

Regular meeting
Bedford Public Library System Board of Trustees
Minutes for February 7, 2023
Peaks Room, Bedford Central Library

Members present: Debra Bahouth, Natalie Martin, Randy Cox, Pamela Palmer, Kathryn Lewis.

Members monitoring electronically due to work obligations: Hope Cupit

Members not present: Anna Stevens

Staff present: Jenny Novalis, Library Director; Julie Wyatt, Technology Librarian

Mrs. Bahouth called the meeting to order at 5:03pm. Mrs. Bahouth asked for a motion to approve the agenda, Mrs. Martin motioned to approve the agenda, Mr. Cox seconded, all agreed. The members read the minutes from the last meeting and Mrs. Bahouth noted a correction. Mrs. Lewis motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, Mrs. Palmer seconded, all agreed.

No public comments.

Mrs. Wyatt, Technology Librarian, presented the highlights of the Library's 5 year technology plan to the Board (included in supplemental materials section of packet). This used to be required in order to receive Erate funds, but is now used as a planning tool for our IT staff and for budgeting purposes. She also introduced the next large IT project – audio/visual equipment improvements for the Bedford Room, Peaks Room (both at Bedford Central), the Stewartsville meeting room and the Montvale meeting room. The Bedford Friends of the Library have offered to cover the costs for the Bedford Room part of this project. Mrs. Wyatt also noted the security camera project has been completed, it took much longer than anticipated due to supply chain issues, and staff are familiar with the security camera policy. The Board had a couple follow up questions and comments.

Mrs. Novalis reported on several system-wide programs, including the Winter Reading Program, Valentines for Vets and Pickup Lines displays. All these programs were very well received by the community and are slated to be continued next year. Mrs. Novalis also noted the success of the Stewartsville Library in several key performance benchmarks from calendar year 2021 to 2022 (included in supplemental materials section of packet). A brief discussion ensued and the Board thanked the new manager, Deborah Ledbetter.

Mrs. Novalis reported on the various Friends of the Library groups' activities and current leadership (included in supplemental materials section of packet). Stewartsville Library

does not have a Friends group and the Montvale Friends of the Library group are still in the early stages of re-organizing.

Mrs. Novalis reported on the latest VA Legislative Session's various book or library-related legislation. As of February 7 Virginia Library Association is reporting that 4 bills were either PBI'd or otherwise not going to move forward, and there were still two bills that had crossed over from the House – HB1448 Public school library materials; DOE to make recommendations, model policies, selection and removal; HB1379 Public elementary and secondary school libraries; catalog of printed and audiovisual materials, etc. Both are headed to the Senate Education and Health Committee.

Mrs. Novalis reviewed the fund account detail and end of January operating budget revenues/expenses with the Board. There were no questions. The first BEAR for Erate category 1 reimbursement has been submitted. The category 2 reimbursement has not been submitted yet. The Library System is now eligible to receive 80% reimbursement rate for all Erate eligible expenses due to an increase in the numbers of children eligible for the free/reduced school lunch program in Bedford County. The Library has noticed an increase in utility usage – the water has almost doubled - at the Montvale Library and after Ivan traced the utility lines, discovered they are not split between what the Preservation Group is using and what the Library is using. The Board instructed Mrs. Novalis to notify the Preservation group and to bill them for the difference. Mrs. Novalis also updated the Board on the FY24 library operating budget request.

No board member comments

Mrs. Bahouth asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Palmer motioned to adjourn, Mr. Cox seconded, all agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06pm