

## York County Library Board of Trustees

Minutes from October 10, 2024 Board Meeting - York Public Library

The YCL Board meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Witte, Board Chair. A quorum was determined with the following trustees in attendance: Dennis Getter, Carol Herring, Wendi Michael, Susan Piening, Charles Robinson, Timothy Steele, and Anne Witte. Also present from YCL: Martin House, Buffy Koran, and Julie Ward. Absent: None

### Public Comment

No public comment.

**A motion was made and carried unanimously to approve the September 12 minutes with the amendment to the Privacy Policy to include (add) the entire paragraph (wording) which can be pulled from the website. (Piening / Getter)**

### Reports

Director:

- Statistics
  - Facebook likes that dipped 1,700 was a compiler's error and has been corrected to higher numbers.
  - Getter - Can one person like multiple things?
    - Ward - Yes.
  - Witte - Why did circ of physical materials drop in August? It dropped last year, too.
    - Ward - It is probably because people are returning all their material before school starts. Circs pick up again once school starts.
- Patchwork Festival
  - Invite the Board to come next year.
  - Storytellers visited several schools along with a big Saturday event.
  - Over 2,000 participants.
  - Venue was wonderful.
  - People traveled to follow favorite storytellers
- Genealogy Expo coming this weekend at the Marriott Courtyard in Fort Mill
  - 225 participants registered.

Treasurer:

- The only thing "out of line" is Periodicals, which is purely a function of when that bill comes due.

Standing Committees:

- Policy Committee
  - Getter - Request that we table the review of the Reconsideration Form in New Business.
    - Been decided that we need to look at the whole collection policy
    - Committee is in process of reviewing that
    - Should have recommendations by next month

- Strategic Planning Committee
  - Robinson - Nothing at this time
  - Getter - Had a few meetings with County people (County Manager and Asst. Manager).
    - Been trying to get them ready for a request for expanding locations.
    - Phase 1 - Expressed willingness to move Economic Development out of the Fort Mill building. Need a proposal on how we plan to use the space.
      - Per conversations with Ward make the first floor all patron space and the second floor would become meeting rooms or office space.
    - Phase 2 - move the Sheriff Department out of Fort Mill Building.
      - Again we will need to provide the County with a plan of what we want to do.
      - Maybe move staff from Rock Hill up there also.
    - We need to request two new library locations.
      - New FM - in Doby's Bridge area / Elizabeth (new development similar to Baxter) around Catawba Ridge High School.
        - Had preliminary meetings with Fort Mill mayor.
        - The County would probably rather build than lease.
        - 80,000 people - fast growing area with younger families and more children.
      - Somewhere on Highway 49 - past Buster Boyd Bridge - past Papa Docs, near the crossing at 55 - somewhere in that area.
      - We need a 10,000 SQFT library building.
      - Give them a circle of maybe a mile to see if they have land.
  - Witte - Do you think this is a reality? They just cut our budget.
  - Getter - County has new Strategic Plan.
    - County is moving towards 500,000 people.
    - We need more libraries.
    - Need to move now while there is still land and put forth a proposal.
  - Witte - We had previously considered a consultant. Do we need this to move forward?
  - Getter - No, County is receptive now and the fire is hot.
  - Witte - Ward and Robinson should work on a proposal for the space in Fort Mill to go to County Manager, Josh Edwards.
  - Robinson - We should have Getter work with us since he has been involved.
  - Witte - Update from Strategic Planning Committee by next month.

### Unfinished Business

Proviso 27.1: State Library Memorandum re: Collection Development Funding Certification:

- **“Madam chair, I move that a moratorium be put on purchasing books for minors that contain any sexual content until we have a clear understanding of the significance in the language changes of Proviso 27.1. I reference State Library memo dated June 24, 2024. This moratorium**

**will stay in effect until we have further clarification from the Attorney General's office.”, Read from written copy given to Koran. (Steele / Getter)**

- Michael - What is sexual content? Are you referring to anatomy books?
- Steele - Motion is an added layer of protection. This is to make sure that we are in compliance with the law. State library has a lawyer investigating this. They are consulting the Attorney General.
- Witte - In last month's minutes it said that we are complying with the law.
- Ward - The Proviso is vague and unenforceable in its current state. Per the county attorney, we meet the Proviso because we meet the State Library requirements in the certification.
- Herring - If it is a law, it is enforceable.
- Steele - From State Library memo dated June 13, 2024 - "Determining if material is prurient is subjective and varies based on individual and cultural perspectives and experiences. The change to this proviso requires additional guidance to ensure correct interpretation and compliance before it can be implemented." We have no idea what this means until the Attorney General makes his decision. This is common sense and added protection. Surely the Attorney General won't take long to make a decision. We are making ourselves vulnerable by continuing to purchase.
- Ward - If you look at the Library of Congress subject heading, we would not order sexual content materials based on what is said in those subject headings. Sometimes it may not be clearly specified.
- Getter - Maybe we can see what books you want to buy this month and have the Board look at them to make sure that they are safe.
- Witte - Can we learn more information about what steps the selectors use to determine what to buy?
- Getter - did you meet with the selectors about the proviso?
- Ward - No, because we are compliant with the law.
- Getter - We don't want to buy books that are against the law.
- Witte - We need more information before we put in a moratorium.
- Steele - We could always make another motion to change this once we know more.
- Michael - how do you want selectors to determine if a book has sexual content? This is not easy to find this even in reviews. It is not always obvious or clear cut. Sometimes it takes purchasing the books and reading it to make a determination.
- Witte - What we have in place now works. I think we need to know more about the process.
- Piening - There are a lot of people in the community who feel that our process does not work. We need to look at both sides. You cannot find out what is in the book from what is in the catalog. There has to be a solution that we can work with that will help the community instead of tearing the community apart. We can blame both sides.
- Michael - A council member gave misinformation by holding up an anatomy book.
- Piening - Maybe we can not buy books for a short while - 3 months. Only for under 18.
- Steele - Strictly books for minors - under 17.
- Piening - We want time to get a better understanding of the process and find out what we have.
- Witte - Can we not just gather information before a moratorium?

- Piening - We need to stop and gather information. The more books we buy, the more we have to look at. How often do you buy books? What would happen if we didn't buy books for three months?
- Ward - We buy books every month.
- Getter - Clarified that we are talking about 17 and under. Need a moratorium because we don't know what will be considered under the proviso.
- Steele - Attorney General will need to make his decision clear before we buy books. Put pressure on the Attorney General to make a decision.
- Witte - We have the reconsideration form.
- Michael - We are complying now based on the current avenue set forth by the State Library.
- Steele - The State Library is saying this is what we should do based on their June 13 email - "prurient" is subjective. Need additional guidance on the proviso.
- Michael - It says this is what is needed before the law is implemented, prior to the law being clarified. Why stop buying now?
- Getter - The law is in effect now.
- Michael - How can it be in effect without us knowing what it is? If it is not clear, it cannot be enforced the way it is.
- Herring - Moratorium for one month? Let's have the selectors come to us to talk about their process.
- Witte - Can we define what prurient is? Not comfortable passing a motion without knowing. We need info from the selectors on how and why materials are selected.
- Steele - **The motion on the table still stands and has been seconded.**
  - **Motion passes at 6:37 pm. 4 ayes (Steele, Getter, Piening, Herring), 3 nays (Robinson, Witte, Michael)**
- Witte - It could be a year or more.
- Steele - Everyone should be pressuring the Attorney General.
- Witte - You should be pressuring him.
- Steele - That's just how the law works.

### **New Business**

A Request for Reconsideration Form - Review:

- Getter - We need to put Proviso 27.1 in the appropriate spots in the collection policy which includes the reconsideration form. The Policy Committee needs to review all of this and will table this until later.

State Library Letter to ALA:

- Steele -Are you familiar with the State Library letter to ALA? "**Madam Chair, in light of the State Library Director (Leesa Aiken) breaking ties with the American Library Association per email dated August 21, 2023, I move that the York County Public library system hereby disassociates itself from the American library association which will prevent state funds from paying for any institutional or individual memberships, for any regional or local conference registrations, or for any travel expenses to events sponsored by or associated with the American Library Association**" *read from written copy given to Koran. (Steele / Getter)*

- ALA has become problematic for the State Library therefore YCL has to disassociate from ALA
- Ward - Have you looked at the classes and education ALA offers?
- Steele - Want to disassociate from ALA due to SC State Library. Their hyperfocus on certain groups is a distractor from our core mission.
- Ward - We don't belong to ALA as an organization.
- Witte - Is there nothing useful?
- Steele - There are things they have done so troubling that SC State Library has cut ties. They are problematic. ALA's call to book meeting rooms to disallow certain groups from using meeting rooms is bad. We should look at some other associations.
- Witte - Throwing out baby with bathwater.
- Steele - ALA has lost all credibility. Are they the only organization available for training?
- Witte - Can we get a list of events that we can approve? This will hurt the employees of the library.
- Steele - Last thing we want to do is to hurt the employees. We need to look at associations that the Board can agree on.
- Ward - We don't need to be part of any organization.
- Herring - Is there a cost to register for classes? Where are these classes?
- Ward - Yes, there is. Most are virtual.
- Herring - These aren't required for certification points?
- Ward - Not required for employment. But it's professional development.
- Michael - Where else do we get library professional development?
- Ward - There are a few, LibraryAware, LibraryInc, State Library, SCLA but their training has not been practical yet because they are new. This will minimize access for staff.
- Piening - How many hours do employees go to?
- Ward - I don't have those figures.
- Herring - As a teacher we had to pay for our own training
- Ward - We have a budget for professional development.
- Witte - To clarify - no membership, no travel?
- Steele - Basically disassociate. We can look at other organizations to fill in where ALA may be lacking.
- Witte - This will be a lot of an effort and create a void.
- Steele - ALA has been off the rails for so long that they aren't appropriate. Associating with them will hurt ourselves.
- Michael - Can't the Director make the decisions on what classes people can go to?
- Steele - ALA is just a problem. No disrespect to Ward.
- Witte - Is the State Library still sending staff to ALA programs?
- Ward - Probably, but don't know for sure.
- Piening - ALA is divergent. Need to let librarians have their education. Like the idea of approving classes prior to staff going. Think we need to do things in stages.
- Ward - Is there a way to make a statement to still allow continuing education?
- Herring - Let's remove the statement on funding to give us time to see what the State is doing.

- Steele - **Would like to amend the motion.**
  - **Association per email dated August 21, 2023, I move that the York County Public library system hereby disassociates itself from the American Library Association.” (Seconded by Getter)“In light of the State Library Director, Lisa Aiken, breaking ties with the American Library**
  - **Motion passes. 4 ayes (Steele, Getter, Herring, Piening), 3 nays (Witte, Michael, Robinson)**
- Getter - We shouldn't be using ALA as an authority for book selection. Should not be using their book lists for selection.
- Ward - Should this be a part of the collection development policy discussion? This would be an issue. Leadership at ALA caused the problem. Staff are professional librarians who come together to create book selections and these lists. These are America's librarians doing the work. It is not ALA leadership.
- Getter - Ok, but we shouldn't use these lists.
- Ward - We do use some ALA lists. YALSA for example.

Getter - New Finance Person is starting soon

Ward - Pam Miler will be starting on 10/21/2024

#### **Executive Session**

No Executive Session.

#### **Action resulting from Executive Session**

No action resulting from Executive Session.

Witte adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.