

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 17, 2022**

The Fairfield County District Library Board of Trustees met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Main Library, 219 N. Broad Street, Lancaster, Ohio.

***TRUSTEES PRESENT WERE:***

Mark Bohach, Lisa Evangelista, Bryan Everitt, Mary Mesi, Margaret Quamme, and Matt Wideman.

***TRUSTEES EXCUSED WERE:*** Nathan Hale.

Also attending were Becky Schaade, Library Director; Alyssa England, Fiscal Officer; and Leslie Yost, Administration Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Mary Mesi, President.

**30-22 AMEND AGENDA**

Be it resolved, upon motion by Matt Wideman, seconded by Mark Bohach, that the Board of Trustees amends the agenda to move the complaint appeal of Teresa Ward under New Business and public participation to the beginning of meeting.

Roll call vote: Mark Bohach, "Aye"; Lisa Evangelista, "Aye"; Bryan Everitt, "Aye"; Margaret Quamme, "Aye"; and Matt Wideman, "Aye". The President declared the motion adopted.

**SWEARING IN**

**Board of Trustee, Mark Bohach, was sworn in by Leslie Yost, Notary Public, as follows:**

"Do you solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and that you will faithfully and impartially discharge your duties as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Fairfield County District Library, Fairfield County, Ohio to the best of your ability, and in accordance with the laws now in effect and hereinafter to be enacted, during your term of office?"

Bohach responded: "I will." Term expires May 31, 2029.

**COMPLAINT APPEAL – Ms. Teresa Ward**

Teresa Ward addressed the Fairfield County District Library Board of Trustees to ask the Board to remove the book, *Let's Talk About It, The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being Human*, written by Matthew Noland and Erika Moen from the Library. Ward stated that she disagreed with the Library Director's denial of her Request for Reconsideration of this title based on the Library's material selection policy as well as on the basis of censorship. Ward read several excerpts from the graphic novel to the Board and stated the book is pornographic and exposes children to pornographic pictures and sexual acts and that it is inappropriate to maintain in the collection.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mark Conrad stated his support for the book. Conrad said that it can be explicit but reading the entire book is important to its purpose. He felt the book was teen appropriate and provided an expansive guide to human sexuality emphasizing respect, communications, and consent. He asked the Board to speak for the entire community by having the book remain on the shelves of the Library.

Natalie Chieffe stated that young people are searching for this type of information. Chieffe said if read in its entirety, it encompasses the whole scope of sexuality. She asked the Board to keep it on the shelf for possibly teens 15 and older.

Mark Kinsler stated that a group of 14 year olds could have written the book. The internet is a rich source of information. When Kinsler was a youth, he did not go to the library for such information but found it in other forms. Although the material is very raw, he felt the book would only be a surprise to parents. He requested the book be kept on the shelf.

Bohach thanked the participants for their attendance. He proceeded to read an additional page where the book responds to one of the excerpts presented by Ward. Bohach said the responses are what the book is all about and that the responses to the excerpts that Ward presented are important to the entirety of the book's content. Bohach agreed with a statement of Ward that parents should be actively engaged in their children's education. Parents should say what is appropriate for their children and what is not. It is not the responsibility or job of the Library. However, the responsibility of the Board is to serve the entire community.

Quamme understands that customers differ in their opinion on various books, but as a Board member, she and the Board respects and trusts the decision of the Library Director. Quamme stated that Schaade made it very clear in her response to Ward, her justification to retain the book based on its reviews. It is very rare that a book gets a star from the Kirkus review and this book received four positive reviews which is very important criteria to keep the book.

Everitt stepped back from the content of the book to base the retention on Board policy (Library Materials Selection Policy) which has been in place for 16 years. The policy addresses the 17 step selection criteria including sections on diverse or controversial material, reviews of the material, and the rights of parents to select and guide their children's choice of books maintained in the Library. The decision was also based on the position of other central Ohio libraries to maintain this book in their teen collection and to trust those Librarians who have years of experience and education who use similar guidelines to select material.

Mesi reminded the attendees that the Board of Trustees takes an oath to support the Constitution of the United States. That the rights under the First Amendment should be protected. She understood that Ward might not feel this book is appropriate for her children; however, she stated that the beauty of our country is that we have the freedom to read those books if we choose to do so or to not read those books. Everitt agreed that the oath as a Library trustee is the same oath taken by the President of the United States and the oath taken in the military to defend the First Amendment.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **31-22 APPROVE RETAINING THE BOOK, LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: THE TEENS GUIDE TO SEX, RELATIONSHIPS, AND BEING HUMAN**

Be it resolved, upon motion by Bryan Everitt, seconded by Margaret Quamme, that the Fairfield County District Library Board of Trustees approves the retention of the book, *Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being Human* written by Matthew Noland and Erika Moen.

Roll call vote: Mark Bohach, "Aye"; Lisa Evangelista, "Aye"; Bryan Everitt, "Aye"; Margaret Quamme, "Aye"; Matt Wideman, "Aye"; and Mary Mesi, "Aye". The President declared the motion adopted.

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT – Becky Schaade**

- The Garret Players performance of Independence Day at Happy Meadows had a great turnout and nearly a full house for the Friday performance.
- The Friends of the Library held their book sale on May 6, May 7, and May 8 and made over \$1,400.00. There were many positive comments from customers and the Friends gained many

new members. Schaade thanked the volunteers who made the event possible including the book sale Chair, Roxanne Dicken.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Becky Schaade**

- The Central Library Consortium (CLC) maintains firewall for all member libraries. The equipment is nearing end of life and will be replaced.
- Approximately 500 surveys have been received in response to strategic planning. The collection of surveys will run through the end of May. Several respondents indicated they would be willing to participate in a focus group to provide additional information. A staff survey has also been distributed.
- The StoryWalk at Alley Park has been installed. Schaade thanked Lancaster Parks and Recreation and the State Library of Ohio, through whom this project was funded. Stories will be changed quarterly.
- OPLIN (Ohio Public Library Information Network) has provided a new online resource called North Star Digital Literacy. It has self-guided training and assessments to test and improve essential computer skills. North Star can be found on the Library's website under Online Learning.
- A Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) delivery driver accidentally backed into the Northwest Branch Library during a recent delivery and caused some damage to the back door, door frame, and wall outside of the door. Schaade and England are working with CML to get the damage fixed and they have agreed to pay all invoices associated with fixing the damages.
- Communico is the new series cloud-based applications that the library will be using for the calendar of events on our website, as well as customer registration for these events. The Library has transitioned from our previous online calendar software to Communico's Attend software. The Library is planning to next roll out Communico's "Engage," which will allow the library to have its own app in the Apple and Google Play stores. The app will allow customer to login to their account, place items on hold, sign up for programs, and receive push notifications. It will also connect with the library's digital offering like Libby and Hoopla.

## **Personnel**

PROMOTIONAL TRANSFER, Sarah Johnston, from Library Assistant III – Adult Services, 20 hours per week, \$14.61 per hour to Library Assistant VI – Adult Services, 20 hours per week, \$19.69 per hour, effective May 10, 2022.

APPOINTMENT, Kayleigh Norris, Library Assistant II – Circulation Services, 20 hours per week, \$10.96 per hour, effective May 23, 2022.

APPOINTMENT, Benjamin Schenck, Library Assistant II – Circulation Services, 20 hours per week, \$10.96 per hour, effective June 6, 2022.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **32-22 APRIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Be it resolved, upon motion by Matt Wideman, seconded by Lisa Evangelista, that the minutes of the April 19, 2022 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

Roll call vote: Mark Bohach, "Aye"; Lisa Evangelista, "Aye"; Bryan Everitt, "Aye"; Margaret Quamme, "Aye"; and Matt Wideman, "Aye". The President declared the motion adopted.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT – Alyssa England**

- The Public Library Fund (PLF) came in 45.5% higher (or \$105,000.00) than what was estimated for the month.

- England will bring the 2023 Annual Budget Request to the Board at the next meeting. It will need to be filed with the Auditor in July in preparation for the Fairfield County Budget Commission Hearing scheduled the first week of August.

### **33-22 FINANCIAL REPORT & CHECK REGISTER**

Be it resolved, upon motion by Bryan Everitt, seconded by Mark Bohach, that the financial report and the check register as of April 30, 2022 be approved as submitted.

Roll call vote: Mark Bohach, "Aye"; Lisa Evangelista, "Aye"; Bryan Everitt, "Aye"; Margaret Quamme, "Aye"; and Matt Wideman, "Aye". The President declared the motion adopted.

### **DONATION**

#### **34-22 DONATION - RESTRICTED**

Be it resolved, upon motion by Lisa Evangelista, seconded by Margaret Quamme, that the following donation be accepted:

\$100.00 from Mr. Bryan Everitt to purchase banned books

Roll call vote: Mark Bohach, "Aye"; Lisa Evangelista, "Aye"; Bryan Everitt, "Abstain"; Margaret Quamme, "Aye"; and Matt Wideman, "Aye". The President declared the motion adopted.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.