

York County Library Board of Trustees
Minutes from April 11, 2024 Meeting - York Public Library

The YCL Board meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Dahlin, Board Chair. A quorum was determined with the following trustees in attendance: Debra Dahlin, Dennis Getter, Wendi Michael, Timothy Steele, Susan Piening, Charles Robinson, and Anne Witte. Also present from YCL: Martin House, Buffy Koran, Lee Smith, and Julie Ward.

A motion was made and carried unanimously to approve the agenda. (Getter/Steele)

Public Comment:

Barbara Bugg, York, South Carolina - Speaking in favor of agenda item: old business discussing the importance of libraries and asking that leaders take a stand against censorship.

Dr. Martha Edwards, Rock Hill, South Carolina - Speaking in favor of agenda item: new business as a trained pediatrician with a history in taking care of children. Discussing how parents of patients always looked for guidance on behavioral issues and mental health challenges. Found that the program Reach Out and Read helped with building strong children that helped with literacy and building connection. There is a declared mental health crisis for children and teens that has been exacerbated by excess screen time and the pandemic.

A motion was made and carried unanimously to approve the March minutes with the correction of Dr. being added to Dixon's name and correcting her title to Assistant Superintendent of Academic Innovation & Professional Learning. (Witte/Michael)

Budget Proposal, Second Draft

Smith explained that this draft shows changes based on the increased value of a mil and will be the FY 2024/25 operating budget unless changed by county council or if there is an increase in state aid. Noted changes are an increase in revenue to due an increase in the value of a mill, increased salaries in the hopes of a 3.5% merit increase and an additional part time employee in Fort Mill, decreased benefits due to an audit of the insurance budget, increase in books due to phonics collection and more adult fiction, increased electronic reference due to increased demand, increased building maintenance due to potential costs from electrical project and safety devices, increased cost in marketing for patron point software, increase in professional fees due to community needs consultant, increase in programs due to continuing YC Reads, increase in travel/staff development due to literacy and safety training needs, increase in postage due to recent usage and postage prices, increase in security to allow for a 30 hour per week guard instead of 20 hours per week.

Steele asked why we need to increase the budget to spend more of taxpayer money if it was approved for less in February. He stated that property taxes keep increasing and we need to be responsible. Michael shared that the amount allocated to the library for property taxes is very small. Getter added that the budget should not change to accommodate the value of a mil, but the millage should change to accommodate the budget. Smith reiterated that we do not ask for an increase in millage (just to receive the value of our current millage) and that it is not always

an option to use alternative funding sources for priority items. Robinson said that library services are essential and the increased budget is necessary to stay cutting edge and relevant in today's world. Getter questioned the increase in electronic reference. Robinson stated that digital access is important for life-long learning and the increase will allow the library to maintain services in a growth mode. Piening asked how we know this increase is what is needed. Smith explained how checkouts, statistics, and projections are done for electronic reference vendors. Michael noted how important access to a virtual library collection is for middle school students, especially those who are differently abled.

A motion was made and carried to approve the Budget Proposal, Second Draft. Ayes - Getter, Michael, Piening, Robinson, Witte. Nays - Steele. (Witte/Robinson)

Director's Report

Finance - Variances are similar to last month with revenues up due to a PEBA credit for SCRS, payments for damaged books and prints, and grants. The capital outlay variance is due to payment for the maintenance van which was funded in a previous fiscal year, but paid for in this fiscal year.

Statistics - Ward is going to ask for additional descriptions to be provided on the reports in future months. Getter would like total cards issued to be added to the statistics report. Getter pointed out that meeting room usage is only for outside usage. Ward verified that library programming is usually going on in meeting room spaces.

Facilities - Rock Hill has an electrical upgrade coming up. The project may be going out for bid soon. We won't know what the project will look like until a contractor is identified.

Mktg/Programming - FOL felt tutoring would be too overwhelming for them to volunteer with currently. A connection was made with Winthrop in hopes of offering tutoring in libraries. Martin met with Dr. David Vawter about setting up a partnership to have teaching fellows volunteer as tutors. They have 100 students per semester and can possibly get us about 20 students per month to help us with tutoring. They each have volunteer hours that they have to meet each semester, and it is hoped that they could achieve them working with the library. Noted that meeting the K through 3 age group would be the target age group and it would probably happen at the main library in Rock Hill. Steele asks what curriculum they would use. Dahlin noted the likelihood a literacy council group would be needed to provide a future larger tutoring program.

Stories of Impact - Debra says they received a letter from a patron sharing the importance of the hotspots for her work in the Blackmon Road community.

Old Business

Strategic Planning Committee Update - Piening and Robinson will join Witte and Getter on the committee. An updated RFP has been created and sent out to five vendors for proposals. Getter offered notes on the RFP: Scope of work should include more specifics on who will be surveyed, how they will be surveyed, what will be surveyed, etc. We should define what age groups we want to talk to, what city/local officials we want them to talk to, what school districts we want them to talk to. House describes that in writing the proposal he left some of it open ended to not pigeon hole us into only specific offerings. Witte added that she wanted to offer some flexibility to determine what proposal would work best.

Advocacy Update - Dahlin asked Steele to be on the advocacy committee. Getter, Ward, and Dahlin had a meeting with Debi Cloninger on 4/11/24. She had great ideas of who the library should be talking to/working with as we continue to grow and serve the community. Getter notes that it is important to communicate with the various local community leaders to make sure that their needs are being met and how they might want to work together. Robinson will be scheduling a meeting with Bump Roddey, and Michael will be scheduling a meeting with Tom Audette.

New Business

Michael requested that they work on a plan to reply to emails. Dahlin will send her drafts to Michael.

A motion was made and carried unanimously to end the meeting at 8:12. (Piening/Getter)