



Board of Trustees Study Session and Retreat MINUTES

Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 12:00pm
Kingsley Branch Library
213 S. Brownson Ave., Kingsley, MI 49649

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Pakieser at 12:00pm. Present were: Pakieser (President); Jones (Vice President); Odgers (Treasurer); Vickery (Secretary); Beuthin, Deyo, and Gedman (Trustees). Also present were: Howard (Director); Carpenter, Monette, Brady, Baldwin Staff).

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was not recited due to lack of an American flag.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

It was MOVED by Beuthin, SUPPORTED by Odgers, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED.

4. **Public Comment**

President Pakieser opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

5. **Warm-up Exercise with President Pakieser and Trustee Beuthin**

The group engaged in a collaborative exercise sharing contributive strengths they each bring to the board and expressed their goals for the retreat.

6. **The Library of the Future**

a. Well-funded

On funding, Howard noted that Richard Lewis and Amy Shamroe are heading the Yes Committee for the TADL millage and provided their contact information for volunteering. The Yes Committee kick-off plans are set for early June.

Trustees discussed back-up plan options if the millage failed August 6. Due to a limited turnaround time to file for the November election, Howard will have Counsel draw up ballot language for three different scenarios: 1) a straight renewal request, 2) the same 1.1mils request identical to the August 6 ballot, and 3) a request to increase the millage to 1.3mils. A decision will be made at the June regular meeting which one to go forward with should the need arise after the August voting results are tabulated.

b. Technology

Following a brief break, the group discussed technology trends shaping the future and the impact on libraries. Howard noted that the innovations reported in a supplemental reading packet, were either already implemented or were in progress at TADL. Morey answered questions from the trustees, many about the future of AI in libraries. He was confident that TADL is in a good place in the area of technology, however since it is a fast and ever-changing environment, his team must constantly lean into the discomforts to stay on top of the tech needs of the community within the abilities of the library.

c. *Promotes Civic Engagement & Freedom to Read*

- *Video: ABC's of Book Banning*

Trustees watched a short video documentary on book banning and participated in a training exercise from both a challenger and a trustee position.

- *Future Discussions Share*

Beuthin then noted suggestions submitted for future discussion including: update on the strategic plan; how to encourage and ensure community commitment to public libraries; how to expand the role of library and park relationships; developing a connection between non-profits and volunteers, and revisiting adult literacy needs.

Time did not allow for further discussion of the remaining two topics: Cultivating Good Community and Libraries as Leaders. These will be discussed at future board meetings.

7. **Public Comment**

There was none.

8. **Adjournment**

President Pakieser adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by board vote on June 20, 2024

V. Carpenter, Recording Secretary

M. Vickery, Board Secretary