

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, February 05, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lauren Brandon	Steve Sullivan
Tim Bowling	Kory Wells
Laurie Cantrell	Marzee Woodward
Rollie Holden Jr.	Shawn Wright
Dina Piazza	Cody York

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Phil King

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rita Shacklett, Director, RCLS	Donna Jordon, Eagleville Branch Supervisor
Mindy Barrett, Linebaugh Branch Manager	Kathleen Tyree, TEC Branch Manager
Ginger Graves, Smyrna Branch Manager	Kate Huddleston, SRRL Director
Kristen Birckholtz, MGL Branch Supervisor	Leslie Collum, FOLL President
Elsa Britt, Recorder	

PUBLIC (who signed in):

Laurie Waldron	Judy Bradford	Amanda Caperton
Beth Cox	Angie Kleinau	Trey Gwinn
Talitha Cox	Julie Ivie	Michael Cleaves
Mary Gordon	Dinah Bullington	Jason Vance
Gloria Holding	Kathi Reagh	Jan Lasko
Elana Churchill	Cassandra Taylor	Tony Woodall
Jessica Robertson	W.D. Woodward	Tiffany Fee
Frank Lambert	Keri Lambert	Daphne Gamble
Lauren Gamble	Rebecca Calahan	Ashley Bond
Adam Bond	Sarah Morns	Terri Donovan
Angela Frederick	Susan Todd	Lori Lewis
Monique Watson		

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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, February 5, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Murfreesboro City Hall, 111 W. Vine St., Murfreesboro, TN.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER/S: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (action items on the agenda):

Five (5) signed up to speak about a specific topic on the agenda concerning item 9, Other Business, Request for Reconsideration: Keri Lambert, Frank Lambert, Angela Frederick, Tony

Woodall, and Daphne Gamble. All spoke about keeping the three (3) books for reconsideration where they are, and all urged the Board not to ban books. Two (2) mentioned that sex education is not harmful to children and in fact is related to mental and physical health.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

The Minutes of Meeting held on December 4, 2023 and December 18, 2023 were presented for approval. There being no corrections, revisions, or changes, Mr. Wright made a motion to approve both Minutes as presented. Ms. Cantrell seconded. Those who were present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: None.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Budget and Finance: Mr. Bowling presented the financial report for the month ending November 30, 2023 and December 31, 2023, and made a motion for their acceptance. Ms. Wells seconded. Those who were present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Mr. Bowling presented the proposed budget for FY 2024-2025 and made a motion for its approval. Ms. Woodward seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

The primary source of increases in the FY 2024-25 proposed budget are:

1. Digital funding (Ms. Shacklett was requested to get statistics on how many Hoopla users were blocked per day due to lack of funding.)
2. Re-allocation of the Lee Co. maintenance contract back to a full-time maintenance position for the system.
3. Increase in the director’s salary.
4. 2.5% average performance evaluation increase.

By-Laws & Policies: Mr. Wright had nothing to report at this time.

Development & Acquisitions: Mr. King was absent.

Facility Maintenance: Mr. Holden had nothing to report at this time.

Nominating: Vacant.

Personnel Committee: Mr. Bowling reported the committee advertised the interim director position and received three (3) applications, one of which was Mindy Barrett. After careful consideration, perusal of the applicants’ resumes, and interviews, Ms. Barrett was the committee’s choice. Mr. Bowling made a motion that Mindy Barrett be offered the position as the interim director. Mr. Bowling mentioned that Ms. Barrett is willing to step in temporarily and wishes to go back to her position as the Linebaugh Branch Manager when a permanent director is hired. Ms. Brandon seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

As to the hiring of a new director, Mr. Sullivan informed the board that he has been meeting with the local mayors and attorneys to discuss their interest in possible library restructuring and

leaving the regional system. The timing of this decision, as well as funding in general, make it prudent for the board to delay hiring a permanent director until budgets are approved this spring.

Strategic Planning: Ms. Wells had nothing to report at this time but asked staff to provide an annual report on the 2023 Strategic Plan goals in March.

Ad Hoc Committee: Mr. Bowling had nothing to report at this time.

REPORTS FROM LIBRARIES & SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

Linebaugh Library: Ms. Barrett added the following to her written reports:

- Thanked Linebaugh staff for helping in the clean-up operation after the library was flooded due to plumbing damage when the snowstorm hit the area.
- Kelly Norton accepted the position as Circulation Supervisor.
- The Jan Brett book author signing event: 264 people attended the event, and several attendees were from out of state.

MGL Library: Ms. Birckholtz had nothing to add to her reports submitted in the packet.

Technology Engagement Center (TEC): Ms. Tyree highlighted some programs with high attendance, new programs to be implemented, and a special event in celebration of Black History Month.

Bookmobile (BKM): Ms. Shacklett reported the following:

- The new bookmobile is on display at the pull-off parking area on Church St. Anyone is welcome to walk through it after the Board meeting if you have not done so yet.
- Ms. Shacklett introduced Michael Cleaves, who is in charge of the bookmobile. Mr. Cleaves talked about the various new stops, in addition to old ones, as well as stops that are in the works. He described how excited the patrons are that the bookmobile is back. The bookmobile's first event at Overall Creek Elementary School was a rousing success; 191 patrons came, 98 books were circulated, and we signed up 40 people for new library cards.

Historical Research Center (HRC): Nothing to add to reports submitted in the packet.

Friends of Linebaugh Library (FOLL): This is Ms. Collum's first RCLS Board meeting. Ms. Collum had nothing to add to her written reports.

Smyrna Public Library (SPL): Ms. Graves added the following to her written reports:

- Two (2) Smyrna Library staff member have been chosen to present at the TLA Conference in Cool Springs, TN, in April: Amy Barbieri and Nicole Steiner. They will present the three (3) special programs they created and offer at the Smyrna Library: Home School Art, STEAM Story Time, and Sight Words Snack Attack.
- Ms. Graves expressed her opinion concerning the request for reconsideration for the book *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robbie H. Harris, and her recommendation that it remain in the YA/NF section.

Friends of Smyrna Library (FOSL): Ms. Graves added the following to FOSL's written reports:

- Purchased furniture and other necessary items for the library.
- Congratulated Katie Clark who won the "golden ladle" for her "Zuppa Toscana" during the "Souper" Friends Saturday membership drive on January 27, 2024.

Eagleville Library: Ms. Jordon mentioned that Eagleville is one of the areas to be serviced by the bookmobile.

Friends of Eagleville Library (FOEL): The FOEL are preparing Valentine gifts bags as a thank-you to adult patrons.

Rutherford County Library System (RCLS): Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Shacklett highlighted the following:

- The revised Action Plan will be presented by Ms. Barrett and Mr. Sullivan at the Steering Committee meeting on March 4, 2024. Mr. Holden pointed out an error in the narrative versus the graphic presentation where the statistics did not match. Ms. Shacklett will correct it.
- This is Ms. Shacklett's last board meeting. The Board and the public gave her a standing ovation for a job well done. Board members expressed that she has been a good steward of the RCLS for over 48 years, and will be greatly missed.

Foundation: The Foundation Board met on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

- The fundraising event, Rutherford Reads 2024, is on Saturday, April 6, 2024, and will be held at the Maney Hall at Oakland Park. Please mark your calendar.
- They have a new board member – Dena Oneal.
- They are also thinking of additional fundraising ideas for the fall.
- They are setting up a Grants Committee to work on an application for branches to submit funding requests.

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

Huddleston highlighted the following:

- Presented the completion certificate to Katharine Brown and Chloe Dye for completing Core Competency Training.
- Reminders on budget proposals, state and federal material funds, tech grant, and Trustee Certification.
- The RCLS has an excellent rating in all criteria in the Tennessee Standards for Public Libraries 2023 survey.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (non-agenda items): None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Request for Reconsideration:

1. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Staff recommended that it remain where it is in the Adult Fiction section. Mr. Sullivan commented that since it is an adult book, the law does not apply to materials in the adult section. The board agreed that it remain where it is.

2. *It's Perfectly Normal* (3rd edition) by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley (YA613.907). **Note:** 1994 edition is in Adult/Non-Fiction (613.907). Staff recommended that it be moved to Adult/Non-Fiction. Mr. York made a motion to approve the recommendation. Ms. Wells seconded. Ms. Piazza and Mr. Wright abstained. Motion carried.

3. *The Antiracist Kid* by Tiffany Jewell (J 305.08). Staff recommended it remain in the Juvenile section. Mr. Bowling made a motion to accept staffs' recommendation. Ms. Wells seconded. Ms. Piazza and Mr. Wright abstained. Motion carried.

Note: Mr. Wright said that due to technical difficulties, he was unable to receive the Board packet until late this afternoon. He therefore did not have time to review/evaluate the books for reconsideration and abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.