

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 19, 2010

6:30 pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Danna Wood Webb who presided called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Present were: Millie Burns, Susan Capeci, Julie Mills Worthey and, Rodney Reynolds, Trustees.

Also present were: Gary Newman, CSEA Unit President,; Danielle Barden, Jovanna Easterling, Shirley Garrett; Scott Griffith, Deborah Ramsey, Kevin Robinson, Geraldo Soares, Cheryl Thomas, Tenya Thompson, library staff; Andrea Fobbs, Kaare Hansen, patrons; Opal Brown Lindsay, Director; Patricia Hansen, Interim Business Manager; and Mary Harper, Administrative Assistant.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2010 were adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Danna Wood Webb read a letter from the New York State Dormitory Authority regarding a grant the library has applied for.

PERIOD OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Board President, Danna Wood-Webb said that the period of public expression would be limited to three minutes for each speaker.

Gary Newman objected saying that no motion had been made by the board to limit the speakers time.

Upon a motion by Susan Capeci, seconded by Millie Burns, the Board moved to limit the time for each speaker during the period of public expression to three minutes.

Mr. Newman objected to the fact that the motion was made during the period of public expression.

Gary Newman objected to a statement in the April minutes attributed to him regarding the Westlaw database. Mr. Newman called the statement completely fabricated. He stated he did not say that Westlaw was available through Pace, nor did he say only nine people used it last year.

Mr. Newman stated that if he were going to be gagged, there were ways other ways of expressing himself.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board President Danna Wood Webb said the library is continuing to meet with city officials regarding the budget.

There is disappointment that the Mount Vernon School Board budget did not pass. The library may be asked to pick up some of the slack for activities that will not be available at the schools.

Mrs. Webb attended a meeting at the judicial offices in Manhattan. The “Access to Justice” program is interested in getting involved in libraries.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Library Director, Opal Brown Lindsay reported the following:

The library is working with the dormitory authority on a grant that was previously initiated by the library foundation.

Renovations are scheduled for the young adult room and the outer perimeter of the library. The library has received a mini grant from Home Depot that will be incorporated in the renovations.

The director has been contacted by a landscape architect who was recommended by the contractor.

Administrative Assistant, Mary Harper has moved to an office in the Business Office, the Director will be moving into the former administrative office and the former Director’s office will be used as a trustee board room and meeting room.

Opal Brown Lindsay spoke with the Assistant DA during the Westlaw meeting on Monday, May 17, 2010. The Assistant DA was unaware that the Westlaw database was offered at Mount Vernon.

Mrs. Lindsay will attend the PLDA meeting tomorrow to discuss the CLDA budget.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Patricia Hansen presented the counter proposal to the CLDA budget

Upon a motion by Susan Capeci, seconded by Rodney Reynolds, the Board approved the revised CLDA budget.

Journal entry corrections must be made to correct bills that were posted to the wrong month due to a program error.

City Hall has sent the library an electrical bill for the past four months. Mrs. Hansen said she has someone tracking the bills to ensure the library receives them on time.

Danna Webb asked where the library was regarding the budget and had any response been received regarding appeals for finances.

Patricia Hansen said that the library is going to have to make moves soon or it will run out of money by October 1st.

Opal Lindsay said that she has been meeting with city hall and with civil service.

The April 2010 Bills and Payrolls totaling \$ \$390, 363.19 properly certified by the Director and reviewed by Rodney Reynolds and Susan Capeci were approved by the Board of Trustees and requested paid.

The checks are numbered #020073-020109 (Payrolls), #056242-056274 (payrolls, petty cash), and # 030795-030851 (bills).

OLD BUSINESS:

There was discussion about the library governance issue and when the library would be prepared to take its budget out to vote.

It is felt that the small cities school district model is best for the library. Once the budget is passed the amount of money the library receives will remain the same.

Susan Capeci suggested that the library go to the city to request financial support until it is ready to take the budget out for public vote. A resolution is needed to the city to support the library.

Trustee Julie Mills-Worthy moved:

that in light of the library's grave financial situation and with the hope that under a School District Public Library system, the library will be in a better position to address budgetary issues in the future like the financial problems the library faces today, that the library Board of Trustees resolve to take certain affirmative steps that will allow us to begin the process of creating a "School District Public Library" system of governance. It is my view that if we don't move forward on the governance issue and if emergency funding or insufficient emergency funding is not provided by the City through this or any other process before the end of this month we must reconfirm the Director's authority to engage in a reduction in force and other cost saving measures, in a manner she deems most appropriate,

Included in this resolution is that:

- 1) the Board resolves to adopt a School District Public Library system of governance in accordance with the current library charter
- 2) we communicate our intention to the Library employee union and request their affirmative support in our efforts, if such support is given that we ask the Union for any technical assistance and financial resources they may have to enhance our public relations outreach.
- 3) that the resolution confirm that we will approach the City of Mount Vernon for their support to our change in governance and request that the City of Mount Vernon before the end of this month provide the Library with emergency funding for 2010 and that we ask the City to agree to provide us with back up funding for whichever fiscal year that the Mount Vernon Public Library seeks voter approval of an operating budget.

And

- 4) Finally, I move that if we are unsuccessful in securing emergency funding or we achieve insufficient emergency funding from the City through this or any other process before the end of this month that this motion reconfirm's the Director's authority to engage in a reduction in force and other cost saving measures, in a manner she deems most appropriate, to address the financial emergency of the Library to meet its operational needs.

The motion was seconded by Susan Capeci and passed unanimously.

It was felt that the library should try to capitalize on emergency funding now.

The administration will meet with the city council's committee on library governance as soon as possible.

The Board of Regents should be informed of the library's decision.

The administration should submit a bottom line figure for what is needed to the city in order to keep jobs in place. Approximately \$430,000 is needed in order to meet the needs of the library with cutbacks. This amount is needed for the remainder of 2010 and the entire budget is needed from the city for 2011 until the library budget is voted on.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the library needs the support of the staff and the union and thinks that contact should be made with the union. Opal Lindsay said that she would speak with Gary Newman.

Susan Capeci said that the library should meet with the City Council first to ensure it has the financial backing.

There was discussion about public awareness for the library vote and what means the library would use to pay for the consultant. Library funds cannot be used to appeal for a *yes* vote on the budget issue. You can educate the public, but you cannot encourage them to vote one way or another.

Danna Webb said that it is critical to bring in the Foundation to do fund raising specifically to fund public outreach for the school district public library system.

Mrs. Webb felt that with the support of the staff and the union the library probably can do a good job.

The voting process may be a year or year and one half away. That time can be spent on information and education to the public before the vote.

The Board may have to have an interim meeting before the end of May.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion about Summer Saturday and Sunday hours.

Opal Brown Lindsay said that she would like to open on Sundays during the summer and close on Saturdays. She does not think being open on Saturdays in the summer is reaching the community. They can be better reached during Sunday hours.

During July and August the library hours will be as followed:

Monday through Thursday	9 am to 8pm
Friday	9 am to 5pm
Sunday	1 pm to 5pm

There will be major publicizing of the change in summer hours.

Gary Newman said that when you open on Saturday you are giving people compensatory time. When you are open on Sundays you pay people time and one half.

Patricia Hansen said that the contract does not say you pay time and one half for Sunday hours. Even if time and one half were paid people would only be paid for six hours rather than seven.

It was asked if any thought were given to special programming and what were the plans for publicizing the change.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board entered executive session at 7:45 pm on a motion by Rodney Reynolds, seconded by Susan Capeci.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:25 pm. No decisions were recorded

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary