

**East Providence Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes**

Regular Meeting: February 1, 2023 at 4:00pm at Weaver Library

Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm

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, Assistant Director

Review & approval of January 4, 2023 minutes

Minutes of January 4, 2023 meeting

Don made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Kathy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Financial report

Meredith reported that our spending is mostly on target for a quarter through the year. There is an error with the overtime budget line at 100% because we have spent some of our overtime budget.

Personnel

Two staff members were injured on duty in the past couple weeks

Youth services coordinator adwent over to HR this week

Fuller aide is still vacant. We have to go back to applicant list from 10 months ago

ALL PT instructor started this week

Part time ref librarian - the two candidates we offered the job to both declined so we need to advertise this position again

Buildings & Grounds

The city would like to combine the Riverside carpeting project with carpeting for City Hall. Meredith spoke to Ralph in Controllers Office about putting together the bid.

The city wants to have city employees repair the exterior trim at Weaver Library, and we will hire a company for the cupola project.

Meredith wants another month to see if these projects are moving ahead in a timely and acceptable manner before the Board votes on the city taking over these projects.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pam informed the board of all the special programs & displays that the library is providing for Black History Month.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Discussion of the board's initial consultation with a lawyer

Patty made a motion and Betsy seconded the motion to approve and accept the engagement agreement of Timothy M. Bliss, Attorney at Law

Updated information on proposed East Providence Community Center

Discussion about the public library in regional news

Neo Nazi protestors at Taunton Public Library Drag Storyhour

NEW BUSINESS

Racist/hate graffiti appeared in the public bathroom at Weaver Library

Discussion and vote on paygrade change for Assistant Director and Youth Services Coordinator

Meredith has updated the library's staff organizational chart

Discussion about reasoning of changes, justifications of paygrade changes, questions about whether these increases could be covered within our budget for FY24

Paul made a motion and Kathy seconded to accept the new organizational chart so that positions having similar duties and responsibilities under the same work conditions are compensated on a uniform basis

Betsy made a motion and Patty seconded it to hire a part time librarian at the rate of \$22.00/hour in an effort to be competitive with other RI public library job postings

Trustee bylaws

The Board will read bylaws and form a committee to suggest amendments in March.

Discussion and vote on new policy "Library-Initiated Programs and Displays"

Tabled discussion until March meeting

State aid for FY24

Our projected State Grant in Aid for FY 2023-2024 is being reduced by \$67,951

This is due to two reasons: two ARPA funded salaries, unable to fully expend our appropriated budget

OLIS live webinar series on Legal Issues for Libraries

The Board is invited to register for this webinar series

Communication between Trustees and City Council

Chris has been in contact with Councilperson Rick Lawson who is interested in staying abreast of the library needs.

ADJOURNMENT: Patty motioned to adjourn. Chris seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:52.