

DECISION 21-7-1



PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 16, 2021 4 pm

Penrose Library – Columbine Room

[VIRTUAL MEETING \(ZOOM\)](#)

Call in: 1-253- 215-8782 or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-669-900-6833 or 1-346-248-7799

Meeting ID: 999 9730 6850

Passcode: 399338

BOARD MEMBERS, PIKES PEAK LIBRARY STAFF & OTHERS PRESENT

President Wayne Vanderschuere, Vice President Scott Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer Dora Gonzales, Trustee Debbie English, Trustee Cathy Grossman, Trustee Mina Liebert, Trustee Dr. Ned Stoll

Chief Librarian and CEO John Spears, Director of Family and Children's Services Melody Alvarez, Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Directors President Stephen Adams, Chief Safety, Social Services & Security Officer Michael Brantner, Audio Visual Analyst Phillip Doumas, Executive Assistant Laura Foster, Director of Adult Services Janina Goodwin, County Commissioner Randy Helms, Fountain Library Manager Gigi Holman, Chief Development Officer and Foundation Executive Officer Lance James, Chief Human Resources and Organizational Development Officer Heather Laslie, Chief Information Technology Officer Rich Peters, Ruth Holley Library Manager Fran Ponce-Toledo, Chief Communications Officer Michelle Ray, Social Worker Kayla Rockhold, Sand Creek Library Manager Jake Rundle, Director of Adult Education Tammy Sayles, Senior Library Associate Carol Scheer, Director of Southeast Region Abby Simpson, Chief Facilities Management Officer Gary Syling, Chief Financial Officer Mike Varnet, Internal Communications Specialist Jeremiah Walter, Jeff Pittman, Caleb Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

President Vanderschuere called the June 16, 2021 meeting of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees to order at 4:02 p.m. Mr. Vanderschuere thanked everyone who collaborated to make this hybrid virtual/in-person meeting a reality, after meeting virtually since May 2020.

ITEMS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA

There were no items too late for the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

Correspondence

A letter from School District 11 Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Thomas was included in the packet. Dr. Thomas recognizes the contribution that PPLD makes to our community through staff outreach to District 11 schools. Despite the impact of the pandemic, Becca Phillipson provided six presentations to 210 students last year.

Presentations

Panorama Park Project

Senior Library Associate Jordan Romero and Creative Librarian Jenny Kremyar, introduced by Sand Creek Library Manager Jake Rundle, provided an overview of Library District staff involvement in the Panorama Park Renovation project. Mr. Rundle shared his appreciation for the impact their participation in the project has made and how their efforts promote the variety of services that the Library District can provide to the community.

PPLD is partnering with RISE and artist Jeresneyka Rose to host members of the community who have participated in the creation of the tiles in the maker space at Sand Creek Library. The preparation of the clay for the tiles was done partly at the Manitou Art Center, in partnership with the Youth Advisory Council.

Trustee Mina Liebert, who is heavily involved in this project, is impressed with the capacity of PPLD to provide resources and be involved at such a high level. This project could not happen without the support and resources of the Library District. Trustees Wayne Vanderschuere, Dora Gonzales, Scott Taylor, and Debbie English expressed their appreciation for an excellent example of partnering and meeting the needs of the southeast community.

Social Work Activities

Social Worker Kayla Rockhold shared an overview of the work she has accomplished since joining PPLD in December 2020. To build a bridge for patrons, she has met with outside organizations to discover what services are provided by whom. On-going partnerships are established with the Springs Rescue Mission, Catholic Charities, and The Place. An adult support group, Connect, will launch on July 6 and will meet every Tuesday morning at Penrose. Ms. Rockhold hosts open hours at locations across the district to meet those in need in their own community. A peer navigator from Catholic Charities assists with connections in the community. The Homeless Services Committee meets quarterly and discusses overcoming barriers to needed resources. Two interns pursuing their bachelor's and Master's in Social Work will be working with Ms. Rockhold through May 2022.

In the first five and a half months of 2021, Ms. Rockhold has held 393 patron meetings with 184 individuals, 98 of whom are known to be experiencing homelessness. 156 single ride bus passes, some of which are purchased with a grant from the city, have been distributed for patrons to access medical appointments, shelters, job searches and interviews, the DHS office, and the Social Security office, as well as other purposes. The need for these services has greatly increased as a total of 552 patron meetings occurred in 2019. Statistics of activity in 2020 are not available due to the pandemic.

Trustee Dora Gonzales asked if there had been any meetings with children. Ms. Rockhold shared that she has not met with anyone under the age of 16 without a parent being present.

President Wayne Vanderschuere asked if there are partnerships with veterans' organizations. Ms. Rockhold has met with Rocky Mountain Human Services regarding their program for veterans and is working to establish partnerships with other veterans' organizations such as Mt. Carmel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Councilman Randy Helms introduced himself as a City Council liaison to the PPLD Board of Trustees. Councilman Helms volunteered for the liaison role as he thinks libraries are very important to the community. He also shared that his mother was a librarian.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Decision 21-6-1: Minutes of the May 19, 2021 Meeting

The minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees were included in the Board packet.

Motion: Scott Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 regular meeting of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees as presented.

Second: Dr. Stoll seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Items

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Discussion: IT Overview

The IT Overview was included in the Board packet. Chief Information Technology Officer Rich Peters spoke about the 16 staff members in the IT Department transforming services, improving patron experiences, reducing costs, and streamlining processes across the District. Some highlights are:

- Staggering acquisition of replacement technology to maintain the network infrastructure.
- Moving to cloud-based storage to provide more cybersecurity for patron and staff information.
- Replacing wireless services, scheduled for 2022, with the goal of expanding this service outside of District facilities.
- Increasing efficiency by reducing the use of Microsoft products to just Office 365.
- Addressing the challenges of rapidly changing technology.
- Addressing the digital divide by developing a process to lend Chromebooks to patrons in addition to hotspots that are already available. This effort includes partnering with community groups to extend these services.
- Supporting ILS, security gates, and self-check systems and replacing as this equipment reaches end of life.

Trustee Cathy Grossman and Trustee Dr. Ned Stoll shared their appreciation of IT keeping up with changes in technology.

REPORTS

Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District Report

The Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District Report was included in the Board packet. Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Directors President Stephen Adams mentioned the following highlights:

- The Friends purchased a book for PPLD in memory of Albert Gonzales.
- A donation of \$15,000 was made to the PPLD Foundation.
- The summer book sale will be held on July 17th in the Venue at Library 21c.
- In response to a decline in membership, the Friends Board of Directors is discussing providing training, hosting a fall retreat, and bringing back the membership committee.

Trustee Dora Gonzales thanked the Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District for purchasing a book for PPLD in Albert's name.

Pikes Peak Library District Foundation Report

The Pikes Peak Library District Foundation Report was included in the Board packet. Chief Development Officer and Foundation Executive Officer Lance James shared the display of kudos received from donors during the recent Library Giving Day campaign.

Financial Report

The Financial Report for the period ending May 31, 2021 was included in the Board packet. Chief Financial Officer Mike Varnet announced the near completion of the audit of the 2020 financial records. The final step, a meeting of the auditors and the Internal Affairs Committee, is expected to take place by the end of June. Mr. Varnet shared

that the budget process for 2022 has begun. He pointed out that revenue has increased approximately 12.5% over last year at this time. Mr. Varnet stated that an increase in the retirement contribution rate from 8% to 10% is expected, in order to close the gap to being fully funded. The mid-year budget resolution will be presented in August.

Public Services Report

The Public Services Report was included in the Board packet. Chief Public Services Officer and Deputy Chief Librarian Teona Shainidze Krebs was unable to attend today's meeting due to a visit to Anythink to assess the WISE ILS that PPLD is considering. Chief Librarian John Spears highlighted that the Food Services training program is generating interest in the community as the hospitality industry needs the skilled workers the program will provide. Mr. Spears also shared that registration for the Summer Reading Program is strong and that attendance at Storytimes is steadily increasing.

Trustee Mina Liebert thanked Deb Hamilton, Strategic Services Law Librarian, for going above and beyond to provide the data set for the United Way.

Support Services Reports: Communications Report, Facilities Report, Human Resources Report, Information Technology Report, and Safety, Social Services & Security Report

The Support Services Reports were included in the Board packet. Trustee Cathy Grossman asked about the volume of staff that continue to work from home. Chief Human Resources and Organizational Development Officer Heather Laslie shared that some support services staff who can perform their jobs remotely do continue to work from home. Trustee Dora Gonzales inquired about the impact of using equipment from home on the budget. The District is working to provide laptops for all staff working remotely, utilizing CVRF funds to support a mobile workforce.

Chief Librarian's Report

Chief Librarian John Spears recognized all staff who have worked closely with El Paso County Public Health to host vaccination clinics at six District Libraries.

As Board meetings return to being held in-person, an option to attend virtually will continue to be offered. For Board members who wish to attend virtually, the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees state that Trustees may attend Board meetings virtually a maximum of two times in a given calendar year unless a special exception is otherwise approved by the majority vote of the remainder of the Board for a specific calendar year or period. Any special exception will expire at the end of the approved period, but the same process may be followed for a new exception to be approved.

Chief Librarian Spears shared that the increase in use of electronic materials does not represent a long-term shift from physical materials, as data reflects that e-material use has dropped over the past couple months. Additionally, Amazon has become a competitor to libraires as they do not allow their digital content in libraries. This is expected to have an impact on libraries, but the extent of that impact is, as of now, unknown.

Release of an RFP for a new Integrated Library System (ILS) is anticipated for this fall. The companies that provide Polaris ILS and the Wise ILS have expressed interest in PPLD being a development partner for their products. These vendors offer extended features that allow for detailed analytics that can inform District operations moving forward. A new ILS could be launched as early as next spring.

Chief Librarian Spears thanked Jeremiah Walter, Phillip Doumas, Laura Foster, and Tammy Sayles for the efforts that went into making a return to in-person Board meetings successful.

Board Reports

Governance Committee Report

Governance Committee Chair Debbie English reported that the Committee met on June 1, 2021. The committee discussed that a retreat is being planned for October. The date is yet to be determined.

Internal Affairs Committee Report

The Internal Affairs Committee did not meet in June.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Public Affairs Committee Chair Mina Liebert reported that the Committee met on June 1, 2021. The committee discussed outreach to local officials.

Board President's Report

President Wayne Vanderschuere thanked everyone involved for converting Board meetings to a hybrid of in-person and virtual so quickly.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, President Wayne Vanderschuere adjourned the June 16, 2021 meeting of the Pikes Peak Library Board of Trustees at 5:58 pm.