

Rockbridge Regional Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting – January 25, 2024

The Board of Trustees met in Lexington at Rockbridge Regional Library on January 25, 2024 at 4:15 PM.

Members present included Thomas Bell, Alex Brown, Melanie Forde, Tom Goodale, Gail Heslep, Bret Kampf, Margaret Kirkby, Bob Kramer, and Sherri Wheeler. Staff members present were Julie Goyette, Director, and Katie Ramsey, Digital Resources System Manager.

Call to Order, Approval of agenda

Bret Kampf, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM

Tom Goodale made a motion to approve the agenda. Margaret Kirkby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bret Kampf recognized Bath Branch Manager, Amy Porterfield, for being nominated by several individuals for American Library Association's *I Love My Librarian* award. He complimented Amy's creativity and hard work at the Bath County Public Library.

Approval of Minutes

Margaret Kirkby made a motion to approve the minutes from December 7, 2023 as presented. Alex Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Introduction & Remarks – Tyson Cooper, Mayor of Buena Vista

Buena Vista's new Mayor, Tyson Copper, introduced himself to the board and discussed his time in Buena Vista and the Rockbridge area. Tyson went to Southern Virginia University for college where he met his wife. After graduating they decided to stay in Buena Vista. They have three children who attend Buena Vista City Public Schools and they all love the library.

Tyson Cooper spoke about the importance of volunteering and how he is currently volunteering by reading to children in the Buena Vista Elementary Schools. He thanked the library for serving the community through services, resources, and programs for all ages.

He shared his email address with the board in case anyone wants to reach out to him.

Mission Moment with Debi Ratliff, Adult Services System Manager

Debi Ratliff discussed resources that the library offers to patrons who need help with job searching. The library offers a variety of sources and databases from basic help with resumes and applications to entrepreneurial goals.

The Library of Virginia (LVA) offers access to online resources JobNow and VetNow. With these two resources, users can work with a job coach one-on-one to work on resumes, applications, and more. LVA also provides access to Universal Class, which offers a variety of classes on including certificates in Microsoft programs. Rockbridge Regional Library System (RRLS) is part of a pilot program for Career Online High School (COHS). COHS helps adults earn their high school diploma through classes and students receive a certificate towards a career when they have completed the program.

Melanie Forde asked about stats from the COHS program to see the use of the program and follow through. Mrs. Goyette explained that we keep stats of the applicants and that she would provide the information to Melanie.

Bret Kampf asked if persons interested in COHS were referred to Lexington. Julie said that patrons could get information about the program from any library branch. The program is online.

LearningExpress Library provides study aids and practice tests for career fields, such as nursing, ASVAB, etc., to patrons with a RRLS library card.

The RRLS website provides helpful links to job seekers, such as links to Virginia Employment Commission, Total Action for Progress (TAP), and more.

Debi Ratliff talked about Tech Assistance with Shane Clarke. Shane provides one-on-one assistance with devices, programs, and other technology needs, as well as help with library apps and online resources. Debi is hoping to do something similar with job help; one-on-one assistance by appointment to get help with applications, resumes, and other computer needs.

Alex Brown asked if one-on-one job assistance would create a new position or if a current staff member would have added hours. Julie explained that we hope to add hours to provide this service.

Public Comment

Bret Kampf read into record the public comment policy.

Hugh Henderson commented on LGBTQ+ materials for K-5 ages. He feels the books psychologically impact young children. Hugh Henderson quoted suicide statistics from the National Library of Medicine and the Trevor Project. He said the suicide rate in LGBTQ+ kids is much higher than heterosexual kids. He asked the board to pause purchases of LGBTQ+ materials.

2023 Audit Presentation

Saidee Begoon, CPA from Robinson, Farmer, Cox & Associates, gave a summary of the FY 2023 audit. The audit showed no instances of noncompliance or issues.

Thomas Bell asked about the decrease in donations during FY 2023. FY 2022 had a high amount of donations. Ms. Begoon explained that the tax laws changed and lowered the incentive for people to make charitable donations.

Questions Regarding Board Packet

Gail Heslep commented that she loved reading about everything happening in the branches. Margaret Kirkby responded with examples of parades that the Bookmobile participated in, the services provided by Outreach staff, and the passports program. Julie Goyette responded that staff are constantly looking to provide services and programs for the community.

Margaret Kirkby asked what a community stop entailed. Julie responded that the Bookmobile has a schedule of stops and Bo Cunningham, Outreach Manager, provides library materials to the community, delivers holds, and other specific selection requests. Community Stops include Dottie's Convenience Store in Fairfield, the Rockbridge Baths Fire Department, etc.

Margaret Kirkby asked about online visits to the website versus Blue Ridge Download Consortium (BRDC). Katie Ramsey explained that website visits are counted when visitors click on pages and links provided on the website. We only get stats when people follow the link to the BRDC from our websites. We do not count visits to the BRDC landing page.

Margaret Kirkby mentioned she noticed some staff do not have name tags when she visits the library. Julie Goyette will stress the importance of wearing name tags while working.

Tom Goodale commented on a report from Buena Vista Children's Library that there was no heat in the social hall or sanctuary. Thomas Bell mentioned the boiler system failing during Buena Vista's first Gingerbread House Build. He lives not far from the library and came to help.

Discussion

Updated policies:

- Safe children
- Reference
- Social Media

Tom Goodale moved to approve all three policies. Bret Kamp moved to vote. Unanimously passed.

Julie Goyette discussed the packet she put together for localities to tell them who we are and what we do. The board is requesting 10% more than what the library system was allocated in FY 2020. She encouraged Board members to talk with their local officials about the library and how important is to the community. She informed the Board of the upcoming council meetings at the different localities.

Melanie Forde commented that the packet is well written and would be beneficial to new board members coming in.

Ms. Brown talked about the success of the Martin Luther King Jr. service held at First Baptist Church in Lexington. Jessie Whipple, Chair of the RRLS Board of Trustees, was one of the speakers and she did a great job. She quoted from King's speech, *Strength to Love*, connecting library service with his message.

Ms. Goyette informed board members about the *Bond of Freedom* program on Saturday, February 24. McKinley will host the program at First Baptist church located at 103 North Main Street in Lexington.

Adjournment

Gail Heslep moved to adjourn the meeting. Melanie Forde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Lexington at Rockbridge Regional Library on February 22, 2024 at 4:15 PM.