

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
August 11, 2014
Central Library

PRESENT: Cheryl Cufari, Camille Siano Enders, Anthony Gaddy, Sharon Jordan, Julie McDonnell, Donna Phillips, Edwin D. Reilly, Jr., M. Joe Landry, Karen Bradley, Serena Butch, Kathy Rooney

ABSENT &
EXCUSED: Randy Fine, William Levering, Jamaica Miles, Marsha Mortimore, Tina Chericoni Versaci

FRIENDS
BOARD: John Karl

Cheryl Cufari called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Phyllis Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center

Cheryl introduced Dr. Peter Stoll from Northern Rivers Family Services. Dr. Stoll approached the county and library with a proposal to include an Early Head Start Program at the new Phyllis Bornt Branch and he presented his proposal to the Board.

Dr. Stoll stated that this idea came from community meetings and the vision for the literacy center that we developed through the community meetings. The proposal is for one Early Head Start classroom for toddlers to be included in the Bornt branch (see attached written proposal).

Cheryl pointed out three key points: 1) this would entail income for the library from renting the space, 2) the potential impact on a room of the branch, and 3) the potential impact on the community where the branch will be located. After discussion with the county manager, Executive Director and Board of Trustees President this presentation is made to the Board for approval of the concept so that this site may be included in the grant application being submitted on Aug 20 by Northern Rivers Family Services.

Dr. Stoll explained there is annually a waiting list of 25 families for Early Head Start in Schenectady County. This grant would allow 66 additional students and because of space constraints he is seeking out additional partners to support the program. The class room proposed for the Bornt Branch would be for 8 toddlers. Dr. Stoll feels there is a shared vision between SCPL Bornt family literacy center and the head start program. He pointed out they both are targeting the same community of people and working towards the same goal of literacy. The grant would be for 5 years and includes funds for start up, operations and professional development. The library would be able to use the classroom at night and on weekends. Programs that fit together with both the literacy center and the head start program would cross support each other. The partnership would be a stabilizing factor for the community where the branch will be located, supports the 2020 city vision and the county long term plan.

In response to several questions it was stated the grant is not yet submitted and this is all pending approval of the grant. The grant will probably be decided around March 2015 and will not have a negative impact on our construction process and schedule for the Bornt branch. Concerns were raised regarding the dedication of 600 sq feet of the new branch for this classroom and that it was not realistic to think that we could repurpose the room when Head Start was not in session. Head Start is in session

during the summer. It was pointed out however that this space would be appropriate for programs for young children which would be part of the literacy center and library programming. It was pointed out that the rent for the space would not be a windfall for the library and would not alleviate our budget constraints. The other partners that the library has been working with were contacted and all voiced support for the concept and had a positive reaction. It was discussed that this was in line with our vision and concept for the literacy center.

A motion was made by Sharon Jordan, seconded by M. Joe Landry to approve the proposal of an expanded Early Head Start Program at the Phyllis Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center (see attached resolution). The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. on a motion by Sharon Jordan, seconded by Donna Phillips and approved unanimously.