

MINUTES OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING

June 12, 2024

Members Present: Susan Gesser  
Chris Gendek  
Kevin Dorth  
Kathi Mattas

Members Absent: Rodney Ellis

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director  
Debbie Young, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Gesser at 5:01 p.m.

There were approximately (31) people attending the Board Meeting with three people indicating they would address the Board. Susan Gesser noted that Public Comment would be moved to the beginning of the meeting and anyone was welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting or leave at the end of Public Comment.

Trey Matthews addressed the Board and said he was thankful for all the programs held at the Library but was against LGBTQ in the Children's area. The parents need to be involved and the topic is confusing to children. He said that such content should be moved out of the Children's area to the Adult area.

Kevin Whear thanked the Library for the services provided to the community and thought the Library should develop criteria for choosing good and honorable books.

Claudia Ramisch addressed Commissioner Marksberry's previous comments about the age differences between children and adult. She said there is a difference between physical and mental age by different thoughts and how children are raised. Library science chooses to go somewhere in between to attempt to bridge the differences.

No one else indicated they wished to address the Board.

Mrs. Gesser indicated the business portion of the Board Meeting would begin and called for the approval of the minutes of the May meeting. After review and hearing no comments or corrections, Chris Gendek made a motion to approve the May minutes as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis was absent from the meeting; therefore, Debbie Young presented the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Young went over the May financial reports, including the receipts and expenditures for the month. She asked if anyone had questions, and hearing no comments or corrections, Kathi Mattas made a motion to approve the May financial report and expenditures as presented. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Waller presented the Director's Report and discussed the following:

- Summer Reading had a successful start with the Kickoff Party on May 29 and we had a large number of people attending. We have around 2,000 people registered for Summer Reading which is a record and that includes 615 people who pre-registered. The cute and colorful door and window dinosaur displays may be drawing attention to the Summer Reading programs.
- Kim Meredith who has worked for the Library for (20) years as the Preschool Coordinator has accepted the position of Assistant Manager in the Public Services department.
- The Human Resources Coordinator position has been posted on Indeed and has been getting a big response.
- The Library has been very busy!
- Ms. Waller indicated that last month Kathi Mattas attended her first Board Meeting as a Board Member and would like to address the Board this month. Ms. Mattas introduced herself and gave her background and said she wanted to help the Library be the best it could be. She spoke on her personal position on how certain books were cataloged at the Library.

There was no Old Business.

Susan Gesser called for New Business – Report on Webinar “Law and the Right to Read: What Trustees Need to Know”. Mrs. Gesser indicated that she attended this webinar and it was very informative. She encouraged all the Board Members to watch the webinar to be aware of the ramifications of decisions made as Trustees. If the Board does not follow the Library's policy for material selection, it could open the Library up to legal ramifications. There is case law that some public libraries that removed or moved books and the courts ruled this as unconstitutional. There could be a high cost of litigation if the Library does not follow policies. The Request for Reconsideration should be restricted to Library patrons only. The Library cannot veer off the policy when reviewing the Request for Reconsideration and the book should be reviewed as a whole and not excerpts. Ms. Gesser indicated she would provide the link for the webinar.

Having no further business to come before the Board, Chris Gendek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Public Lounge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Chris Gendek", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.