

Guernsey County District Public Library
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
September 26, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Guernsey County District Public Library met in regular session at 5pm on September 26, 2023 at the Crossroads Branch.

Trustees present:

Sheila Ellenberger, Deborah Cunningham, Jo Sexton, Carla Smith, Cathy Koscoe and Kathy Warhola

Library employees present:

Michael Limer, Ada Myers, Lauren Burris, and Jennifer Jacobs

President Dr. Sheila Ellenberger called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Public Participation

Dr. Ellenberger welcomed the 17 guests who attended for Public participation and explained the Library's policy for Public Participation. A sign in sheet was provided and 6 individuals indicated that they would like to speak to the Board. They were present to express their concerns regarding the book entitled *It's Perfectly Normal*.

Also, Brennan Dudley from the Village of Byesville expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Village of Byesville for the current renovation of the Byesville branch of the Guernsey County library. He stated that many in the village are excited for the reopening of that branch. He also said that the Village has acquired a building that will be called the SEO Center for Industry & Innovation. It will focus on **4 Pillars: Healthcare**; Muskingum Valley Health Center will have a presence, **Commerce**: as an Incubator for SPDC, **Culture**, and **Technology**; a Resource and Tech Center.

Review and approval of meeting minutes.

The Board Reviewed and approved the August 22, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Executive Session to Discuss Court Action.

Motion was made to go into executive session to discuss court action by Cathy Koscoe and seconded by Deborah Cunningham. The board went into executive session to discuss a court action at 5:19pm and left executive session at 5:35pm.

A Motion was made by Kathy Warhola and seconded by Jo Sexton stating "On advice of counsel, we authorize Mr. Michael Limer, Director of the Guernsey County Library to enter into and execute a settlement and release of all claims in the amount of \$30,000 which will bring about full and final resolution of any claims brought by former employee Matthew Kinsey."

Roll call was made, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

Financial Reports

Financial officer Jennifer Jacobs presented the financial report. Carla Smith motioned to approve the financials, Cathy Koscoe seconded, and motion carried

New Business

Director Limer discussed 4 wall plaques that had been removed from the Byesville library branch during the remodeling. One was a Memorial plaque, and one was a donation recognition plaque. The plans are to replace those plaques on the wall prior to the reopening of the library. There are plans to place a new plaque with current information there as well.

Motion by Carla Smith to place the 2 plaques was seconded by Deborah Cuning. Vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

Director Limer stated that a new employee, Deb Fader Samson, Outreach & Marketing Coordinator was requesting travel expenses for hotel stays only during her move from California. Jo Sexton made a motion to not pay moving expenses. Cathy Koscoe seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

Byesville Mayor Jay Jackson had approached Director Limer regarding the Byesville Business incubator. They plan to have it be a STEM Hub/ Maker space. Director Limer recommended that we could write a letter of support to be included in their grand application to show support for this project. He said there was no need for a motion. The board agreed to authorize Director Limer to write a letter in support.

Ohio Library Conference

Three Library employees will be attending the Ohio Library Conference in Cincinnati this week; Ada Myers, Jennifer Jacobs and Lauren Burris.

Old Business

The board had received 2 letters addressed to the president of the library board expressing their concern about the placement of the book *It's Perfectly Normal*. During the Public Participation part of the meeting, several persons spoke about their concerns. President of the Library Board, Sheila Ellenberger asked if all board members had read the letters. She asked if there were any questions. None were asked. Motion was made by Cathy Koscoe, seconded by Kathy Warhola to maintain retention and placement of the book. Discussion opportunity was presented. All members voted in favor. Motion carried. Dr. Ellenberger explained that each family has the right to determine what is right for their family and that there is a formal process called CIP: Cataloging in Publication that is determined by the Library of Congress. The CIP is located on the flip side of the cover of every book that is placed in the library. It states the location where a book should be shelved in the public library.

Director's Report

Guernsey County Fair

The library had a table at the Guernsey County Fair this year and received 2nd Place prize for Merchants.

Byesville Renovation

November 1st is still the target date for the reopening of the Byesville Branch of the Guernsey County Library. Director Limer is working to ensure that the internet connection will be in place at that time.

Crossroads field update

The field behind Crossroads will be tilled and planted this fall.

Downtown Library branch – sink hole has been filled with concrete at a cost of \$4500.

An outdoor screen was replaced for \$800.

Director Limer said he was approached by Architect Ron Van Wey to see if we would be interested in getting architectural plans for the downtown library in conjunction with Muskingum County as a part of an Appalachian Grant. The board agreed.

Estimates have been given for converting the Men's bathroom at the downtown branch to be handicapped accessible. The estimate was \$52,000. Estimate to replace the HFAP system was \$340,000, Estimate for replacement of the roof was \$73,000. There are no current plans to do any of these renovations at the downtown library at this time.

Staff Computers

The new staff computers will be delivered this week for all three branches of the library.

Upcoming events

Oct 7th Author Octoberfest 11am @ Crossroads

Oct 21st Boo Bash

Oct 23rd all branches will be closed to the public for a Library staff in-service.

Board member Jo Sexton announced that she is moving from the area and she will no longer be able to participate as a board member later this year.

Board member Deborah Cunningham will be sworn in at the October meeting. She had been filling a vacancy on the board but has been reappointed for another term.

Motion to adjourn by Kathy Warhola, Seconded by Cathy Koscoe.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Warhola, recorder for this meeting.