

PASSAIC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, May 19th 2009 at 7:00pm

Roll Call. Trustees present and absentees:

Mr. Walter Porto -- President	Present
Mr. Mike Shafrin -- Vice President	Present
Ms. Angie Ramirez -- Treasurer	Present
Ms. Robin Dukes	Present
Ms. Glenny Candelaria -- Alternate to the Mayor	Present
Mr. Mario M. González -- Library Director / Board Secretary	Present
Ms. Joan Tabor -- Alternate to Superintendent of Schools	Excused
Ms. Maria Evile	Excused
Ms. Maria DeDios	Absent
Ms. Sandra Diodonet	Absent

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Hearing of Citizens:

Rhonna Lewis has concerns about the books, DVDs and CDs used at the Passaic Public Library. She feels that the materials are old. She also expressed her concern regarding parking issues at the Passaic Library. Mr. Porto responded that our materials are current and up to date; he responded we would have 19 parking spaces available in the near future.

The second speaker was a school psychologist who suggested that the children's section be moved to the 1st floor to accommodate babies with strollers instead of 2nd floor where it is presently located.

Blanche Naideck, who is a volunteer at the Library, suggested that students stay in the district where they live when borrowing the books. She believes the books at the Passaic Library are not old. She expressed her concerns about paying taxes in Passaic and in addition to having to pay more so that Passaic residents can borrow books elsewhere, when the Passaic Public Library has an excellent collection for children, teens and adults. She does not want the Library to pay to have people use other libraries when that money can be used to buy more books for the Passaic Library.

Jean Ellis, Passaic Public Library employee, expressed her concerns about what the Library paid for the books borrowed through the Open Borrowing Program. She also said that the Clifton Library has more parking than the Passaic Library.

Leah Margolin, a former member of the Board of Trustees, expressed her concerns regarding PALS Plus and the cost of a small consortium since the Passaic Public Library moved from the BCCLS consortium with 75 member libraries.

Mr. Porto then addressed Ms. Margolin's concerns. The Passaic Public Library is no longer a member of the BCCLS consortium. The Board will consider keeping the Open Borrowing Policy in the Library. The Library funding is affected by the current economy. Patrons are coming in to ask Reference librarians and use the Internet to find information on jobs and resume writing. It costs the Library 40 cents per book when borrowed from libraries outside of PALS Plus.

Ms. Ramirez thanked Ms. Margolin for her ideas. About 50,000 books are borrowed from BCCLS libraries with over 40,000 from Rutherford alone. These books are almost all owned by the Passaic Public Library.

Edna Ritz then spoke about the outside book return box and fines she's incurred for books that have been returned in it. The Director stated materials returned in the outside book box should be counted as on time with no fines if due the day before.

Kathy Commons who is an interior designer addressed the Board. She usually doesn't use public libraries. She is concerned about displays and unpolished floors. She suggests putting banners up on the streets announcing the Passaic Library to attract the public in general.

Mr. Porto the stated the lighting has been improved in the Library. He wants to see how many people enter the Children's Room in a two-week period between the hours of 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

Mr. Porto also addressed a previous concern regarding the length of the borrowing time for materials. Staff member Dawn Rodriguez was present and stated that three weeks comes up automatically due to a PALS Plus policy. BCCLS libraries have different policies and allow up to 4 weeks to return the books. Mr. Porto said that we would look into changing the due date on books.

Report of the Treasurer:

The Finance Committee met twice with the Library Director and Martin Weingast, Bookkeeper to review the proposed budget for next fiscal year. Significant input came from Staff through meetings with the Director. Actual figures for the current fiscal year were reviewed to create the draft Budget for the next fiscal year. The Budget Request is a flat budget with an additional request of the mandated Union Contract increase.

ACTION: Angie Ramirez made the Motion to request \$1,258,237 for operating costs from the City of Passaic for the FY 2009-2010; seconded by Glenn Candelaria. The Motion carried, 5 in favor 0 opposed.

ACTION: Angie Ramirez made a Motion to authorize the purchase of 25 Dell computers to replace existing computers in the Library for a total cost not to exceed \$16,000. The computer configuration is as outlined in the motion of December 16, 2008. Funding of said computers is as follows: Endowment accounts: approx \$7,500.00 General funds: approx \$8,500.00. Motion was seconded by Michael Shafrin. The Motion carried. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Change of Insurance Carrier: ACTION: A Motion was made by Angie Ramirez to cancel the following insurance policies. Boiler & Machinery-CNA. Crime Policy-Selective. Commercial Property & Contents-Travelers. Commercial Property only-Utica. Library Director's Bond-Selective and to purchase the following insurance through the Bogle Agency with no loss of coverage: Crime Policy. Commercial Property (both buildings and contents includes Boiler & Machinery). Board of Directors' and Officers' Bond (includes Library Director's Bond) and General Liability. Motion was seconded by Glenny Candelaria. The Motion carried. 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Executive Session:

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:05 p.m. with all members present to discuss Personnel issues.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:35 p.m.

Adjournment:

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.