member libraries first and then giving the remainder to Book Bonanza.

Orientation for trustees new to Berks County member libraries will be held on Saturday, February 18th from 9-noon at the System offices. Snow date is March 4th More information will be forthcoming, and although the workshop is designed for new trustees, all are welcome.

Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee:

The Open Forum/Community Conversation with elected offices will be held on Saturday April 22, 2017 at the Ag Center on County Road. Commissioner Barnhardt and Senator Schwank will be participating as panelists. More information will be forthcoming as plans unfold, but we need all our member libraries to help promote this Advocacy event.

Finance Committee:

Surveys are being distributed to all member libraries and trustees asking for priorities and suggestions for the funding distribution formula. One survey should be the responses of the member library board and the other survey is designed to gather thoughts of member library staff. Surveys should be returned to Denise by March 17, 2017.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

The following slate of officers for 2017 was presented:

President – Charlies Jones
Vice President- Eve Kimball
Secretary – Judy Schwambach
Treasurer – Mary Edwards

Pete Schuchman moved to accept the slate as presented. Eve Kimball seconded. Motion carried.

District Center Update:

Osmer Deming provided a handout of showing Reading Public Library statistics.

Announcements:

Mary Young was congratulated for her many years of volunteer service to the Wernersville Library.

The Kutztown Library now has a full-time Youth Services librarian.

35 nominations were received for the 2016-2017 awards and the presentation will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at the Exeter Library.

Helen Flynn, Director of the Mifflin Community Library will be retiring at the end of March.

Meeting Adjourned 8:10 p.m. followed by a demonstration of Hoopla, a new digital streaming video, audio and music platform.

Next Meeting: April 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.