

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
May 16, 2023**

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 Le'Anza Jordan.

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

Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper and eight members of staff.

Ms. Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Ms. Havens motioned to approve the March minutes, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Service Awards

Substitute Clerk Rusty Gaspard was honored for twenty-five years of service to the Library.

Financial Report

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the financial report for March and informed the board that the annual audit is underway. The auditor's report will be presented at the July meeting. Mr. Roach motioned to approve the report, seconded by Ms. Havens. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Director's Report

Library Director Celise Reech-Harper presented library updates, including RPL's participation in the Keep Louisiana Beautiful campaign by offering litter clean up kits for check out and a new partnership with the T.R.E.E. House Children's Museum; passes will soon be available for check out at participating branches. She also mentioned ongoing branch beautification projects and an update from Attorney Greg Jones regarding SB-7 that was placed in the board packets.

Direct Services Report

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton reported that all locations will host Summer Reading Program kickoff events on June 1. This year's theme is "All Together Now," which explores kindness,

friendship, and unity. The Library will partner with the Food Bank of Central Louisiana again this year to provide a weekday summer meal program for children as well as a backpack program at some locations.

Human Resources Report

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown presented Circulation/Reference Clerk Zoe “Zaii” Hamilton for ratification. Mr. Roach moved to ratify the appointment, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Programming & Outreach Report

Programming and Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported on community outreach progress in April and preparations for summer reading. The entertainment lineup for the program this summer will include four performers, three of whom are new to RPL.

IT Report

No report.

Public Relations Report

Ms. Reech-Harper introduced Sandie Buller as the new Public Relations Manager for the Library. Ms. Buller is currently settling into the position by reviewing and auditing the Library’s communications and promotions systems for improvement.

Old Business

None.

New Business

With the cessation of the national public health crisis on May 11, the Library’s Families First Coronavirus Response Act Policy was presented for review. The policy provided for a special category of emergency leave available to staff affected by COVID-19, which was deemed necessary by the Board during the period of widespread quarantines. After a brief discussion in which it was clarified that staff would still be encouraged to quarantine as needed using their regularly allocated sick leave, Mr. Morgan moved to discontinue the FFCRA Policy, seconded by Mr. Roach. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at the Westside Regional Library.

With no further business, Ms. Jordan called for adjournment. Ms. Cox so moved, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Le’Anza Jordan
President