



Board of Trustees Regular Meeting MINUTES

Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 3:00pm
McGuire Community Room
610 Woodmere Ave., MI 49686

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Pakieser at 3:13pm. Present were: Pakieser (Vice President); Deyo (Secretary); Vickery, Wescott, and Jones (Trustees). Odgers (President) and Sullivan (Treasurer) were absent. Also present were: Zeits (Council); Howard (Director); Baldwin, and Carpenter (Staff).

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

All members in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Howard requested an amendment to the agenda, adding New Business item g, Resolution to Authorize Local Unit of Government Match Without Donated Funds. It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Wescott, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion CARRIED.

4. **Public Comment**

Vice President Pakieser opened the floor for public comment. The following people addressed the board: Christina Meyers introduced herself as the new Head of Circulation at TADL. The board of trustees welcomed Meyers.

5. **Consent Agenda**

- a. *Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting of June 15, 2023*
- b. *Department Reports*
- c. *Finance and Facilities Committee Report – did not meet in July | August 1, 2023*
- d. *Policy and Personnel Committee Report – did not meet in July or August*
- e. *Financial Report*
- f. *Member Library Communications – FLPL | IPL | PCL*
- g. *Friends of TADL Report – Jud Barclay, President*
- h. *Correspondence*

It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Wescott, to accept and affirm receipt of the consent calendar information. Motion CARRIED.

6. **Items Removed from the Consent Calendar**

No items were removed from the consent calendar for further discussion.

7. **Director Report**

Howard confirmed her written report and provided the following comments:

- The district had an amazing summer with the Summer Library Challenge. There were record numbers at programs, thanks to staff who all worked so hard on them. Many are now taking some well-deserved vacations before Fall.

- Howard noted that while she is on vacation, Scott Morey, Assistant Director of Technology has been designated to serve in her role during her absence, followed by Amy Barritt, then Melissa McKenna.

Deyo inquired about any need for more volunteers for the Teen Lock-in program with such a high participation rate. Howard explained that the volunteers are mainly staff members due to the need to do background checks. Teens may not be left alone with volunteers who have not been vetted.

8. Old Business

a. *Millage Update*

Jones reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee recommended asking for a 1.1 millage request rate, the original amount approved in 1998 when the Main library was built, before Headlee rollbacks were applied. This would also help if the rate was amended back again in the future. The committee recommended getting on the ballot in August 2024 rather than waiting until November 2024. The committee also desired to form a YES Committee as soon as possible. Zeits (counsel) noted that, in line with truth in taxation laws, the request is technically an increase even though it is only restoring the original 1.1mils. Discussion ensued regarding the options and analysis projections provided by Baldwin, Finance Manager. McKenna, Head of Adult Services, added that without the restoration to 1.1mils, the level that staff is working now may not be sustainable to cover current services as well as grow the offerings, since costs only rise. It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Wescott, to request that Zeits include a 1.1% millage rate request, for a period of 10 years, on the August 2024 election ballot. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Jones – aye	Deyo - aye	Vickery – aye	Odgers - absent
Wescott – aye	Pakieser – aye	Sullivan - absent	

Motion CARRIED with 5 ayes.

9. New Business

a. *MERS Delegate*

Howard explained that per the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) it is recommended that TADL must certify the election of 2 delegates to attend the Annual MERS Conference: Danielle Baldwin and Brian Carey, with Michele Howard and Kate Parvel as alternates. It was MOVED by Wescott, SUPPORTED by Jones, to approve and sign the 2023 Officer and Employee Delegate Certification Form as presented. Motion CARRIED.

b. *L-4029 Tax Rate Request Form*

Howard noted that the L4029 tax rate request form is required each year in order to receive tax payments from the counties and townships. There was no Headlee rollback this year since inflation was so high. The .9044mils request is the same amount as the 2022 request.

c. *Public Improvement Funds Request for Local History Collection*

Howard explained that previously donated funds for the Talking Book Library have been held in the Public Improvement Fund since there was no staff regularly working on the Local History Collection. Since there is now a staff member who can work with the accession and filing, Howard would like to use \$5000 of the approximate \$16,000 held in order to purchase supplies for Local History Collection maintenance materials, such as acid free folders, sleeves for postcards and photographs, archival quality boxes, etc. Barritt and Stanley have designed the storage space to use economical standard archival shelf boxes. It was also noted that the TC Historical Society donates money each year toward upkeep and for two Petertyl interns each summer. It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Wescott, to approve the funds request of

\$5000 from the Public Improvement Fund in order to purchase archival supplies for the Local History Collection. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Jones – aye	Deyo - aye	Vickery – aye	Odgers - absent
Wescott – aye	Pakieser – aye	Sullivan - absent	

Motion CARRIED with 5 ayes.

d. *Naming Rights Request – Talking Book Library*

The Biederman Foundation approached the Talking Book Library (TBL) requesting naming rights, in conjunction with a \$10,000 memorial donation in L. Gorton’s name, a long-time patron and donor to the TBL. The Foundation would also cover the cost of the lettering. Per policy, gifts of \$10,000 and more are acknowledged on the donor wall and if appropriate in the location where the money was given. It was MOVED by Deyo, SUPPORTED by Vickery to provide naming rights in the TBL department as a result of the memorial donation. Motion CARRIED.

e. *Kingsley Branch Library Closure for Kingsley Heritage Days Parade Attendance*

Staff of the Kingsley Branch Library have requested a closure during the Kingsley Heritage Days Parade so that they may attend the event and be a part of the community that they serve. It was MOVED by Wescott, SUPPORTED by Jones, to close the Kingsley Branch library temporarily during the local Heritage Days parade so that staff may participate. Motion CARRIED.

f. *Discussion: Hide the Pride Event*

Howard provided the board with a letter addressed to them regarding the intent by a group of local citizens to check out books from a Pride Display in the children and teen section of the Woodmere library location in order to protect children and the community from what they believed was inappropriate content. The books have since been returned and no other communications have occurred. A lengthy discussion ensued around the mission to provide access, whether a circulation change was feasible for display books, and whether there should be any further action taken. In support of the First Amendment and Freedom to Read, Wescott suggested making the public aware of what transpired by writing a forum piece for the Record Eagle. Deyo acknowledged the feelings of the patrons who wrote the letter, but would like to somehow better engage in these conversations within the community. Pakieser would also support those types of actions in effort to use this as a teaching moment for all, to communicate that we can be a community and still have differing options.

g. *Resolution of Authorization of Local Unit of Government Match without Donated Funds*

Howard become aware of ARPA funds grant that can be used for renovations, new builds, etc. TADL fits the profile for a grant that could be used for a new high efficiency heat pump or perhaps a geo thermal system replacement for the HVAC chiller. To simply replace the chiller is about \$340,000. It was MOVED by Vickery, SUPPORTED by Wescott to adopt the Resolution of Authorization for submission of a MI Community Center Grant Application for \$1,00,000, and further resolve to make available its financial obligation amount of \$200,000 toward a total \$1,200,000 project cost, during the 2023-2025 fiscal years. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Jones – aye	Deyo - aye	Vickery – aye	Odgers - absent
Wescott – aye	Pakieser – aye	Sullivan - absent	

Motion CARRIED with 5 ayes.

10. **Public Comment**

Vice President Pakieser opened the floor for public comment. The following people addressed the board: Heather Brady, TADL Marketing and Communications Manager, described an upcoming t-

shirt in production for staff and for sale in the TADL swag shop, which will highlight banned books week and the Library Bill of Rights.

11. **Trustee Comment**

Deyo thanked everyone who helped make a great experience for kids during the Summer Library Challenge. The extra effort was noticed.

Vice President Pakieser announced that Howard and she submitted a presentation proposal to the MLA Annual Conference committee on the homeless situation and the work toward resolution that took place in our area. The proposal was accepted and she and Howard will present the talk in October.

12. **Closed Session (if needed)**

A closed session was not needed.

13. **Adjournment**

With a motion to adjourn by Wescott, supported by Vickery, Vice President Pakieser adjourned the meeting at 4:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by board vote on September 21, 2023

V. Carpenter, Recording Secretary

P. Deyo, Board Secretary

APPROVED