

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 14, 2021

- PRESENT: Cheryl Cufari, Deborah Escobar, Randy Fine, Sharon Jordan, Joe Landry, William Levering, Steven McCutcheon, Julie McDonnell, Carmel Patrick, Shawn Schultz, Brenda Schworm, Angela Tatem, Tina Chericoni Versaci
- Ex-Officio: Karen Bradley, Director; Beth DeMidio, Assistant Library Director for Operations; Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director III, Peggy King, Schenectady County Legislature, Chair, Education and libraries; Janice P. Martin, Board Clerk
- ABSENT: Heather Gray
- GUESTS: Al Magid, Sally Magid, Kaela Wallman

COMMUNICATIONS

- Privilege of the Floor – Sally Magid spoke on the importance of evening and Saturday hours for all libraries, including city branches like Mont Pleasant. She also spoke about Schenectady Library following the fine-free precedent set by other library systems in our state.
- President Bill Levering announced that Shawn Schultz will be resigning from the board as of the end of the year. The board accepted her resignation with thanks and regret.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- As submitted, approved.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

- As submitted, approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The proposed days and hours of operation for 2022 have been distributed to trustees. We will be analyzing data and getting feedback from staff and the public and will report back at our monthly board meetings.
- The topic of fines and barriers to library service and resources has gained traction in our community.
- The interviews for the Librarian II replacement in the Youth Services department are taking place week along with interviews for the Librarian III for Youth Services.
- The Friends Finance Committee met to review our budget proposal for their 2022 budget. We are deeply appreciative of what they have approved, based upon the financial constraints they are under due to the Pandemic.
- MVLS has filled the representative from Schenectady County to the MVLS Board. Cheryl Cufari recommended Mary VanPatten, a retired school library media specialist, who lives in Scotia.
- Our S.T.A.R.S. program will receive a \$5,000 grant from the Zonta club at their December 16, 2021 meeting, to be deposited into the Friends of the Library program funds to support buying books.
- The "Amplified Voices" program was a very special and well attended event on Saturday, December 4, 2021. The mural is in the Children's Room at KBJ until the end of the year. Thank you to Kaela Wallman for all of her work on this event.
- The interior work at Scotia is being done now. Furniture may be delivered later this week. The sneak peak at Scotia's Holiday on the Avenue on December 5 was a delight to many people.

- Our CLDA/MVLS annual report is complete so we will be receiving the remaining payment on 12/15/21 from MVLS.
- The Adult Programming Survey Results that our Librarian III completed this fall is included in trustee packets.
- The orders for furniture and circulation desk for the Niskayuna and Glenville branches have been finalized and submitted.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – No report.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – No report.

BEQUEST COMMITTEE – No report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No report.

PLANING COMMITTEE – No report.

POLICY COMMITTEE – No report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – No report.

SEARCH COMMITTEE – Tina Chericoni Versaci reported the Library Director search is being advertised broadly.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution - Eliminating overdue fines – After much discussion, it was agreed upon that a committee will be formed to discuss details about eliminating overdue fines and when finalized, ask that the resolution be added to the agenda at one of the Schenectady County Legislative meetings. The resolution that was presented at this evening’s meeting was amended to say: “Resolved that the SCPL responsibly move towards the elimination of overdue fines. A motion was made by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Cheryl Cufari and approved.
- Resolution – 2022 Hours of Operation. Discussion ensued. The resolution was amended to say: “Resolved that the SCPL responsibly move towards pre-pandemic hours of operation in all its branches.” A motion was made by Cheryl Cufari, seconded by Carmel Patrick and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.