

**PARAMUS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Of the Paramus Public Library held at the  
Main Library  
116 E. Century Road  
Paramus, NJ  
7:00pm  
April 26, 2021

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President Ralph called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

This is a regularly scheduled public meeting of the Paramus Public Library Board of Trustees and notice thereof has been given by the following:

- A. Sending notice on January 7, 2021 to THE RECORD Official Newspaper of the Borough.
- B. Posting a copy of the Agenda on the bulletin boards at the Main and Reid Branch Libraries.
- C. Filing a copy of the Agenda in the library business office.

ROLL CALL

Present: Trustees Ralph, M. Caminiti, Dorgan, I. Caminiti, Lagana and Hook

Absent: Trustee Hulse

Also present: Leonard LoPinto, Director  
Janice Hill, Assistant to the Director/Finance  
Lorna Petouvis, Assistant to the Director/Administration  
Donna Perkosky, P.R./Outreach Coordinator  
Pat Verile, Council Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 29, 2021

It was MOVED BY: A. Hook  
To accept the Minutes of March 29, 2021 as presented.  
Unanimously approved.

Seconded by: J. Lagana

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – No public present.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Leonard LoPinto

A. Personnel Actions – April 2021

After discussion:

It was MOVED BY: J. Lagana                      Seconded by: M. Caminiti

To approve the Personnel Actions – April 2021 as presented.

Unanimously approved by voice vote.

B. Statistics- Statistical Summary, March 2021 – Received as presented.

Mr. LoPinto noted that comparisons will be made with 2019 because there is no history for 2020. Circulation is higher this year as compared to 2019. Circulation of children's books has risen 30%. Currently 17 ESL classes take place each week.

Mrs. Ralph departed from the agenda to read a letter from Sr. Librarian, Hanna Blatt, who is retiring after 33 years of service to the library. Mr. LoPinto invited the board to join the staff on May 5, 2021 for Hanna's retirement farewell.

She then presented facsimiles of book covers to the board members, designating books donated in their honor by Joseph D'Arco, Borough Administrator.

Mr. LoPinto noted it was a pleasure to host Governor Murphy for a bill signing on the bandshell grounds on April 13, 2021.

\*DIRECTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2021

Mr. LoPinto reviewed his written report:

C\* Library Services- The library will continue to limit services to browsing and borrowing until September. Outdoor activities are being planned.

D\* Outreach – A decision regarding The Paramus Cultural Arts Terrific Tuesday's concert series and Community Orchestra performances are on hold until May. National Night Out may be moved to October. The schools are planning performances in the band shell. Earth Day activities will take place on library grounds on May 16, 2021, beginning at 6pm.

D\* Children's Room addition funding - Donna Perkosky presented a video she and her team designed and filmed to be used for fundraising for the children's room addition. It will be sent to individuals and groups who may consider donating to the project as well as the schools for distribution to parents. Mr. LoPinto is hopeful it will help to bring in additional funding.

Fundraising companies are being considered. However, the cost may be prohibitive. Proposals will be considered.

Mr. LoPinto reviewed the funds and pledges the library has received to date. At this time \$300,000 is still needed. In order to receive the grant through the NJ Library Construction Bond Act in the amount of \$507,000 the Mayor and Council need to appropriate a bond ordinance approving matching funds in the amount of \$660,581 before September 1, 2021. The Friends and Library Board will continue to raise funds in order to reimburse the borough. Discussion followed on other fundraising ideas.

E.\*The Origin of Mandated and Optional Special Task (MOST) Proposal - The board reviewed BCCLS Mandated and Opt in Services Task Force's proposal. Mrs. Ralph voiced her objections to the makeup of the committee. Larger Bergen County libraries are not represented and there are six non-Bergen libraries on the committee. She further commented that it is important to have founding members on the committee that know the history of BCCLS. They are also concerned about cyber security. In answer to the board's question regarding the consequences of withdrawing from BCCLS Mr. LoPinto said what BCCLS provides would cost an additional \$300,000 and would not allow Paramus cardholders to borrow from other libraries. The board requested a cost analysis and said a vote should not be taken until the cost analysis has been completed. After extensive discussion the board strongly objected to the proposal and agreed it is changing the foundation of how BCCLS was meant to operate.

F.\*BCCLS Code of Conduct – The Code of Conduct has been sent back to committee for revision. Mr. LoPinto feels a Code of Conduct is not needed because libraries have their own code of conduct which covers employees. The BCCLS attorney will provide an opinion at the upcoming BCCLS Executive Board meeting.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Following Discussion-

It was MOVED BY: I. Caminiti

Seconded by: A. Hook

To approve the Financial Reports as submitted:

Financial Report – March 31, 2021

Unanimously approved by voice vote.

### BILLS PAYABLE

Following Discussion-

It was MOVED BY: I. Caminiti

Seconded by: A. Hook

To approve and pay the:

Bills Payable – April 2021

Unanimously approved by voice vote..

CORRESPONDENCE – Received as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- A. Buildings and Grounds - Adele Hook
  - 1. Mrs. Hook reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee met to discuss communicating with the Mayor and Council regarding the Children’s Room addition.
  
- B. Community Relations – Darlene Dorgan – Discussed during the Director’s Report D.
  
- C. Finance and Budget – Cynthia Hulse
  - 1. Resolution to establish a Capital Bank AccountAfter Discussion:  
It was MOVED BY: M. Caminiti      Seconded by: A. Hook  
To approve a resolution to establish a Capital Bank Account  
Unanimously approved by voice vote  
(Resolution attached to file copies.)
  
- D. Personnel Committee – Mrs. Lagana  
Discussed during Director’s Report - A
  
- E. Ad hoc Committee for Policies – Mrs. Ralph – Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Staff Appreciation Lunch – The board approved funding for a staff appreciation luncheon. Mrs. Ralph commented on how pleasant and accommodating the staff is.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – No public present.

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED BY: D. Dorgan      Seconded by: J. Lagana  
To adjourn at 8:25pm.  
Unanimously approved.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Isabel Caminiti, Board Secretary  
Lorna Petouvis, Assistant to the Director/Administration