

**Wicomico Public Libraries
Board of Trustees Bimonthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 4:p.m.**

In Attendance: Audrey Orr, Michele Schlehofer, PhD, George Demko, PhD, Farah Yahya, Chip Dashiell, Esq., Pattie Tingle, Ryan Bass, Brian Bergen-Aurand, PhD, Michele Canopii, PhD, Maida Finch, PhD (by Zoom), Karen Treber, Esq. and Shane Baker, County Council .

Staff in Attendance: Seth Hershberger, Cheryl Nardiello, Bobbi Schreiber, Stephanie Daisey, Bernadette Cannady and Andi Post.

Bernadette introduced Andi, the new Youth Services Manager, to the Board and Andi said a few words of introduction. Stephanie gave the Board a brief tour of the new website and related information about its launch which occurred on February 14, 2023.

Previous Minutes: Mr. Dashiell made a **Motion** that the minutes of the December meeting be approved. Dr. Demko seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

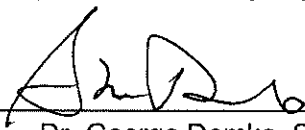
Reports: Ms. Orr went through the **Consent Agenda Reports: Donations, Statement of Financial Position, Statistical, Grant/Outreach, & Communications /Programming** asking if there were any questions on each, individual report. Mr. Bass made a **Motion** to approve the **Consent Agenda**; it was seconded by Dr. Canopii and was passed. In the **Friends Committee Report**, Ms. Yahya conveyed that the Friends membership has improved and that they have been offering incentives such as gifts of candles and handmade mugs. (These are also available for sale in the Library book store.) The Book Sale is coming up on April 14-16 and Light of Literacy will follow soon after on May 18. They are looking for nominations for the Light of Literacy and tickets for the event go on sale on March 1st. Dr. Schlehofer explained that the **EDI Committee** is discussing having the Library's EDI Statement available on the website in various languages. The EDI Committee is considering creating a Community Advisory Board to serve in conjunction with the committee. In the **Director's Report**, Seth described attending the Library Legislative Day in Annapolis with Dr. Bergen-Aurand. They were able to connect with our Maryland Representatives and share some of their aspirations for the Library with them. Cheryl expanded on the **Head Administrator's Report** and the **Budget Report**. Dr. Canopii brought a **Motion** to approve the **Budget Report**, which was seconded by Dr. Bergen-Aurand and approved unanimously. Shane Baker described what the **County Council** has been discussing, such as the CIP and the Library Budget. Michele Gregory was unable to attend so we did not get a report from the **City Council**. Dr. Demko announced that Ms. Tingle has joined the **Building Committee**. Seth gave the Board an update on the situation with the **City Parking Permits**. The Library submitted a letter to the City Council explaining our position on the importance of the Library as an anchor drawing people to the downtown area.

New Business: Seth explained the two versions of the **Draft Budget** for fiscal year 2024; one with no increase (flat-funded) and one with a proposed 15% increase. The one with the proposed increase is the one that will be presented to the County Council.

Mr. Bass brought a **Motion** to approve the first reading of the budget. Ms. Treber seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The closing costs on purchase of the **Parsonsborg Property** are \$3,601.98 and are due at closing on March 1st. Mr. Dashiell proposed a **Motion** to approve the transfer of the closing cost funds (\$3,601.98) from our Reserve Funds and it was seconded by Dr. Bergen-Aurand and approved by all. Seth explained that with the new **Naming Rights Policy** (we haven't had one in the past) the Board will make decisions regarding the naming of areas of the Library and the County Council would make decisions regarding an entire Library building. The Board made the decision to look over the policy and vote on it next meeting. Seth explained the reasoning and intricacies surrounding the newly proposed **Parental Leave Policy**. Dr. Canopii brought a **Motion** the policy be approved with the stipulation that the language be clarified. Mr. Bass seconded the motion and it was passed. Ms. Yahya proposed a **Motion** to approve a **Title Change** for Cheryl Nardiello from *Head of Administration* to *Assistant Director*. Mr. Dashiell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Library is applying for a **USDA Grant** for \$50,000. to put toward the purchase of the new Bookmobile and part of the application process is to receive Board approval, therefore, Ms. Tingle made a **Motion** to approve the application. Dr. Demko seconded the motion and it was passed. Seth explained the changes to the current **Strategic Plan** and asked for the Board's Approval. Dr. Finch brought the **Motion**; it was seconded by Dr. Canopii and approved by all. Dr. Bergen-Aurand offered a **Motion to Adjourn** the Meeting for an **Executive Session** at 6:00 pm. Dr. Finch seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The Executive Session closed pursuant to Section 3-305 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland- Personnel Matters [3-305(b)(1)] Board will discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee or official over whom it has jurisdiction.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, April 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dr. George Demko, Secretary