

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
June 15, 2021**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 4616 Provine Place, Alexandria by Board Vice President Greg Walker.

Board members present were Mr. Walker, Ms. Le’Anza Jordan, Ms. Linda McMahon, Ms. Lana Havens, Mr. Morris Taft Thomas, Mr. Ralph Roach, and Ms. June Arrington. President Michael Fairbanks and Ms. Dana Cox were absent.

Also present were Director Celise Reech-Harper and eleven other attendees.

Mr. Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

Agenda

Mr. Walker called for approval of the agenda, which was approved by unanimous consent.

Minutes

Mr. Walker called for approval of the May minutes, which were approved by unanimous consent.

Financial Report

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the May financial report, which showed higher state revenue shares than expected. Two e-rate credits have been received in the amount of \$23,362; a third credit is pending. Noted expenditures were normal maintenance fees and several HVAC unit repairs. Spending on the Boyce Branch Project is on track with the budget.

Mr. Walker called for approval of the financial report. It was approved by unanimous consent.

Director’s Report

Director Celise Reech-Harper reported on the following:

- The Boyce construction project is going well despite weather and supply chain setbacks. Exterior brickwork is underway. Moveable shelving has been chosen for the branch, which will cost more upfront but is expected to save on long-term moving and rearranging expenses.
- Long-term cost analysis is also being applied to the HVAC units, with damaged parts being replaced when financially feasible rather than temporarily repaired.
- RPL is engaged in community partnerships to bring mental health resources, back to school events, high school equivalency training, and COVID-19 vaccines to the community.
- The American Rescue Act funds will be used to add charging stations to all branches, purchase additional hot spots, and expand technology offerings.

- The Strategic Planning Committee is collecting data via survey responses to use in the formation of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.
- The Library's internal statistics keeping methods are being reviewed and simplified.

Ms. Reech-Harper presented the statistical report for January, February and March. Due to the pandemic, the Library provided only distanced services during this quarter and the numbers reflect that decrease in activity. The next quarter is expected to show growth, as doors reopened to the public in mid-March. The statistics also show that virtual programming, added in March of 2020, has been successful.

Human Resources

The Board congratulated and commended Westside Regional Manager Pam Martin on completing the ALA-APA Library Support Staff Certification Program.

Outreach and Youth Services

Outreach Services Coordinator Tammy DiBartolo said Outreach is in high demand now that the community is opening back up. The Bookmobile has a busy summer schedule, and a daycare center has requested POP services again. Dr. Temple Grandin's appearance continues to generate excitement; tickets are available now through RPL's website and Facebook.

Ms. DiBartolo also recognized Bookmobile Clerk Jan Farmer for 40 years of service to RPL. Ms. Farmer will be presented with an award in gratitude for her dedication to the Library and the community.

IT

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux reported that staff attended the Innovative Users Group Conference virtually this year, all public computers have been updated, and online registration for virtual library cards will be live on the RPL website soon.

Public Relations

Public Relations Officer Jennifer Hughes has been promoting the Strategic Planning surveys, the Summer Reading Program, Dr. Grandin's speech, and the Back-to-School Supply Giveaway that will be held on July 24th at Kees Park in Pineville. RPL social media has gained 156 followers.

New Business

The Rapides Parish Police Jury has approved the reappointment of Ms. June Arrington to the Library Board of Control for a second term of five years. Mr. Walker called for the Board to recognize the reappointment. Ms. Havens so moved, seconded by Ms. McMahon. Upon unanimous approval, Ms. Arrington recited and signed the Oath of Office, which was notarized by Ms. Tara DeMarco Williamson.

The next meeting will be on August 17, 2021 at the Westside Regional Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Michael Fairbanks
President