

**East Providence Public Library Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting: January 4, 2023 at 4:00pm at Weaver Library**

**Meeting called to order at 4:06pm**

ROLL CALL

Patty Armstrong - present

Kathy Dias - present

Betsy Ingraham - present

Chris LaRoux - present

Peg Marcotte (Chair) - present

Don Paiva - present

Paul Silva - present

Also attending:

- Meredith Bonds-Harmon, Library Director
- Pamela Schwieger, Youth Services Coordinator

**Review & approval of December 7, 2022 minutes**

- Minutes of December 7, 2022 meeting
  - Don made a motion to approve the minutes. Kathy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

- The Friends of EPPL report was received and placed on file.
  
- The EPPL Foundation report was received and placed on file.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Financial report
  - Meredith reported that everything looks as expected.
  - We got a proposal from the company who installed and maintain the basement pumps and drains. They propose to replace some pumps and fix switches and other drainage-related equipment for \$10,000.
- Personnel
  - Interviews for part time ref librarian this week.
  - Interviews for ALL instructor are next week.
  - We are still working on posting the part time Fuller assistant position.
  - The assistant director candidate was certified last week by the Personnel Hearing Board. The current hold up is an informal meeting with the Mayor that needs to be scheduled and held.
  - Staff illnesses, and staff needed to be reminded that they shouldn't be at work when contagious.
  - Upcoming staff trainings:
    - Overdose and Narcan (East Bay Recovery Center & EPPC)

- Confrontation training (dealing with challenges and the media)
- Buildings & Grounds
  - We received \$77,000.00 Champlin grant funds for new carpeting at Riverside. We still need to follow the city's policy of getting multiple bids.
  - Exterior trim and cupola project

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Discussion of state law and city ordinances related to the authority of the Library Board of Trustees

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- RI General Laws Open Meetings Act
  - Brief discussion of how the Trustee Chair will handle public attendance at a meeting
  - Meredith will send the trustee bylaws to the board before the next meeting, and we can discuss them then.
  
- Discussion about the public library in national news
  - Rochambeau was approached to see if they would work with a publishing company to provide a storytime in opposition to woke theory and critical race theory.
    - This publishing company seemed to be targeting libraries across the country who have had LGBTQIA+ welcoming programs including DRAG storytime.
  - In VA members of the community showed up unexpectedly to a trustee meeting to challenge the book: Gender Queer. Challenges like this have become more common so we should be ready for challenges to happen at EPPL in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kathy motioned to adjourn. Paul seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:21.