

Bedford Public Library System
Board of Trustees meeting minutes
Moneta/Smith Mountain Lake Library
August 2, 2022 at 5:00pm

Board members present: Debra Bahouth, Pamela Palmer, Natalie Martin, Randy Cox.

Board members absent: Anna Stevens, Hope Cupit

Board members attending electronically: Kathryn Lewis attended via phone from her car & residence due to a personal matter, specifically identified as a meeting location oversight.

Staff members present: Jenny Novalis, Library Director and Jenifer Golston, Moneta Library Branch Manager.

Mrs. Bahouth called the meeting to order at 5:09

Mrs. Bahouth asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Martin motioned to approve it, Mr. Cox seconded, all agreed.

Mrs. Bahouth asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Palmer noted a change, in the third paragraph under director's report, second to last sentence, it should read "... the library needs to respect the parent's ability to decide..." Mrs. Bahouth also noted that her name was misspelled on the last page, under board member comments. Mrs. Martin motioned to approve the minutes, as corrected; Mrs. Palmer seconded, all agreed.

No public comments

Jenifer Golston, Manager of the Moneta/SML Library presented a report to the Trustees on current Moneta Library services and program statistics. [The full report is included with the meeting documents]. The Library Board discussed a few items and thanked Ms. Golston for the report.

Mrs. Novalis reviewed the circulation policy revisions discussed over the past few meetings and in anticipation of the Board's decision to eliminate overdue fines after September 1. Mrs. Novalis noted that the Lynchburg Public Library is also going to try to enact the same changes, and the staff at both systems have agreed to the same 'overdue to long overdue to lost' timeline to make it easier for patrons who use both library systems. The Board discussed final details related to how to handle existing overdue fines on patron's records and how the staff should approach chronic abusers of the policy. Mrs. Bahouth asked if there were any more discussions or points of clarification needed. The members indicated they were satisfied with the policy. Mrs. Martin motioned to accept the policy as written and make it effective September 1, and waive all existing overdue fines for BPLS patrons and a press release would go out about 2 days before September 1. Mr. Cox seconded, all agreed.

Mrs. Novalis presented an additional bullet point for the procedural section of the Appropriate Library Use policy that defines staff only areas and areas where there are reasonable expectations

of privacy for certain areas of the library. Mrs. Bahouth noted that these revisions are recommended by the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom to protect patron's privacy and ability to use the library. Mrs. Novalis added that the staff have been briefed on what to do if presented with a first amendment auditor in their public space.

As a result of the additional 2.5M for public libraries state aid the legislature passed this biennium, the BPLS will be getting an additional \$27,973 in state funds in FY23. The Board reviewed what state money can be used for and discussed the best way to use these funds. Mrs. Bahouth asked if there was any more discussion, there was none. Mrs. Novalis briefly described the County's pay study process and noted that the additional funds for the library salary/wages has already been appropriated. Mrs. Palmer motioned to use the additional state money for public area furniture, as defined by the state requirements and to adopt the new pay scale. Mrs. Lewis seconded, all agreed. Mr. Cox abstained from the vote.

The Board reviewed the end of July 2022 financial reports. There were no questions.

No Board member comments

New Business – Mrs. Bahouth stated that she would like to discuss how the board meetings could be video recorded, going forward. The meetings are already open to the public but this would show even more transparency. The Board discussed the proposal and there was consensus to begin doing so at the next meeting. Mrs. Palmer made a motion to begin recording and sharing the recordings online, Mrs. Lewis seconded, all agreed.

A heads up that the staff are planning some Banned Books Week displays. Banned Books Week (September 18-24, 2022) was launched in the 1980s and is an annual library event celebrating the freedom to read. For more information on this topic please visit, the American Library Association's official website at: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks>

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.