

LACKAWANNA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

A hybrid meeting of the Lackawanna County Library Board was held on Monday, November 28, 2024 in the Children’s Library, 520 Vine Street, Scranton. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM with Brian J. Cali presiding.

PRESENT: Brian J. Cali, Esq., President
Mary Rable, Vice President
Maureen Brennan, Treasurer
Cathy Mazur, Secretary
John Hodowanitz
Emily Karam
Sandy Longo, Executive Director
Elizabeth Chiorazzi, Administrative Assistant

ALSO PRESENT: Allyson Wind, Maura Rottmund, Shu Qiu, Joy Monroe
Scott Thomas, Jeanie Sluck, Kristen Wallo, Jess Serrenti,
Michele Legate, Karen Bazzarri, Chris Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

1. LCLS Board approval of the following from the Board Meeting, September 9, 2024:

MOTION: To approve and dispense with the reading of minutes.

MOVED BY: Emily Karam

SECONDED BY: Joan Hodowanitz

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: To approve the list of paid bills as submitted.
MOVED BY: Maureen Brennan
SECONDED BY: Joan Hodowanitz
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted.
MOVED BY: Cathy Mazur
SECONDED BY: Mary Rable
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: To approve the Executive Director's Report as submitted.
MOVED BY: Emily Karam
SECONDED BY: Joan Hodowanitz
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: To approve the Technology Report as submitted.
MOVED BY: Maureen Brennan
SECONDED BY: Mary Rable
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: To approve the Public Relations Report as submitted.
MOVED BY: Emily Karam
SECONDED BY: Cathy Mazur
VOTE: Unanimous

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Blue Print Benefits, Anthony Manzione and David Harrison

Insurance consultants, Anthony Manzione and David Harrison of Blue Print Benefits Group gave an overview of health care policy renewals for the year 2025. There is a rate increase of 3.4% with Geisinger with no changes to the current plan. There are no rate increases for Guardian Dental, Vision Service Plan and Standard Life and Disability and coverage for all plans remain the same.

2. 2025 DRAFT Budgets Update

Ms. Longo reported no action at this time. Budgets and allocations will be presented at the December 9th meeting.

3. Appointment of Personnel and Nominating Committees

MOTION: To approve the appointment of Joan Hodowanitz and Maureen Brennan to the Personnel Committee.

MOVED BY: Mary Rable

SECONDED BY: Emily Karam

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: To approve the appointment of Cathy Mazur and Mary Rable to the Nominating Committee.

MOVED BY: Joan Hodowanitz

SECONDED BY: Emily Karam

VOTE: Unanimous

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lackawanna County Budget Hearings for 2025 Budgets

The Executive Director reported she attended hearings in Carbondale and Scranton. The LCLS 2025 Budget was reintroduced by the Commissioners on Wednesday, November 6 and is scheduled to be reenacted on Wednesday, November 20.

Grants Update

Ms. Longo announced that LCLS did not receive the COVID-19 ARPA Capital Projects Funds Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects Program grant.

Word is awaited on the COVID-19 ARPA Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity Technology Program grant. The application was submitted on August 19, 2024.

New Partnership

A new partnership was formed with the NE Philharmonic, coordinated by Cheryl Lynn Murnin, NE Philharmonic Board member and Abington Community Library Board member; Leah Valenches, Valenches Music and NE Philharmonic volunteer. The program is titled: Once Upon an Orchestra and will feature seven programs scheduled throughout member libraries during the summer of 2025.

Memorial Bench

Joan Hodowanitz commented on a recent news report on a bench purchased for the Children’s Library with donations in memory of Janie Lawless, a staff member at the library for 20 years, who passed away in the spring of this year.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting: Monday, December 9 at 4:30 PM.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Mary Rable

SECONDED BY: Cathy Mazur

VOTE: Unanimous

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.