

Rapid City Public Library Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Rapid City Public Library Board of Trustees was held by video conference, and was called to order by Faye Bice on January 20, 2021 at 12:01 p.m.

Present by roll call: Faye Bice, Judy Sneller, Mary Garrigan, Jim Emmert, Emily Tupa, Darla Drew, and Travis Lasseter. A quorum was present.

Absent: None.

Additions or corrections to the agenda:

Terri Davis requested that the Library Board Appointments report be moved to the top of the agenda.

Motion by Jim Emmert, second by Mary Garrigan to approve the agenda as amended to move the Library Board Appointments topic; no further discussion; upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion was approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Library Board Appointments:

Terri Davis reported that Emily Tupa was appointed to the library board, that Jim Emmert has been reappointed, and that Travis Lasseter has been appointed as the new Pennington County Liaison.

Tupa and Lasseter introduced themselves, spoke about their backgrounds and experience with libraries.

Introduction of Staff: None.

Public Comment: Public comments were submitted by Jodi Mockabee and Ronald Weifenbach to speak about the library's mask requirement. In response to a question from Pat Jones, Faye Bice approved his request to speak on this topic as well.

Jodi Mockabee introduced herself and her son, spoke about her son's challenges with a mask requirement in the library, and the ways in which her son and her family use the library for education and teaching. She said that she's asking the library to find a way to allow medical mask exemptions similar to what the school does.

Ronald Weifenbach asked the library to consider the situation, what some of the other people in the community are doing, and that we look as hard as we can to find solutions for people with medical conditions. He said that by finding a solution, this could be a win-win for the library and everyone in the community.

Pat Jones indicated that during his time on the library board, they had worked to make the library more welcoming and the mask requirement seemed counter to that. Jones said that he was confident that something could be done to allow people with medical exemptions and asked the library board to strongly consider a change to allow this.

In response to questions from Lasseter and Bice, Wade Nyberg talked about the options the board has to address these comments including adding something to the agenda with a unanimous vote or adding the topic to a future library board meeting.

Darla asked if the library could enforce a mask policy with no city mandate for masks. Nyberg replied that there are different levels of enforcement. For example, criminal enforcement versus asking someone to leave the building and trespassing if they refused to do so. The library board has the authority to create policies.

Motion by Drew, second by Emmert to add a mask requirement topic to the agenda after the consent calendar; no further discussion; upon a roll call vote being taken, motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Consent Calendar Items – Action required authorizing the Finance Officer to issue warrants or treasurer’s checks, drawn on proper funds, in payment thereof. The following items are consent items for final action to be taken on by a single vote. Any items may be removed from the Consent Calendar by a Board person, the Director, or a citizen, for separate consideration.

Consent Calendar Items:

Approve Minutes from the Library Board of Trustees Meeting, December 14, 2020

Approve Financial Executive Summary, including Bill List (see attachment)

Motion by Emmert, second by Emily Tupa to approve the consent calendar as presented; in response to questions from Bice, Davis indicated that an updated expenditure report will be brought to the February meeting and that there are 1.25 FTE positions currently unfilled; a full time Early Education Librarian is being sought. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion was approved unanimously.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mask Requirement:

Bice provided a brief history of the library and board’s actions taken in regards to COVID-19 in order to keep the staff and public safe.

Garrigan asked for background on the conversation with Jodi Mockabee and why her son can’t wear a mask. Davis replied that the library had provided Mockabee with information on the accommodations as well as suggesting that some of the other libraries in the area might have less stringent mask requirements. Mockabee said anything on her son’s face causes extreme anxiety, her son needs access to a 3D printer, and to touch the books.

Sneller indicated that since health and safety is the primary concern, a mask mandate in the library should not be removed. She then asked what kinds of accommodations the school makes. Mockabee indicated that medical exemptions are allowed by the school. A letter has to be provided by a mental health provider or a doctor.

Lasseter and Emmert stated that the library should allow for some kind of exemption as has been done in schools.

Garrigan asked if any of the staff have been vaccinated. Per Davis, no one has been. Davis asked Wade Nyberg if there are any legal issues for staff or contracted security to request and review medical records or exemptions. Wade replied that if the library were to require masks unless a doctor’s note is provided, it would be reasonable for us to require that.

Motion by Darla, second by Jim that the library pilots a program exempting people with medical exemptions from wearing masks, from January 25 until the next Board meeting on February 8. Discussion followed on the logistics and staff concerns, with the motion to clarify that a mask is required if someone needs direct contact with a staff member. Upon a roll call vote being taken, motion carried unanimously.

Jim Emmert left at 1:01 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

City Council Liaison: Drew reported on actions and discussions with the City Council.

County Liaison: Travis reported that the stock show will bring more people into the town and possibly to the library.

Rapid City Library Foundation: Davis reported that bookmobile discussions are continuing.

Friends of the Library: Sean Minkel reported that the Friends are accepting donations again.

ADJOURN

Motion by Judy Sneller , second by Emily Tupa to adjourn the meeting at 1:09 p.m.; no further discussion; upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion was approved unanimously.

UPCOMING DATES AND BOARD TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Library Legislative Day, Pierre

TBD

Board Meeting

Monday, February 8, 2021

Board Meting

Monday, March 8, 2021

DRAFT