

SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 14, 2014

7:30 PM

MINUTES

Na'im Tyson who presided called the meeting to order at 7:27 pm

Present were: Dawn Cancellieri, Marcia Dupree, Julie Mills Worthey and David Ockene.

Also present were: Linda Bryant, Oscar Davis and Brian Johnson, Trustees Elect; Hafeezah Basir, Jamie Pessin and Tamara Stewart, Patrons and Mary Harper, Administrative Assistant

The resolution to certify the election results was tabled. One of the co-chairpersons of the election could not yet be contacted for a signature.

Julie Mills Worthey asked what the time line was in terms of passing the resolution.

Dr. Tyson said that it should be done before the new trustees are sworn in.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said if the co-chairperson has not contacted the library by tomorrow morning, then the library should pay a visit to her home to leave a message.

Comptroller Letter

Julie Mills Worthey said there was an issue last week with the checks for the election inspectors and added expenses that were incurred during the election. The checks remain outstanding. They were not signed and voided; as well as two checks for Libby Post.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said that she spoke to the comptroller. The comptroller expressed that the library had not been specific enough in the budget to the city and did not delineate for the election.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the library is new to the process and did not know. It was her understanding that this was part of the budget proposal that was expressed to the city council and the Mayor.

Mrs. Walker felt that she is responsible to sign the checks and did not have the proper information.

Maureen Walker said that she did not want any person who provided services to go unpaid and if the checks were reissued she would sign them.

Chief Account Clerk, Juan Jaramillo gave the comptroller a more detailed account.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said that she reached out to attorney Robert Schofield. His opinion was that he could not speak to individual trustees.

Julie Mills Worthey said that Carolyn Karwoski has drafted a letter to the comptroller outlining why she should sign the checks. The letter cannot be sent, since the checks have been signed.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said a directive should go to the comptroller why she should not reduce the library budget based on the amount spent for the election.

Julie Mills Worthey said she does not know if this issue is urgent for this board to handle.

The checks not signed are the inspector checks, photographer, graphic design and printing and the cost incurred by Libby Post.

Julie Mills Worthey said the budget line item for professional fees was correlated to include these costs. Dr. Tyson asked if the comptroller wanted a specific line.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said Mrs. Walker indicated this is how the city and the school board do it.

Dr. Tyson asked if the comptroller wanted it revised or taken out.

Julie Mills Worthey said that is a problem, in itself. The budget is already reduced. For the comptroller to reduce further is problematic. Mrs. Worthey said she does not know if Mrs. Walker has the authority. Mrs. Walker said that we should have put this in the budget. Now that we have shown we did, she would need some other justification to reduce the budget.

Dr. Tyson asked if Mrs. Worthey or Juan Jaramillo had received anything in writing. She said no.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said that she would advise that Carolyn Karwoski have a conversation with the comptroller. She said she does not want to see the budget suffer because Mrs. Walker believes we are not transparent.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the city council and the Mayor are well aware of the money we spent.

Dr. Tyson said that the letter should not be sent.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the comptroller thinks that the library should have vetted its educational materials with her before they were mailed out.

Mrs. Walker said there are things in the educational materials that she did not agree with. She felt there was an issue with making representations to the public regarding the library portion of the tax bill.

Julie Mills Worthey said that she thinks the tax payers are informed enough to understand the examples given.

Julie Mills Worthey said that she thinks the comptroller being upset with the promotional and educational materials brought her to the point of not signing the checks.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said that she thinks it is a good time for the director or a representative from the Board to meet with the comptroller and have an understanding that what the library does in sending its educational materials is the business of the library and does not need the approval of the comptroller.

Upon a motion by Julie Mills Worthey, seconded by David Ockene the board rejected the letter to the comptroller.

Dr. Tyson asked if the comptroller wanted the 2015 budget to be revised to include that line.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said that she thinks the new board should decide how they want the 2015 budget revised. She said that the 2015 budget expenses are going to be significantly different. A huge budget campaign will not be needed.

David Ockene asked if Libby Post's payments were an issue, why not the smaller payments.  
Dr. Tyson said they were taken from a different fund.

David Ockene said it seems some emails said they could speak to the attorney.

Julie Mills Worthey said that she was offended to be told that the board members could not speak to the attorney; especially since we approve his payments. He was told that Carolyn Karwoski was out of town.

Upon a motion by David Ockene, seconded by Dawn Cancellieri the board moved to go into executive session at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted

*Carolyn Karwoski*  
Secretary