

**Rapides Parish Library
Finance Committee of the Board of Control
October 19, 2023**

Minutes

A meeting of the Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee of the Rapides Parish Board of Control was held at the Huie-Dellmon House, 430 St. James Street, Alexandria, LA.

Committee members present were Ms. Irene Hobbs (Chair), Ms. Dana Cox, Mr. Ralph Roach, and Board President Le’Anza Jordan. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, Assistant District Attorney Greg Jones, Administrative Assistant Kendra Bertrand, and one member of the media.

Ms. Hobbs called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Agenda

Ms. Jordan asked that the agenda be amended to add section 5a. Discussion of Materials Circulation Policy. Mr. Roach seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Collection Development Policy

The library’s existing Collection Development Policy was presented with an updated draft version of the policy which included possible amendments based on Act 436. Mr. Jones outlined the recommended changes, and an in-depth review of the documents and discussion followed. Based on this review, the committee proposed the following actions:

- Add a “Guidance for Libraries Implementing 2023 LA Acts No. 4365” clause (Section II: Guidance) and correct a missing quotation mark on the final draft.
- Change the wording in the last paragraph of Section IV: Responsibility for Materials Selection from “unusual problems” to “atypical issues.”
- Delete the text referring to “in loco parentis” in Section IV: Principles of Selection, paragraph one. The paragraph will stop after “teens (ages 13-17).”

Mr. Roach motioned to accept the changes as discussed. Ms. Cox seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Reconsideration Form

The library’s current Request for Reconsideration of Library Material form was reviewed alongside a similar form recommended by the Attorney General’s office. The suggested version includes the question “Is this complaint related to LA R.S. 25:225 (Access of Materials to Minors)?” Ms. Reech-Harper explained that if the complaint is related to the indicated law, it will be reviewed by the Board of Control in a general meeting. Complaints not related to this law will continue to be reviewed by the Library Director.

Ms. Cox motioned to adopt the new Reconsideration form and procedure. Mr. Roach seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Materials Circulation Policy

Upon review of both the existing and recommended draft versions of the Materials Circulation Policy, the committee favored the following changes:

- Add a semicolon to the description of “Restricted Minor” in Section 2 to clarify a run-on sentence.
- Also in Section 2, add language next to “Customer Types” confirming that parents will be responsible for choosing a minor’s card type.
- Move information from Section 8 on fines relating to laptop check-out to Section 5, which covers fines at length.

Ms. Cox motioned to move forward with the discussed changes to the policy, seconded by Mr. Roach. The motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Jones will assist the Library Director in redrafting the Materials Circulation Policy and the Collection Development Policy based on the approved committee decisions. The updated drafts will be made available at the next meeting of the committee, where they will undergo final review before a vote to bring them to the full board for consideration.

The committee will meet again on Monday, October 30 at 1:00 p.m. at the Huie-Dellmon House in Alexandria.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Irene Hobbs
Committee Chair