

**Passaic Public Library
Board of Trustees
March 17, 2009
Minutes**

**Meeting Held at: Reid Memorial Branch Library,
80 Third Street
Passaic, NJ 07055**

Presided by: Angie Ramirez – Treasurer – Acting President

Meeting Called to Order: 7:27 PM

Quorum – Present

Flag Salute – Led by Angie Ramirez

Public Announcement of Meeting – Meeting published in paper March 7, 2009

Roll Call –

Attendees:

Mario González – Library Director

Angie Ramirez – Treasurer –Acting President

Joan Tabor – Trustee – Alternate to Superintendent

Maria M. Evile – Trustee

Glenny Candelaria – Trustee-Alternate to Mayor

Robin Dukes – Trustee

Sandra Diodonet – Trustee

Board Members excused: Walter Porto and Mike Shafrin

Board Member absent: Maria DeDios

Staff Members present: Mildred Ventura and Carlos Rodriguez Sr.

Hearing of Citizens – No public input

Report of the President – Angie Ramirez

Angie Ramirez stated that Library Committees would be established at the next Board meeting.

Angie Ramirez also reported that Board President Walter Porto and Vice-President Mike Shafrin were not present due to their attendance at the City Council Meeting regarding monies for the library buildings.

Report of the Library Director – Mario González

Mario González talked about the highlights of his face-to-face meetings with Staff and Board members. The Telecenter was relocated to the first floor and its computers have been replaced; the Staff's lounge area now has flowers and the blue skirt on the Reference Desk was removed. There is a new seating area in front of the fireplace in the Main Library; Carlos Rodriguez and his Staff did all this work.

Mario reported that he met with Ruth Bogan, Executive Director of PALS Plus, regarding the Open Borrowing Policy. Further discussion of this took place under Old Business.

Minutes

The Minutes of the February 17th, 2009 meeting were unavailable and not read. They will be presented at the next Board Meeting.

Report of the Treasurer – Angie Ramirez

Angie Ramirez presented Bills to be paid for approval. No discussion. Motion made by Maria M. Evile to pay the bills in the amount of \$34,262.30. Motion seconded by Robin Dukes. Motion Carried.

Angie Ramirez reported that the Budget Committee met on March 10, 2009. Martin Weingast, Angie Ramirez, Maria Evile and Mario Gonzalez were present; Robin Dukes was excused. The format for working with the budget has been revised, as they now are working with accurate, actual budget numbers. They will begin working on next year's budget. Angie reported that that the Audit Report is not ready yet and hopefully would be ready by the Board's next meeting.

Committee Reports

Carlos Rodriguez stated that there is no update on the asbestos and lead testing at the Reid Branch Library.

No other committee reports.

Old Business

Mario Gonzalez reported on the Open Borrowing statistics for 2008 supplied by Ruth Bogan of PALS. Passaic cardholders borrowed 49,779 items from BCCLS libraries in 2008. The Passaic Public Library pays 40 cents per each item. Mario had to check with Ruth Bogan from

PALS Plus as to why the number of items borrowed from Passaic differed on the two reports. There is less money coming in than being paid out. Discussion of reducing the outside borrowing took place. The possibility of referrals was discussed, as well as parking causing some of the problem. Robin Dukes questioned what type of books or materials are being borrowed from BCCLS to see if Passaic could acquire them.

Mario explained how PALS Plus dues are calculated. No numbers were available for BCCLS. The Board will decide what steps to take. Robin requested a breakdown of what books are being borrowed from both PALS and BCCLS so they can compare the two before any decision is made. Robin Dukes stated that the Rutherford Public Library is close and that is why Passaic residents borrow the most from them. It was questioned whether other libraries check to see if the people are current residents of Passaic and if they are delinquent before allowing them to borrow items. It also was brought up whether people who move can still use their cards in other libraries; this will be looked into.

Reid Branch Library renovations were discussed. Robin questioned whether they had heard anything from the Planning Board. Sandra Diodonet explained a misunderstanding that took place at a recent meeting of the Planning Board, but it is now okay. The bookmobile was brought up, but no one has heard anything about it yet. Angie spoke about the possibility of a new Library van.

New Business

Mario González spoke about the Koala-Kare tables for changing diapers in the restrooms. Carlos Rodriguez confirmed that there are none in the Library. A discussion took place regarding purchasing these for the Reid Library. Sandra Diodonet motioned to spend no more than \$800.00 for the purchase, shipping and installation of two Koala-Kare tables for the Main Library. Motion was seconded by Joan Tabor. Motion carried. Carlos Rodriguez will work with the company to get these properly installed.

Mario González requested that he be allowed to be on the New Jersey State Library Committee being set-up for libraries to benefit from the Economic Stimulus Plan monies available. This committee will benefit veterans, older adults, construction and safe havens for teens.

Mario González reported that Alexander Tannenbaum from the Rod Zeen Congregation has requested the possibility of the Library donating their old outdated card catalogs to the Orthodox Community for their use in their Synagogue libraries. A discussion took place regarding the legality of the transaction and whether they are considered historical. Mario

explained that all information from the card catalogs has been stored electronically. Mario will check out all concerns and report at the next Board meeting.

Mario González stated that all of the original 25 computers purchased recently have been installed; however they need an additional 25 computers at \$640.00 each; then all the old computers will be replaced. A discussion took place regarding where the money will come from. Martin Weingast, the Library's bookkeeper, stated that the Reid Endowment Fund would cover all the computers for the Reid Library. Other funds will be used for the technology. Mario González will check into sources that can be tapped for this project. Joan Tabor questioned use of old computers. All computers will be disposed of; they are too old to donate to anyone. Angie Ramirez asked to table the project until a full Board was present or to hold a special meeting regarding the computers.

Mario González presented the Monthly Snapshot. The Monthly Snapshot is a calendar, prepared by Michele Fornal, of everything going on at the Main Library at a monthly glance. The calendar was well received.

Mario González went over some of the statistics for the Reid Library for 2008. There were 27,000 items borrowed at the Library and they held 170 programs during the year; also, 4800 books were read for the 2008 Summer Reading Program.

Mario González stated that on April 4th, the Library will submit the State Aid Grant for a possible \$70,000 - \$80,000.

Mario González explained that he was recently contacted by Lanisha Malke of the Passaic County Workforce Investment Board (WIB). They don't want to lose their presence in Passaic, so they are requesting opening a center in the lower level of the Main Library to set up an office. It will house 30 computers, one salaried staff person and be open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The center will provide adult education, computer training, and workforce training. The WIB will also pay for part of the basement renovations. A discussion took place regarding safety issues, liability and risk to the children, if housed at the Reid Branch Library. It was suggested to table this discussion until a full Board was present and Mario will invite the WIB representative to the next Board meeting so she can answer any questions.

Adjournment - Glenn Candelaria motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Robin Dukes.

Meeting Adjourned 8:28PM