Motion: Move to authorize the Board Chair to submit a letter to the Board of Education regarding termination of the contract for library operations at the General Beadle school.

Background: The neighborhood library at the General Beadle school opened in January 2008. Because of the configuration of the physical space within the school, the library has never been opened to the public throughout the day, limiting the library’s effectiveness to serve adults in the North Rapid community. The library’s use has been declining over the years, at this point serving primarily as a computer lab for the after-school hours.

The primary factors that impede the library’s service to the North Rapid community at large are lack of identity as a public library; inability to serve adults throughout the day; and limited available service hours.

Based on a recent conversation with the Assistant Superintendent for Education Services, the following agreements were defined, and we were requested to write the school district regarding these:

1) That the library’s costs for the first half of the year be prorated from January 1 to March 12, the last day the public library was in operation at General Beadle
2) That the Board of Education allow an early release from the six-month requirement to end the agreement, given that the library has been closed since March 13 and will be closed at least through July. Reducing the termination requirement to four months, and accepting our notice as of March 12 (the last day of the public library operations) would end the term as of July 12, 2020.
3) That school administration allow public library staff to enter the library at a time convenient to both to remove the public library’s books and other materials, computers, and supplies.

We continue to explore other service options for the North Rapid community. The school district has expressed a willingness to continue a collaborative relationship, whether in the same facility or not.