

Shelbyville Bedford County Public Library Board October 28th, 2025

Board Members present: Ralph McBride, Shay Maupin, John Boutwell, Mark McGee, Brent Pewitt, Michelle Hasty, and Dr. Gerald Martin. Also present: Margaret Petty – Library Director and Kate Huddleston – Regional Director. Not present: Jennifer Templeton, Betsy Noel, Bonne Belden, and Vida Vanatta.

Called to Order

Ralph McBride called the meeting to order at 1:11PM with a quorum of seven (7) members.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

No report.

Approval of Minutes

All approved.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph McBride reiterated that the goal is to increase the Christmas bonuses year after year and to take into consideration of how long the employee has been working at the library. Brent Pewitt asked Margaret Petty if there was a formula she used. She answered, there is not. Petty explained that she tries to keep the increase between \$50 - \$100 dollars. With Caleb Harris no longer working at the library, she added more to Emilee' and Megan's bonuses as they have picked up more duties in his absence. Petty added that the bonuses are included in the salary projections that are given at the beginning of the fiscal year. Dr. Martin suggested going to a percentage of their salary so that there isn't any question about what's given.

Dr. Gerald Martin made the motion to approve the 2025 Christmas bonuses. Mark McGee seconded the motion. All approved.

Regional Libraries' Report

Huddleston announced the new training updates. MOE's are due on the 31st. Tech Grant spending commenced on October 1st. She finished the report by sharing Rebecca Boyles is retiring after 34 years. Her position, Technical Services Assistant, will be open if anyone is interested in applying.

Old Business

Closing Linda's sick leave discussion, Ralph McBride advised that all employees are aware of the policy regarding sick leave not being paid out. And with that, she knew she would lose time

going to part time. With several board members in agreement, Ralph went on to say that if the board gave her the chance to recoup funds, we would need to change the policy. Without further discussion, a motion was not made to payout the sick leave.

New Business

There was a recent story posted in the Shelbyville Times-Gazette regarding libraries across the state of Tennessee receiving a letter from Secretary of State, Tre Hargett. McBride encouraged board members to read it. The letter warned libraries that grant monies must not use funds to purchase books that promote gender ideology. Kate Huddleston chimed in and said that the letters also went to universities and metropolitans. Ralph went on to echo that we (SBCPL) need to ween ourselves from grant funds. Brent Pewitt stated that if there are strings attached, yes, we need to. Petty reluctantly said that if we did that, the library would suffer. Jamie Ritter, the State Librarian, plans to hold an informational teams meeting to answer questions and discuss the letter.

Margaret Petty says policies need to be reviewed as some have not been updated in 20 years. At December's meeting, policy manuals will be given out. Over the next several months, the goal is to have the board update and consolidate them!

Since the library is open until 7PM on Wednesdays, Margaret asked if the library could close early at 5PM, the day before Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. Michelle Hasty made a motion to approve the closing time and days. Brent Pewitt seconded the motion. All approved.

Friends of the Library

It was reported that around \$5,000 was made during the Friends of the Library luncheon. There will be a more solid answer once they have their meeting this month. With the cost of the venue increasing, that made a dent in the fundraiser balance.

Personnel Committee

Now that the Assistant Director position is open, Maragret plans to promote Emilee' Le Clear. If she accepts, the Children's Librarian position would become available. She plans to post the job next week.

Community Relations

Mark McGee said the Rheatta Wilson column was posted again in honor of the luncheon.

Property Committee

No report.

Librarian's Report

The patio is still on track. Petty hopes to have a report to us at next month's meeting with an update.

Thanks to John Boutwells suggestion, instead of gifting or selling the tables and chairs that sat in the previous boardroom, they were repurposed and are being used in the Study and History Rooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.

Shay Maupin | Treasurer/Secretary