

**GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**  
**at**  
**Genesee District Library Headquarters**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**4195 W. Pasadena Ave**  
**Flint, MI 48504**  
**November 15, 2021**  
**Minutes**

- Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.
- Present: Bennett, Conerly-Moon (via phone), Crites, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky.
- Also Present: C. Stritmatter, D. Conklin, A. Goldyn, and E. Kish.
- Absent: Johns and Jones.
- Public Comments: None.
- Approval of  
Consent Agenda: L. Ryals-Massey stated a correction to the September 20, 2021 minutes needs to be made. She stated that regarding the Black History Month Brunch, her comment should state she suggested that we recognize the essential workers at the event. S. Bennett moved to approve the consent agenda with the correction to the minutes.. Motion supported by J. Towarnicky. Motion carried unanimously.
- Board Development: E. Kish, Branch Operations Manager, gave a short presentation on her function in the library. She answered questions asked by various Board members.
- MMLC: Nothing to report.
- Corporation Counsel: C. Stritmatter stated that after December 31 board members will not be able to attend meetings via telephone or virtually unless they are in the military. He stated there are around eight different bills making their way through the legislature addressing this issue. He will continue to watch the bills' progress. He stated that for the January meeting we may need to amend the by-laws to reflect that board members can only participate in-person; however, that needs to be put in writing and sent to board members five days in advance. L. Ryals-Massey stated that the Personnel/Policy Committee is currently reviewing the by-laws. C. Stritmatter stated that the by-laws will still need to be amended due to the change in the Open Meetings Act.
- GDL Foundation: Nothing to report.
- Written Reports: D. Hostetler inquired about the extent of the Grand Blanc parking lot repairs. D. Conklin believes that the existing asphalt will be removed and replaced. He stated that hopefully it will also be reconfigured to allow easier traffic flow.
- D. Hostetler stated he liked the census summary in D. Conklin's report and that there's obviously not much change.
- R. Crites asked D. Conklin if the branches have returned to normal patron levels. D. Conklin replied that library visits are still down by approximately fifty to fifty-five percent. D. Conklin stated that people want to get back to normal, but COVID is still out

Written Reports  
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there. He stated that as more people, including kids, are vaccinated the more likely the branch visits will increase. S. Bennett finds this surprising because people are still doing many indoor activities like grocery shopping, but haven't returned to the library. She suggested that we keep track and D. Conklin reported that we keep track of the physical attendance. D. Conklin stated that in recent years the physical visits have been trending down due to digital content usage. He stated that only time will tell if people will continue to use digital content or if they will come back into the branches. He stated one thing that may help is that we received a grant from MMLC and have purchased a podcast booth for the Davison branch. He stated that there's no quiet spaces or meeting rooms at Davison and is definitely needed there. He stated the idea that libraries are a place that people want to come to is still there, but maybe we need to do just a little more to let people know we're still here. J. Towarnicky inquired if we are still under capacity restrictions and D. Conklin replied we are not. J. Towarnicky suggested that people may believe that they still have to restrict the amount of time they spend in the library. J. Towarnicky stated going back to the digital discussion, she said that she and her family love Libby and it's been a game changer.

D. Hostetler inquired if we have any security concerns about migrating the financial data to the Cloud and A. Goldyn replied she does not have any concerns. D. Hostetler stated that you often hear about cyber attacks in the news and it makes you think that the Cloud isn't the safest place. A. Goldyn stated that GDL has an insurance policy for cyber security breaches. D. Conklin stated that A. Goldyn has made several changes including uploading a file to the bank that lists all the checks she's written. He stated that if the checks are not on the list, the bank will not cash the checks. He stated that even if the Cloud were to be hacked, we have these other measures in place to prevent problems.

L. Ryals-Massey thanked D. Conklin for listing all the improvements being made at the various branches in his report. She inquired if we are sending letters of appreciation, thanks or acknowledgement to the municipalities. D. Conklin stated that the municipalities know how much staff and patrons appreciate the improvements.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that we will need to involve P. Parker to discuss staff safety when it is time to renew the lease at the Genesee Valley Center. She stated maybe the mall owners need to increase security or police presence there. D. Conklin stated that after an incident in May, the mall posted signage stating no weapons were allowed inside the mall and L. Ryals-Massey stated how would the mall know if people are complying or not. D. Conklin stated that the mall will have active shooter training on Sunday night. He continued to say that our staff have been counseled, had active shooter training and gave E. Kish suggestions for improvements. L. Ryals-Massey is glad to hear that we are taking care of our staff and believes the mall owners could do something more as well.

L. Ryals-Massey thanked D. Conklin for reaching out to the new superintendent for Beecher Schools.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired about the difference in the tables for the census. D. Conklin replied that the DP-1 is more in-depth about the population's age and race differences. He stated that it will also break it down further than just at the county level.

L. Ryals-Massey offered kudos to K. Flynn for writing the grant to help with the repair of the roof. D. Conklin stated that we have the amount we've been approved for and are setting up things so the work can begin in early Spring.

L. Ryals-Massey stated the Family Life Center at Mott Community College has the same GISD literacy group. She stated they must be spreading around these great start initiatives, which is great news for parents of little ones.

Written Reports  
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L. Ryals-Massey thanked the team for applying/writing all the grants listed in D. Conklin's report, especially the one for the roof. She stated that roof repairs can be so expensive. D. Conklin stated we applied for half of the estimated cost of the roof repair and we received half of the requested amount. L. Ryals-Massey stated that \$23,850 is still a good thing. V. Conerly-Moon inquired where the remaining funds would come from to complete the roof repair. D. Conklin replied that it would come from the Capital Improvement fund. L. Ryals-Massey stated thankfully we have that money set aside to do it. D. Hostetler inquired if we would have to close the building while the repair is being completed and D. Conklin replied no.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if we are scaling back on the number of tickets being sold for the Black History Month Brunch or setting it up for social distancing. D. Conklin replied we are not because he believes that it will happen organically on its own. He stated that at this point, we just hope we don't have to cancel it. L. Ryals-Massey stated the COVID numbers are on the rise and we are heading into December soon. D. Conklin stated that we purchased travel insurance for the musical act, Four Washington, in case we have to cancel the event.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if the application for the TAG (Teen Action Group) was available online. D. Conklin replied it is not because it is an in-person group meeting. He stated that detailed information about TAG is available on the website.

V. Conerly-Moon inquired about the guest speaker for the Black History Month Brunch. D. Conklin replied that he wasn't sure about a key-note speaker. L. Ryals-Massey stated that there's just an entertainment group called Four Washington and no key-note.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if anyone had questions for A. Goldyn, but there were none. V. Conerly-Moon stated that A. Goldyn always does an excellent job.

Monthly Statistics: Nothing to report.

Finance Committee: R. Crites stated a committee meeting was held recently to review the 2022 budget. He stated the committee recommends the Board approve it.

Personnel/Policy Committee: S. Bennett stated the committee has been very busy. She stated they met to review and revise the by-laws. She stated they also met recently to review and discuss the strategic plan with the consultant via Zoom. She stated that based on their feedback, changes will be made to the strategic plan. She stated they also met to give D. Conklin his performance evaluation for 2020 and recommends the board approve it.

2022 Budget: L. Ryals-Massey inquired if A. Goldyn had anything additional regarding the 2022 budget. A. Goldyn stated the revenue for 2022 is projected to be slightly higher than 2021 while the expenditures are projected to remain relatively the same. D. Hostetler inquired if there was any fear of the current inflation having an impact on the budget. A. Goldyn replied that she tends to over-estimate the expenditures while under-estimating the revenue in the annual budgets. R. Crites moved to accept the budget as presented. Motion supported by V. Conerly-Moon. Roll call: ayes – Bennett, Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

Director Review: L. Ryals-Massey stated the Personnel Committee recommends the Board approve the Director's evaluation. S. Bennett stated that D. Conklin received an average score of 4.03 out of 5. L. Ryals-Massey apologized for the extreme delay in giving him the evaluation. S. Bennett moved to accept the evaluation. Motion supported by D. Hostetler. J. Towarnicky inquired if D. Conklin could refuse the evaluation results. D. Conklin stated that he has to sign the evaluation, but can give a written explanation if he has a

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Director Review  
(continued):

disagreement. Roll call: ayes – Bennett, Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

Board Comments:

L. Ryals-Massey stated that M. Delaney, widow of W. Delaney, sent in a platter of chocolates. She read the card that was addressed to the Board. S. Bennett inquired how M. Delaney is doing and L. Ryals-Massey stated that she does not know. D. Hostetler stated that he saw her at church. He stated that she's always bubbly and seems to be doing very well.

L. Ryals-Massey wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a happy holiday season.

Adjournment:

6:23 pm.