

**Rapides Parish Library  
Board of Control  
July 18, 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, Mr. Morris Taft Thomas, and Ms. June Arrington. Mr. Michael Fairbanks was absent.

Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, Assistant District Attorney Greg Jones, auditor Lee Willis, seven members of staff, and four members of the public.

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

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the May minutes, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**New Business**

Ms. Jordan requested that agenda item 15.a, Amendment to the Board of Control Manual, be moved forward to allow Assistant District Attorney Greg Jones the opportunity to address the board.

Mr. Jones reported on the passage of Louisiana Senate Bill 7, which affects library cardholder and collections policies. A copy of the law was distributed and the implementation dates of the bill reviewed. He then submitted a written recommendation to the board, advising them to consider amending section "6.1 Standing Committees" of the Board of Control Manual to create a fourth committee, the Policies and Reconsideration of Materials Committee. The purpose of the new committee would be to review existing and proposed policies, consider materials reconsideration requests as they arise, and bring their findings and opinions to the full board for action.

Mr. Morgan expressed that a vote should only occur two weeks after written notice of a recommendation, to allow time for consideration per board bylaws. Ms. Arrington moved for a special meeting of the board to be called to further consider the matter. Ms. Havens seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

**Service Awards**

Hineston Branch Manager Joy Luttrell was honored for twenty years of service to the Library.

**2022 Audit**

Mr. Lee Willis of Rosier, McKay and Willis presented a copy of the 2022 audit and reported that no corrective actions are required. Mr. Roach moved to approve the report, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Financial Report**

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock explained that the state now requires purchases of printed materials and electronic materials to be reported on separate line items, so previous reports for the year have been updated to meet this requirement. Though costs for air conditioner upkeep continue to rise, the budget is being maintained. Future reports will reflect savings on copier costs due to contract renegotiations.

Ms. Havens motioned to approve the financial report, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Director's Report**

Library Director Celise Reech-Harper shared updates regarding community partnerships, the recent LLA conference in Baton Rouge, and improved security lighting at several branches. The Library has purchased Vega calendar software which should increase programming information access across the community.

**Direct Services Report**

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton reported that branches are planning their end of summer and back-to-school events.

**Human Resources Report**

None.

**Programming & Outreach Report**

Programming and Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby gave highlights of Summer Reading activities and entertainment as well as information on upcoming school supply giveaways.

**IT Report**

None.

**Public Relations Report**

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller was pleased to announce that the Event Guide is now available as a digital download on the library's website.

**Old Business**

None.

The next regularly scheduled Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Cox motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Roach. On unanimous vote, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Celise Reech-Harper  
Secretary

Le'Anza Jordan  
President