

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
September 21, 2011
6:30 PM
MINUTES

Millie Burns who presided called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present were: Julie Mills Worthey, Rodney Reynolds and Na'im Tyson, Trustees.

Absent: Trustees, Winston S. Maharaj

Also present: Don Partrick, CSEA Labor Relations Specialist; Gary Newman, CSEA Unit President; Christian Gill and Mary Slattery, Junior Trustees; Hafeezah Basir, Robin Finney Granston, Patricia Hansen, Robert Mc Donald, Samuel Murray, Liza Rivers-Mazza, Deborah Ramsey, Kevin Robinson, Geraldo Soares, Rebecca Steere and Tamara Stewart, library patrons; Cheryl Berent, Erika Charley, Maxine Grandison, Scott Griffith, Leroy Lea, Rebecca Newman, Nishan Stepak, Cheryl Thomas, library staff; Opal Brown Lindsay, Director; and Mary Harper, Administrative Assistant.

JUNIOR TRUSTEES:

Mary Slattery and Christian Gill each gave a presentation about their experience working as junior trustees for the Mount Vernon Public Library. Their first project is a video documentation of library patrons.

PERIOD OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Liza Rivers Mazza spoke about seeing former librarian, Kevin Robinson working with children and young adults. She said that he was very helpful.

Mrs. Rivers Mazza said that she found out he had been terminated due to a technicality. She said that she felt that Mr. Robinson was a tremendous asset to the library and extremely positive. Mrs. Rivers Mazza asked if perhaps he could be given another opportunity.

Samuel Murray said that he has used the law library for many years. He said that he was in the library last week and for the first time he didn't have the resource.

Mr. Murray said that it is extremely important for the library to maintain a full library for the law collection. He said that the library is the central legal library at a premier facility. He urged that it be restored as soon as possible.

Cheryl Thomas said that the library desperately needed security in the children's room from 3:00 pm until closing.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Millie Burns said that she attended the general staff meeting.

At the staff meeting Robin Finney Granston of Community Capital Resources spoke to the staff and noted the collegiality among the staff members.

Ms. Burns said that she underscores the comments from Liza Rivers Mazza regarding Kevin Robinson.

Millie Burns said that it is important that the staff knows the community relies on them. They are the face of the library.

It is important that every interaction with the community is as important as can be.

21, Sept, 11 – 2 –

Millie Burns attended the friends meeting. She reported that we are raising the bar and the community will see a noticeable difference by the end of the year. She said that she hopes people see the value in money going towards the library.

FOUNDATION REPORT:

Opal Brown Lindsay said that the foundation needs information on the governance campaign plans.

The foundation plans a letter writing campaign for fund raising.

The leadership of the foundation remains the same, with Camille Banks Lee as President.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director, Opal Brown Lindsay reported the following:

At the PLDA meeting, the issue of library fines was reviewed.

The WLS Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 in White Plains.

Patricia Braja has been hired as the WLS Development Director.

The next rotunda gallery exhibit will feature the Mount Vernon City School District students.

A book signing with Dr. Claudia Edwards is scheduled for September 30, 2011.

The Together Book Talk grant workshops begin on October 3, 2011.

The online database Tutor.com has been renewed.

The library's strategic plan was discussed at the staff meeting.

Millie Burns said that she had asked for a listing of all costs related to the Dr. Claudia Edwards event. Opal Lindsay said that she had sent them.

Ms. Burns said that she assumes that there are other costs and had asked very specific questions.

Who is servicing the event and what about security? Is it a public event or by invitation only? Mrs. Lindsay said invitation, but may be open to the public.

Millie Burns asked if the event were open to the public wouldn't security be needed. She said that she needed to have all costs associated to determine if security can be afforded.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Millie Burns reported that the library has hired a temporary worker who is working very hard to provide information on costs. She has provided everything needed so far.

REMARKS OF THE TRUSTEES:

Na'im Tyson said that they are at the point of engagement with the tax consultant for the IRS problem.

The trustees must review and sign the letter that has been distributed.

21, Sept, 11 – 3 –

The tax consultant is a CPA, but can take on independent work.

Millie Burns asked if the person would be working individually or with a company. She said that letters from the consultant can be addressed to the Board of Trustees of the Mount Vernon Public Library or the board president.

GRIEVANCES:

Don Partrick said that in discussions with the board regarding the overtime grievance it was his understanding at the last meeting there would be some discussion.

He said that there is also a grievance regarding time shifts.

Gary Newman said that a meeting was had to discuss a settlement on the grievances. He said that he had emailed Millie Burns and Na'im Tyson with proposed language.

The grievance concerned changes in the library hours in June. The hours have been changed from 9 to 5. Hours cannot be changed more than ½ hour. At the time the hours were changed from 10 am to 6 pm. No one was given the ability to volunteer.

Mr. Newman said as for the six out of title grievances; a yes or no answer is needed.

As of August 27, 2011, there is a new grievance for out of title pay. Scott Griffith is performing duties out of title and has not received pay.

HURRICANE ASSISTANCE:

Millie Burns said that she sent out an email the day after hurricane Irene about some damage to the library. She received an overwhelming response.

Ms. Burns said that Roberta Appuzzo has offered assistance. We need to come up with a wish list of what we want her to sponsor.

Millie Burns said that she got an email from Eliot Engel regarding assistance.

FRIENDS BOOK AND BAKE SALE:

Millie Burns said that she received an email that the Friends Book and Bake sale is on November 4th and 5th. She asked if Opal Lindsay could confirm there is staff to work on that day.

Opal Lindsay said that she thought the board was working on that.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The election of officers was temporarily tabled.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm. Upon a motion by Na'im Tyson, seconded by Rodney Reynolds, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted

Secretary