

BOSSIER PARISH
LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
BENTON, LOUISIANA

MINUTES

July 19, 2023

The Library Board of Control met in regular and legal session on the 21st day of June, 2023, in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Doug Rimmer, called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. The invocation was given by Mr. Charles Gray and Mr. Glenn Benton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

Mr. Doug Rimmer
Mr. Charles Gray
Mr. Glenn Benton
Ms. Julianna Parks
Mr. Bob Brotherton, Absent

Also present: Mr. Butch Ford, Ms. Stacie Fernandez, Ms. Sandy Long, Ms. Julie Gill, Ms. Rachel Hauser, Ms. Megan Ramos, Mr. Pat Culverhouse, Mr. Eric Hudson, Mr. Jim Firth, Mr. Heath Lyles, Mr. Jerome Darby, Mr. Chris Marsiglia, Mr. John Ed Jorden, Ms. Mary Sanders, Ms. Marisa Richardson, Ms. Charmetra Ardoin, Ms. Brenda Anderson, Ms. Karen Hinson, Ms. Joy Creasong, Ms. Audra Bartholomew, Ms. Felesha Sweeney, Ms. Teresa Rice, Ms. Connie Dickerson, Ms. Jaketha Farmer, Ms. Clara Anne Madison, Mr. William Purdy, and Mr. Cliff Mandygo.

Mr. Rimmer called for public comments on items on the agenda. There were none.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Gray, to adopt the minutes of the June 21, 2023, Board meeting. The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Felesha Sweeney, Library Director, gave the June 2023 financial report. Library revenues were \$8,534,962.70, expenditures were \$3,300,794.59, and the Ending Fund Balance was \$8,604,242.86.

Motion to approve the Library Fund Revenues report was made by Mr. Benton and seconded by Ms. Parks. The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Library Construction Fund revenue in June was \$141,405.89 and expenditures were \$2,333,008.52, and the Ending Fund balance was \$5,002,147.19. Stacie Fernandez, Parish Treasurer observed that \$3.2million of the construction fund is budgeted for equipment, computers and furnishings and has not been purchased.

Motion to approve the Library Construction Fund report was made by Ms. Parks and second by Mr. Benton. The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast the motion carried unanimously.**

Clara Anne Madison gave June 2023 statistics:

Circulation	51,812
New Borrowers Added	585

Computer Usage	2,413
Programs	178
Program Attendance	5,169
Database Usage	1,325
E-circ Usage	20,355
Reference questions	893

Community Impact: Local firemen recently visited the Haughton Branch Library to show children how the truck operates. Firefighter Adam McDaniel read aloud a book to children that he authored, *“Hot Shot Bernie.”*

Tooke Branch Library: Tooke Branch Manager Mary Sanders shared slides of recent happenings, including a well-attended tea party, bingo, games, crafts such as jewelry making and quilting, T-shirt making, Minecraft, a walking club, Steve’s Snaketuary and Geebo the clown. Mary also shared a compliment a visitor at Tooke posted on google.

Teresa Rice, Associate Director Technical Services, and Connie Dickerson gave the monthly report for their department. The TS materials budget is 67% spent for the year. 2,200 items were added to the collection in June, averaging 105 items daily. A flyer showing some of the newly-acquired materials was shown to the Board.

William Purdy presented the facilities report. Some damage occurred at Central recently after a storm when a light pole blew over in the parking lot that he has since taken care of.

Before issuing a purchase order for window replacements at Benton, he is waiting on insurance information from the painting contractor the jury awarded the bid to. Windows are scheduled to be delivered for the new Central Complex on July 20th and installed within two weeks so air conditioning can be turned on and de-humidify the building. After a recent walk-through William was told completion would be in late October. However, much remains to be done. Prevot Design maintains a full-time inspector on the premises to make sure construction meets contract specifications. Mr. Rimmer announced that jurors would be voting later that day to hire a mold remediation company. Mr. Ford said that they want to make certain the construction project is done correctly. The contractor is currently in liquidated damages for \$2,500 daily.

In the Director's Report, Felesha Sweeney announced that the summer 2023 is approaching completion. 257 registered for the 0-5 age group; 622 for independent readers, and 167 teen readers signed up. 443 enrolled for readers age 18 and above. Many branches are celebrating the end of the program with special events, such as Benton's Splash Day, with local firetrucks spray and a food truck present.

Six new hires have joined the library: Cassie Wynn and Kaitlyn Bond, Aulds; Sarah Wynn, Central; Aubriana Edmunds, Benton; Michell Deleo, Haughton, and Clifton Mandygo, IT.

Butch Ford announced that the ad valorem tax renewal for the library will take place in March or April 2024. Since Branch managers have taken on more responsibilities recently, he recommended that the Board designate them as salaried and increase their combined pay approximately \$20,000 per year, including \$10,000 for the remainder of 2023. Motion to approve changing Branch managers' wages from hourly level to a salaried level with a

concurrent pay raise made by Mr. Benton and seconded by Ms. Parks. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Library Board of Control in regular and legal session on this 19th day of July, 2023, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

August 16,2023

DATE APPROVED

Mr. DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
OF CONTROL