

**Rapides Parish Library  
Board of Control  
December 13, 2022**

**Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:35 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by President Michael Fairbanks.

Board members present were Mr. Fairbanks, Ms. Le’Anza Jordan, Ms. June Arrington, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Mr. Ralph Roach, Mr. James Morgan, and Ms. Lana Havens. Ms. Dana Cox and Mr. Morris Taft Thomas were absent.

Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, seven members of staff, and approximately 117 members of the public.

Mr. Fairbanks led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Agenda**

Ms. Hobbs moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Roach. On unanimous vote, the motioned passed.

**Minutes**

Ms. Jordan moved to approve the November minutes, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motioned passed.

**Public Comments**

With regard to agenda item 14e, Collection Development Policy Amendment Proposal (James Morgan – District G), eight members of the public spoke in favor of the amendment and nineteen members of the public spoke against the amendment. Three letters of concern were emailed to board members and placed in their board packets as well.

**Financial Report**

In Business Manager Stacy Dubrock’s absence, Celise Reech-Harper presented the November financial report, which held no unanticipated costs for the month. Ms. Reech-Harper gave a brief summary of the Library’s 2022 financial history, which included increases in gas, supply, and utility costs balanced by gains in ad valorem and e-rate revenues.

Ms. Havens moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Mr. Roach. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Director’s Report**

Library Director Celise Reech-Harper reported on the following:

- The Library showed growth in transactions, with totals already surpassing those of 2021.
- The Library is partnering with the Food Bank of Central Louisiana to provide an after-school feeding program for children at the Robertson Branch, with plans to expand to other branches soon.

- The Friends of the Library are working on a grant from Blue Cross in an effort to create telehealth kiosks at some locations.
- Window coatings at King Branch will be replaced to ensure the windows remain clean and clear.

#### **Direct Services Report**

No report.

#### **Human Resources Report**

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown presented System Administrator Monte Eddlemon for ratification. Ms. Havens moved to ratify the appointment, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

#### **Programming & Outreach Report**

Programming and Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby spoke on events in the last month, including Rapides Parish School Board literacy bus visits, Gleaux for the Girls, an informational session at LSUA, and Family Day at Camp Beauregard. This year's Letters from Santa program sent 585 letters to children in our communities.

#### **IT Report**

ILS Administrator Trina Kirk reported on this year's ILS progress, which included welcoming a new ILS Clerk and streamlining duplicate record management. In 2023, ILS plans to resume in-branch training for staff and implement seamless upgrades to the system.

#### **Public Relations Report**

Public Relations Officer Jennifer Smarr promoted upcoming events celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the winter season as well as computer training, photography classes, and a teen poetry workshop. She encouraged everyone to visit the events calendar and to take advantage of the Library's newest database, Comics Plus.

#### **New Business**

Nominating Committee Chair Lana Havens presented the following slate of Board of Control officers for 2023:

- Le'Anza Jordan – President
- Lana Havens – Vice President
- June Arrington – Treasurer

No further nominations were put forth. Mr. Roach moved to accept the presented slate of officers, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Reech-Harper distributed 2023 committee assignments with the amendment that Ms. Jordan, as the newly elected 2023 Board President, will serve as an ex-officio member on all committees. Ms. Arrington moved to accept the amended committee appointments, seconded by Mr. Roach. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Board members each received the Director's Annual Evaluation form and a proposal for the Director's contract. The Personnel Committee will meet prior to the regular meeting on January 17 to discuss the evaluation results.

Mr. James Morgan presented a proposed amendment to the Library's Collection Development Policy, which would add the following statement in regard to the Library's children and teen collections:

"These collections shall not include materials containing obscenity, sexual content (including content regarding sexual orientation and gender identity), or any other material that is unsuitable for the children and teen collections. Library events and displays for children shall be held to the same standard."

Mr. Morgan requested that the matter be voted upon at the next meeting, referencing a two-week notice period for agenda items.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at the Westside Regional Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Celise Reech-Harper  
Secretary

Michael Fairbanks  
President