

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

September 17, 2024

Members Present: Susan Gesser  
Rodney Ellis  
Kevin Dorth  
Kathi Mattas  
Al Mattingly

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director  
Debbie Young, Business Manager  
Janie Marksberry, Fiscal Court Liaison

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Gesser at 5:05 p.m.

Mrs. Gesser welcomed Al Mattingly to the Board.

Mrs. Gesser called for the approval of the minutes of the August meeting. After review and hearing no comments or corrections, Kathi Mattas made a motion to approve the August minutes as presented. Rodney Ellis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Ellis went over the August financial reports, including the receipts and expenditures for the month. He asked if anyone had questions, and hearing no comments or corrections, Al Mattingly made a motion to approve the August financial report and expenditures as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis discussed the June 30, 2024 Audited Financial Statements. The Board had been emailed the audited financial statements to save copying costs. Mr. Ellis indicated on Page 13 of the report is the financial report that was presented to the Board. Then he discussed the pension portion of the audit, which is calculated by the auditors, and the Kentucky Pension System's net position is better this year. Mr. Ellis noted that he, Susan Gesser, Erin Waller and Debbie Young had met with the auditors on September 11 for the Audit Exit Conference and went over the report in detail. The Library received a clean report with no deficiencies or weaknesses found during the audit. After discussion, Kevin Dorth made a motion to accept/approve the June 30, 2024 Audited Financial Statements as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Mrs. Waller will be attending a state-wide KDLA Directors' Meeting in Louisville.

- The Library offers notary service to the public and for the month of August (265) notaries were completed. This was the highest number of notaries completed in a single month for the last four years.
- The Library will be partnering with the American Heart Association for “Libraries with Heart” which is a community based blood pressure screening program. There will be a blood pressure monitor in the Library for patrons to check their blood pressure and also the possibility of some blood pressure monitors for patrons to check out. The date for this program has not yet been determined.
- On September 30 at 6 pm, the Boulware Mission will hosting a Mayoral Candidate Forum which will be held at the Library.
- Rodney Ellis noted that the statistics for Circulating Items was higher than last year. Mrs. Waller agreed and noted that the Library had been really busy.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Susan Gesser called for Public Comment. There were approximately (42) people attending the Board Meeting with four people indicating they would address the Board as well as several people indicating “maybe” they would address the board. Mrs. Gesser noted that everyone should be civil to each other and do not touch or ridicule others. She indicated each person would have two minutes to speak and to give everyone privacy, they should show their ID to Erin Waller to prove they are Daviess County citizens.

Brian Blair spoke of his religious beliefs and indicated that there are books aimed at children which were not appropriate. He said the Library should repent and end the evil.

Marilyn VanWinkle welcomed Al Mattingly to the Board. She hoped the Board would continue to do the right thing and continue to be patient with everyone.

Trey Matthews spoke about the book “The Bare Naked Book” which depicts naked adults and children. He believes the Library should use a rating system to help make decisions about books in the Library. He said he appreciated the Library and the kids enjoy the Library.

Robin Scott said that some knowledge is too heavy for children. Many books in the Young Adult section are located in areas that are within easy reach of young children. Ms. Scott suggested that all Young Adult materials should be shelved within the walls of the Young Adult area and move the Young Adult book display to inside the room. Ms. Scott indicated that she is grateful for the Library.

Sue Richards said she is a retired social worker with over 30 years of experience working with children. She commended the dedication of the Library staff. She is concerned over certain groups that wish to remove or relocate books and censoring books is not a solution.

No one else indicated they wished to address the Board.

Janie Marksberry thanked the Library Board for changing how the addresses of Daviess County citizens speaking at the Board Meeting were obtained. Having someone look at the ID for verification is much better than having to give addresses in the meeting. Ms. Marksberry said there should be transparency in how Board Members are selected. She asked if the applications were sent to Erin Waller or to KDLA. Ms. Waller indicated they were sent to her and then she forwarded them to KDLA, who makes the decision of the two names selected for the open Board seat. Ms. Marksberry began speaking about the book "The Bare Naked Book" and addressed a question to everyone at the meeting "How many people in here have been sexually abused?" This questioning was stopped as being inappropriate and Mrs. Marksberry was told that questions cannot be addressed to members of the public.

Al Mattingly spoke and addressed Janie Marksberry and indicated that no one knew the names of people who were submitted to KDLA. He had seen several of the County Commissioners and had told them he had applied for the board seat. Mr. Mattingly said that it was his personal opinion that people and children are shielded from too much.

Susan Gesser indicated that the Board would go into Closed Session for deliberations on the future acquisition of real property and everyone would need to leave the room but could return after coming back into Open Session. Rodney Ellis made a motion to go into Closed Session. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis made a motion to return to Open Session, Al Mattingly seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Susan Gesser reported that no action was taken in the Closed Session.

Having no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Public Lounge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Gesser", with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the signature towards the upper right corner of the page.