

WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY
550 East Broad Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07090-2197

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting

April 26, 2023

Ms. Habayeb, President of the Board, called the regular meeting of the Westfield Memorial Library Board of Trustees to order at 7:31 P.M.

Ms. Habayeb announced:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate advance notice of this meeting has been provided by posting a notice of this meeting on the Westfield Memorial Library's community bulletin board and by transmitting the same notice to the Westfield Leader, Star Ledger, and Town Clerk. Attendance at this meeting is welcome, however the public's right to participate is left to the discretion of the Library's Board of Trustees.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Mr. Collum, Ms. Cusick, Ms. Habayeb, Ms. Motwani, Ms. Ramakrishnan, Ms. Reilly, Ms. Saltzman, and Ms. Serapiglia. Others attending were Mr. McGinley, Ms. Peist and Ms. Davidson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Saltzman moved the approval of the minutes of the March 22, 2023 regular meeting. Ms. Motwani seconded the motion, and it was approved as follows:

AYES: Ms. Motwani, Ms. Ramakrishnan, Ms. Reilly, and Ms. Saltzman.

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Ms. Cusick, Mr. Collum, Ms. Habayeb, Mr. Katz and Ms. Serapiglia.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report for March 2023 was reviewed by the Board. There were no questions.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

Mr. Collum moved to approve the Bills and Claims totaling \$72,549.55 for April 2023. Ms. Motwani seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Serapiglia arrived at this time.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Ms. Davidson, co-President of the Friends, listed the following:

- The spring book sale is ongoing, starting today. The four ladies in charge are doing a phenomenal job. They had to move the books for the library to be a polling place on election day. The Friends book sale is considered one of the best sales by vendors, as the Friends take time to sort the books, and the vendors show up for membership sale, easily spending a few hundred dollars.
- The jewelry sale is planned for November 17-18, 2023. May 1st will start collection period. The Friends visited Summit library to see how handling pricing and the jewelry sale went there. They also were in talks to maybe store books and other sale items in the lockers in our library's breakroom.

FOUNDATION

No foundation updates.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was reviewed. Mr. McGinley highlighted:

- March had the highest program attendance since Mr. McGinley has been director.
- The library had the flagpole repaired and aligned our flags with Town Hall. The patio was completed. We are only waiting for the outdoor router installation next week.
- Over 700 people attended Maker's Day. Mr. McGinley recognized the WHS Robotics team, as they were only scheduled for part of the day but stayed for the full day.
- The library hosted Courageous Conversations series first film screening. It went well for a holiday weekend. 45 people registered, 22 attended. Ashanti Jones, from NJ Institute for Social Justice, was guest speaker and answered questions following the film.
- A networking breakfast was held at the library for the Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce. The library is trying to build relationships with businesses, and offered a toolkit while learning all the ways the library can help local businesses grow.
- An Earth Day book display was created by a local student. They created a paper mâché earth and themed the display on the contributions of women to contemporary climate activism.

- LMxAC- We are scheduled to migrate in three weeks. Currently, it is all back-end prep, but staff training will be starting as well.
- Libraries of Union County Consortium- Union County is following up on the rules and details for the grants associated with Union County libraries joining shared library services consortium.
- American Library Association- The Office for Intellectual Freedom released new data on censorship attempts. 2022 was nearly double 2021 book challenges, reaching highest number of attempted book bans since the ALA started compiling data about censorship more than 20 years ago.

Ms. Cusick arrived during the Director's report. Discussions ensued after Mr. McGinley finished his report. Mr. Collum asked questions about the library's policy and structure for censorship, as well as questions in regard to board membership after having read an article related to this topic. Mr. McGinley reported that legislation has been introduced in Illinois that would give the state authority to withhold state funding for libraries that ban books. He added that New Jersey is also currently considering anti-censorship legislation.

There was also a question about a ceremony for the patio. Mr. McGinley is waiting on a plaque, so it will be in the next few weeks. The seed kickoff is scheduled for May 10th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Habayeb asked for committee reports.

Ms. Saltzman attended a webinar about content challenges in public and school libraries. Some highlights she noted for the Reconsideration Committee are as follows:

- Books in school and libraries are optional, not a requirement. This makes them fall under the first amendment.
- Personal taste based removal is denying first amendment rights. Old books or weeding requests are ok and do not violate this.
- If town over road the library's decision on a book, it could be actionable, as that is not in our policy for the Township do that.
- Any changes in access, like special rooms or signage would be a first amendment violation. The default rule is access to all.

The discussion about censorship and access continued.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Habayeb asked if there was any old business.

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Habayeb asked if there was any new business.

Mr. McGinley brought up a request for a delayed opening on the day the library goes live with LMxAC. This is recommended because during the transition week, there will be a hold on checking in returned items. The delayed opening would allow the library to both catch up on the backlog, and to prepare to celebrate going live, likely to be May 18th.

Ms. Habayeb motioned to approve the proposed delayed opening of the library on the day we migrate to LMxAC. Mr. Collum seconded this motion, and it was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Habayeb announced:

Whereas the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

Whereas this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Board of Trustees of the Westfield Memorial Library, that the public shall be excluded from the discussion of the following matters:

Personnel

Be it further resolved that minutes will be kept on file in the library director's office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

Ms. Habayeb made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:05 P.M. Mr. Collum seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

Nicole Peist

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

The Public Session reconvened at 8:09 P.M.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Mr. Collum, Ms. Cusick, Ms. Habayeb, Ms. Motwani, Ms. Ramakrishnan, Ms. Reilly, Ms. Saltzman, Ms. Serapiglia. The staff members attending were: Mr. McGinley.

Ms. Habayeb motioned that the board accept the appointment of a new part-time substitute librarian: Jamie Flynn. The position will be effective 5/1. Siva seconded the motion.

Ms. Habayeb moved the meeting adjourn. Ms. Ramakrishnan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mallory Saltzman, Board of Trustee secretary