



Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2022 - 3:15 PM
Center Meeting Room, Fishers Library

Members Present	Laura Alerding, Bill Crandall, Heather Lee, Brian Meyer, Michelle Payne, Craig Siebe.
Members Absent	John Dierdorf
Others in Attendance	Library Director, Edra Waterman; Legal Counsel, Anne Poindexter; Katie Lorton, Molly Mrozowski, Shelley Huffman; Chaise Carter, Joseph Wooley, Angela Dubinger, Chad Carmichael, Amber Carmichael, Melissa Dragoo, LaVella Hyter, Ray Maddalone, Marty Wood, Amanda Waymire, Courtney Floyd, Cathy Herridge, Kim Logan, Susan Drumm, Janet Pritchett, Hannah Drumm, Julie Chambers, Jocelyn Vare, A. Brando Corsaro, Jo May, Lisa Finn, Allison Gatz, MJ Slaby, Kara Hwang MD, Alison Jones, Jon West, Lori Orander, Amy Mathis, Heather Jesel, Shawn Humphrey, Curt Rodboon, Lana Schneider, Gwen Keller-Lusk, Susan Hobson, Ken Alexander, Jason Valentine, Suzanne Olson, Eric Olson, Cynthia Holladay, Tom Rich, Amy Pavey, Marina Gibson, Eric Wilson.
Convene	Heather Lee called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM.
Remarks by the Public	Twenty six (26) individuals from the public spoke namely: Chad Carmichael, Amber Carmichael, Melisa Dragoo, Ray Maddalone, Marty Wood, Amanda Waymire, Courtney Floyd, Cathey Herridge, Kim Logan, Janet Pritchett, Jocelyn Vare, Jo May, Lisa Finn, Kara Hwang, MD, Jon West, Amy Mathis, Shaun Humphrey, Gwen Keller-Lush, Susan Hobson, Ken Alexander, Jason Valentine, Suzanne Olson, Eric Olsen, Cynthia Holladay, Tom Rich, Marina Gibson, and Eric Wilson on the following topics as recorded on the public sign-in sheet: Porn for kids -2 Freedom to Read -5 Access to sexually oriented books-1 Porn in public Library -1- Appropriateness of Books -1 Book Challenges-1 Porn Books in Teen Zone -1 # of books purchased each month -1 Diverse book collection-1 Book removal -2 Censorship-3 Chad Carmichael's hate campaign-2 Banning books-4 Books-1

Removal/Relocation of books per patron requests: Let's Talk About it and A Quick and Easy Guide to Consent

A Board discussion ensued and Anne Poindexter, legal counsel was asked to speak on the issue of the request to remove or relocate two books from the teen section.

Mrs. Poindexter indicated that even children have First Amendment rights to receive information and the library as a form of government and except in very limited circumstances cannot impair those rights (even though parents may limit a child's access to information). Poindexter reminded the Trustees that the United States Supreme Court had previously described libraries as "institutions of freewheeling inquiry." Also, that the Supreme Court, in an opinion, in attempting to define pornography had stated "I know it when I see it." However there exists a legal definition of "obscenity" which is what the Board should be concerned about and it provides a three-prong obscenity test in which all prongs must be met. Because a number of positive professional reviews exist for the books being challenged, it may be unlikely that they can legally be described as obscene. However, one book in question provides guidance to seek out information as to sexual practices via the internet and both books contain detailed descriptions and comic style illustrations that may be too difficult for the youngest teens to properly interpret or digest. These two concerns allow the Board, if it chooses, to engage in the limited censorship to move the location of the books.

Laura Alerding moved that the two books on the agenda be relocated from the teen area to the adult section of the library. The motion failed without a second.

Bill Crandall moved that library staff re-evaluate the book "Let's Talk About It" and provide a recommendation at the February Board Meeting. Craig Siebe seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued with Alerding asking Crandall for clarification on his motion. Crandall further explained that due to concerns of internet safety related to the book, he wanted the library to review the item again and determine whether the book should be moved to the adult section. Michelle Payne stated that she was in favor of re-examining a book at a time, where internet safety is concerned, so that the Board carefully considers actions related to relocating a book. Craig Siebe stated that the library has approximately 341K books and that the Board cannot review each book. Brian Meyer agreed with Bill Crandall's full faith in Library Director Edra Waterman and professional library staff to re-evaluate the book. Alerding cited that mistakes can be made since no one can read every page of each book in the library collection, but preferred to move forward with a vote on books reviewed as is.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Division of Teen Collection
Into Middle School and High
School Collections**

Heather Lee opened discussion of reorganizing the TeenZone into separate “high school” and “middle school” collections.

Laura Alerding moved to direct staff to develop a plan to reorganize the teen collection into separate “high school” and “middle school” collections and report back to the board at its next regular meeting. Bill Crandall seconded the motion

Brian Meyer asked how many books were in the current teen collection and the time it would take to review and re-catalog each title. Edra Waterman explained that there are over 13,000 titles in the current Teen collection, and that library staff have been thinking of separating the collections and have begun working on a plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

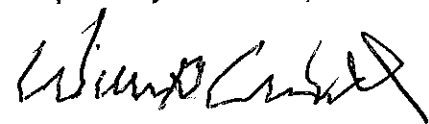
**Scheduling of Director
performance review**

Heather Lee provided information as to the schedule for the Director’s performance review via Executive Session immediately prior to the next Board Meeting. The meeting will be posted as required.

Adjournment

Michelle Payne moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



HEPL Board Secretary

