

MINUTES OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING

July 17, 2024

Members Present: Susan Gesser  
Kevin Dorth  
Kathi Mattas

Members Absent: Rodney Ellis  
Chris Gendek

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director  
Debbie Young, Business Manager  
Janie Marksberry, Fiscal Court Liaison  
Josh Kelly, Reporter – Owensboro Times

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Gesser at 5:05 p.m.

There were approximately (30) people attending the Board Meeting with four people indicating they would address the Board. Susan Gesser noted that Public Comment would be moved to the beginning of the meeting and anyone was welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting or leave at the end of Public Comment.

Brian Blair addressed the Board and said that the obscene book titles in the Children’s section are grooming children and these books are evil and sinful.

Kevin Whear said that Public Comment should be held at the end of the meeting as listed on the Agenda and by moving to the first Agenda item, the public was not allowed to comment on topics that were discussed during the meeting. Mr. Whear addressed Susan Gesser’s report at the June Board Meeting on the webinar “Law and the Right to Read: What Trustees Need to Know”. He said the webinar was using scare tactics by threatening expensive lawsuits. Mr. Whear said the Board should act bravely and should not fear legal threats and do the right thing by moving the obscene books.

Sue Richards indicated that there was a challenge by a small group to ban what they called inappropriate books. Every individual should be able to find a book that meets their needs at the library and finding such books could be life saving for an individual. Ms. Richards said the library should celebrate diversity and the books are not inappropriate. The library is inclusive to everyone and no censorship is needed.

Trey Matthews said that he was a parent of three children. He said there are books in the Children's section that promote gender dysmorphia and these books should not be in the Children's section.

No one else indicated they wished to address the Board.

Mrs. Gesser indicated the business portion of the Board Meeting would begin and called for the approval of the minutes of the June meeting. After review and hearing no comments or corrections, Kevin Dorth made a motion to approve the June minutes as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis was absent from the meeting; therefore, Debbie Young presented the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Young went over the June financial reports, including the receipts and expenditures for the month. She asked if anyone had questions, and hearing no comments or corrections, Kathi Mattas made a motion to approve the June financial report and expenditures as presented. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Waller presented the Director's Report and discussed the following:

- Summer Reading is going on for a couple more weeks and there are over 2,000 people registered and there has been a record 700,000 minutes logged. All the programs have been well attended. Summer Reading will end on July 31.
- The Library van has been replaced by a Honda Pilot.
- There are several job postings for open positions as some part time employees are leaving town for college.
- Kathi Mattas asked where the Request for Reconsideration Form was located, and Ms. Waller responded that the form could be requested at any of the Public Desks at the Library.

There was no Old Business.

Susan Gesser called for New Business – Request for Board Meeting Changes. Ms. Waller deferred to Kevin Dorth who said that he will be teaching a Wednesday evening class during the fall semester and wanted to inquire about a possible board meeting date change during this time period. This would affect the August through December Board meetings. After discussion, Kathy Mattas made a motion to change the August through December, 2024 board meeting dates to the third Tuesday of each month. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. This is only a temporary change.

Susan Gesser asked Janie Marksberry if she had anything for Public Comment. Ms. Marksberry indicated she believed that Owensboro could use some cooling shelters where people would be allowed to come in and cool off from the extremely hot weather. She asked Erin Waller if that was permitted at the Library. Ms. Waller indicated that was something we have always allowed for both cold and hot weather. Ms. Marksberry asked if the Library would like to offer water during this time and Ms. Waller agreed that would be a good idea. Ms. Marksberry said she would check into getting donated water.

Having no further business to come before the Board, Kathi Mattas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Public Lounge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Mattas", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.