

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Monday, August 28, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Bowling	Tansy Raynor
Lauren Brandon	Steve Sullivan
Rollie Holden, Jr.	Shawn Wright
Phil King	Cody York
Dina Piazza	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Larry Flowers	Kory Wells
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Rita Shacklett, Director, RCLS	Donna Jordon, Branch Supervisor, Eagleville
Garrett Crowell, Interim Manager, Linebaugh	Kathleen Tyree, Branch Manager, TEC Library
Ginger Graves, Branch Manager, Smyrna Library	Kate Huddleston, Director, SRRL
Mindy Barrett, Branch Supervisor, MGL Library	Bearl Beasley, President, FOLL
	Elsa Britt, Recorder

Members of the Public:

Katie Peachey	Rebecca McGowan	Dianne Hall
Reed Peachey	Michele Bell	Kathy Boudreau
Sharon Stevens	Harold Bell	Bill Rucinski
AJ Swafford	Watson Harris	Dave O’Flaherty
Lisa Kaye	B. Keith Brown	Therman Scott
Talitha Cox	Amanda Caperton	Sandra Dills
Beth Cox	Ashley Murdock	Joshua Crain
Tiffany Fee	Cody Murdock	Marilyn Patterson
Matthew Fee	Stella	Megan Joines
Lora Wright	J. Davis	Nathan Gerard-Bowen
Anna T.	Sharon Driscoll	Kathryn Gerard-Bowen
Sandra Pineault	Michell Johnson	Linda Vile
Dotty Adams	Marcus Johnson	Dana Everts-Boehm
Barbara Cunningham	Leslie Russell Yost	Brent Morgan
Suzanne Mangrum	Leslie Collum	Anna Morgan
Susan Todd	Lori Lewis	

OTHERS ABSENT:

Theresa Pickett, President, FOSL
Beth Wheeler, President, FOEL

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CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rutherford County Library System was called to order by Mr. Sullivan, Chair, on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Murfreesboro City Hall.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER/S: Dina Piazza.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

The Minutes of Meeting held on July 17, 2023 were presented for approval. There being no corrections, revisions, or changes, Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. King seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

At this point, Mr. Sullivan revised the order of business in the agenda by bringing up item 7 “Other Business – Juvenile cards.” Ms. Shacklett explained that the new Koha system allows different profiles for categorizing library cards. Board members discussed how these classifications could help the library comply with the City of Murfreesboro Community Decency Standard Ordinance (see Note 3) and Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-911, recently brought to the attention of the board (see Note 2).

Mr. Wright made a motion allowing the creation of profiles for three categories of library cards:

- Juvenile (only check out juvenile materials),
- Young Adult (only check out juvenile & young adult material),
- Adult (can check out anything).
- By default, Juvenile and Young Adult cards will be restricted from checking out adult material, but parents/guardians will be able to opt in to give permission to check out other material, if they choose.

Mr. York seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Budget and Finance: Mr. Bowling mentioned the financial report ending July 31, 2023 is not available yet due to slight revision in the TEC budget for FY 2023-24.

The City of Murfreesboro’s portion of the TEC budget for FY 2023-24 was \$122,583.00. However, when final numbers were received, it was \$10,000 short due to a clerical error at some point, reflecting only \$112,583.00. The Budget and Finance committee chose to move forward with the budget already allocated and approved by the City of Murfreesboro, and Mr. Bowling made a motion the revised TEC budget for FY 2023-24 be approved. Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Personnel Committee: Mr. Bowling presented the library director’s performance evaluation and made a motion that a 3% salary increase be given for the FY 2023-24. Mr. Holden seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Mr. York abstained. Motion carried.

By-Laws & Policies: Mr. Wright presented and made a motion to approve the revised PM-500 – Board of Directors. Notable revisions are the following:

- Addition of two separate “Public Comments” sections (agenda and non-agenda) to the order of business.
- Revisions to items pertaining to both types of public comments.
- Inclusion of items specific to each type of public comments.

Mr. York seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Nominating: Mr. Flowers was absent.

Development & Acquisitions: Mr. King had nothing to report at this time.

Strategic Planning: Ms. Wells was absent.

Facility Maintenance: Mr. Holden made motions to approve the following items for the Smyrna Public Library:

- For the amount of \$5,609.00 to be taken from SPL's reserve funds to replace the main pendant light fixtures, with the work to be performed by Bolt Electric. Mr. Bowling seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.
- For the amount of \$730.00 to be taken out of SPL's reserve funds to pay Bolt Electric for work done on August 13-14, 2023, troubleshooting a flickering pendant light in the hall which had a faulty mounting, and a burnt ballast in an emergency fixture.. Mr. Bowling seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM LIBRARIES & SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

Linebaugh Library: Reports were submitted in the packet.

MGL Library: Reports were submitted in the packet.

Technology Engagement Center (TEC): Reports were submitted in the packet.

Bookmobile (BKM): Reports were submitted in the packet.

Historical Research Center (HRC): Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Shacklett requested the Board's approval to advertise two pieces of old equipment (a microfilm reader and a book scanner) to the TN-Libraries listserv to be offered to other libraries in TN. Mr. York made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Holden seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

Friends of Linebaugh Library (FOLL): Mr. Beasley's reports were submitted in the packet.

Smyrna Public Library (SPL): Reports were submitted in the packet.

Friends of Smyrna Library (FOSL): Ms. Pickett was absent. Reports were submitted in the packet.

Eagleville Library: Reports were submitted in the packet.

Friends of Eagleville Library (FOEL): FOEL's activities were included in Ms. Jordan's report.

Rutherford County Library System (RCLS): Reports were submitted in the packet. In light of the increased public attention as reflected in the attendance at today's board meeting, Mr. York made a motion directing Ms. Shacklett to reach out to the Rutherford County Mayor's office to coordinate the use of the Rutherford County Courthouse's second floor courtroom, which is designed to handle a large number of people and has audio and video recording as well as sound amplification system capabilities, for the remaining board meetings of the year (ending December 2023). Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

Foundation: Nothing to report at this time. The Foundation will meet on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

Stones River Regional Library (SRRL): Reports were submitted in the packet.

OTHER BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Public Comments: The following members of the public spoke:
 1. Matthew Fee, with the Rutherford County Library Alliance, advocated for clarity and transparency in the reconsiderations of materials and in policy changes.
 2. Tiffany Fee, with the Rutherford County Library Alliance, expressed support for library staff, empathy for board members, and spoke to the importance of diverse literature to children.
 3. Talitha Cox shared concerns about children’s early exposure to sexual information and spoke in favor of removing *Flamer* and *This Book Is Gay*.
 4. Megan Joines spoke in favor of removing *Let’s Talk About It*.
 5. Beth Cox/Hannah Faulkner spoke in favor of removing *This Book Is Gay*.

- Requests for reconsideration of the following books were individually discussed. Board members reminded those present that obscenity, as it applies to minors, is not protected by the First Amendment, per the “Miller test” (named after the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Miller v. California* in 1973). Also, the board must adhere to local and state laws (see Notes below), even if those laws are at odds with the ALA’s “Freedom to Read” statement. The books reconsidered were
 1. *An ABC of Equality* by Chana Ginelle Ewing (J 305) – Staff recommended it remain where it is. Mr. York made a motion to accept staff’s recommendation. Ms. Brandon seconded. Eight (8) of those who were present voted “aye.” Ms. Piazza abstained. Motion carried.
 2. *Flamer* by Mike Curato (YA GN) – Staff recommended it remain where it is. Mr. Wright made a motion reversing staff recommendation, citing contents in violations of the City ordinance as well as the state law. Mr. York seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.
 3. *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe (Adult GN) – Staff recommended it remain where it is, as it does not fall under decency ordinance; it is an adult book. Mr. Wright made a motion to accept staff’s recommendation. Mr. Holden seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.
 4. *Queerfully & Wonderfully Made* edited by Leigh Finke (YA 248.83) – Staff recommended it remain where it is. Mr. York made a motion reversing staff’s recommendation, citing various content in violation of the decency ordinance as well as the state law. Mr. King seconded. Eight (8) of those who were present voted “aye”, Ms. Brandon voted “nay.” Motion carried.
 5. *Let’s Talk About It* by Erika Moen (YA 306.7) – Staff recommended it be withdrawn. Mr. York made a motion accepting the recommendation and distributed, to the board, photocopies of pages from the book depicting graphic illustrations that violate the decency ordinance as well as the state law. Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.
 6. *This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson (YA 306.766) – Staff recommended it be withdrawn. Mr. York made a motion accepting staff recommendation and cited numerous content in violation of the decency

ordinance as well as the state law. Mr. Holden seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.”
Motion carried.

Note 1: Book titles voted for withdrawal may still be available on digital platforms, as the RCLS has no control over those.

[Note 2: Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-911 – Sale, Loan or Exhibition of Materials to Minors](#)

[Note 3: 23-0-22 Community Decency Standard Ordinance \(City of Murfreesboro\)](#)

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.