

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

February 26, 2025

Members Present: Susan Montalvo-Gesser, President
Rodney Ellis, Treasurer
Kathi Mattas, Secretary
Kevin Dorth
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 Montalvo-Gesser at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Montalvo-Gesser called for approval of the January 2025 meeting's minutes. After review, and hearing no comments or corrections, the motion to approve the January minutes was made by Al Mattingly, seconded by Rodney Ellis, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report of January's financial reports and expenditures. With no questions, comments, or corrections, Kevin Dorth made the motion for the board to approve the report as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Erin Waller presented the Director's Report, which included:

1. The Winter Reading program wrapped up at the end of January with more participants than last year's.
2. She is continuing to consult with Hafer Architects on remodeling plans.
3. Senator Gary Boswell has put forth SB-71 that takes KDLA out of the board appointment process, and this bill has passed out of sub-committee.
4. DCPL staff has been taking First Aid and CPR training.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Mrs. Montalvo-Gesser called for Public Comment. There were about 20 people in attendance, with five signed "yes" to speak to the Board and two as "maybe."

Robin Scott read from a 1/15/25 "Kentucky Today" article about the DCPL board. Statements included that Kentucky law prohibits "the distribution of obscene material to minors," to "protect children from

material which could cause them mental or emotional damage,” and that the ALA and others find a KRS loophole in “educational” justification.

Dave Eades continued reading from the same article, referencing books such as It Feels Good to Be Yourself (about gender identity), I am Jazz! and George (about gender transitioning), Darius the Great Deserves Better (detailed sexual descriptions), Red Hood (sexual graphic details), and Sold (about a girl in sex slavery). Such book content is not protected under KY law and is not appropriate as biological education.

Trey Matthews continued the article with claims by the ALA that the library board could be sued, yet the 2003 U.S. vs ALA “affirmed the right of public libraries to select books based on their content ... in accord with the community’s values ...” The library board members “have a duty to stock the public library children’s section with edifying books. Kids need a safe place where they can learn and explore.”

Kevin Whear said that there were numerous books by Ibram Kendi promoting CRT, which teaches that white people are oppressors and black people are victims. He also referenced Margaret Sanger, who founded Planned Parenthood to sterilize blacks and abort minority babies.

Jimmy Kamuf said that he considers himself a liberal, and that he was glad and appreciative that the dialog was better at this board meeting and was neither offensive nor attacking.

Board member Rodney Ellis noted someone holding up their phone to video the next speaker, and he stated that recording at a board meeting was not allowed.

Abigail Matthews expressed appreciation for the library, having come to it all her life, then spoke of her concerns about an inappropriate book found in the children’s section, The Girl Guide. It contains a page of multiple illustrations of female genitalia and another page with a bar code, which when scanned led to a book about a “one night stand.” She passed out photo copies of these pages to the Board, and she stated that a safe children’s area is what the library needs.

Mrs. Montalvo-Gesser stated that submitting the library’s Request for Reconsideration form was the starting point to address book concerns.

With no further business, at 5:20 p.m. Mrs. Montalvo-Gesser adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be held at 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, in the Second Floor Public Lounge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Ellis", is located at the bottom right of the page.