

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
May 21, 2024**

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, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by President Le'Anza Jordan.

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

Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, eight members of library staff, and three members of the public.

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

Agenda

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

Minutes

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the minutes of the March meeting, seconded by Mr. Roach. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Financial Report

Ms. Dubrock presented the March and April financial reports. Copying and maintenance costs continue to increase while new e-rate percentages will help reduce internet costs in the second half of the year. Ms. Cox motioned to approve the financial report, seconded by Ms. Mickey. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Director's Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on facilities and business office updates, as well as upcoming bank changes that may require action to be taken on some library accounts.

Direct Services Report

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton invited Westside Regional Manager Pam Martin to highlight National Volunteer Month by introducing three of the library's many volunteers: Lisa Dufour, Louise Simon, and Rebekah Enger. Ms. Martin described the value of volunteers in libraries and thanked those present for their services.

Human Resources Report

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown presented four employees for ratification:

Ms. Mickey motioned to ratify the employment of Johnson Branch Circulation/Reference Clerk Jackie Craven. Ms. Cox seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Roach motioned to ratify the employment of Main Library Circulation/Reference Clerk Maisie Guild. Ms. Hobbs seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Cox motioned to ratify the employment of Floating Program/Outreach Clerk Laurie Watts. Mr. Roach seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Mickey motioned to ratify the employment of McDonald Branch Circulation/Reference Clerk LeAnn Moak. Mr. Roach seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Programming & Outreach Report

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby showcased Artist of the Month Brandon O'Neal's photography and provided updates on the Summer Reading Program. She expressed the Library's appreciation to volunteer Tammy who conducts weekly story times at Westside Regional Library.

IT Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on recent regional internet outages. Three library staff members will attend the State Library's upcoming TechFest in Baton Rouge.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations & Marketing Manager Sandie Buller announced the addition of Breeanna Foght to the PR team. Their department will focus this summer on promoting library resources and community events with a new owl mascot.

New Business

Ms. Reech-Harper explained that public interest and support of the African American Culture & Heritage Center has led to the need for a dedicated bank account in which to set aside donations for its maintenance and growth. Mr. Morgan motioned to establish an account in the name of the Rapides Parish Library African American Culture & Heritage Center; two signers will be required on the account, those being Celise A. Reech-Harper (Library Director) and Stacy A. Dubrock (Business Manager). Ms. Cox seconded, and on vote the motion unanimously passed.

It was brought to the Director's attention that the library's website currently embeds board member emails in hyperlink format. Ms. Reech-Harper said that the site will be edited to make the email addresses clearly visible at a glance.

Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee Chair Ms. Irene Hobbs reported that the committee met on April 17 to discuss a request to change the library's classification of the Romanian film "Miracle" from PG-13 to R. After review and discussion, the committee formed a recommendation that the named item be reclassified as rated R and that all unrated and non-rated DVDs be rated R as a precautionary measure and housed in the adult section. Ms. Cox motioned to accept and enact the

recommendations of the committee. Ms. Mickey seconded, and on vote the motion unanimously passed.

Per Agenda item 14d, Ms. Cox motioned to enter into executive session, seconded by Ms. Mickey. On vote, the motion unanimously passed.

For the purpose of discussing personnel matters, executive session was entered at 4:27 p.m.

Mr. Morgan motioned to end executive session, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed. Executive session ended at 4:52 p.m.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Cox motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Roach. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Le'Anza Jordan
President