

**GREENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

February 26, 2024

Present: Mr. Brian Aufmuth, Mr. Kenneth Baxter, Dr. Gene Beckner, Mrs. Elizabeth Collins, Mrs. Stephanie Cunningham, Mr. James Hoard, Mr. Tommy Hughes, Mrs. Marcia Moston, Mrs. Kristen Odom, Mr. Joe Poore, and Mr. S. Allan Hill, presiding.

Administrative Managers Present: Don Allen, Accounting Manager; Karen Allen, Youth Services Manager; Beverly James, Executive Director; and Jill Cornwell, Administrative Projects Manager, acting as Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 12:05p.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hill called for the approval of the minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, January 22, 2024. Mrs. Collins so moved and Mr. Poore seconded. The motion carried.

LIBRARY MATERIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Appeal

Mrs. Moston reported that the Library Materials Committee had been asked to consider an appeal concerning the book *George*, later published with the title *Melissa*. She read a description of the book and stated that it was geared to grade levels 3-7, ages 8-12 and located in the Library System's juvenile collection. Mrs. Moston read aloud the objection included on the *Request for Reconsideration Form* received, noting that the action requested was to remove the book from the Library System's collection. She recounted the steps of the reconsideration process leading up to the appeal, and read aloud from the Library System Executive Director's response letter that informed the requestor of staff's decision to retain the book in the collection. Mrs. Moston then read the individual's letter appealing that decision. She reported that following consideration, the Library Materials Committee was recommending to relocate the book *George* to the Parent and Early Childhood (PEC) Collection. Mr. Hill stated that a second was not needed for the committee's motion.

Mr. Hoard expressed his disappointment with the committee's decision and moved to amend the committee's motion to, instead, grant the complainant's request to remove the book. Mrs. Collins seconded. With a vote of three in favor and eight opposing, the motion failed.

Following further discussion, Mr. Hill called for the vote. With ten votes in favor and one opposed, the motion to relocate the book *George* to the PEC collection carried.

Collection Development and Maintenance Policy

Mr. Hill stated that the recent appeal had brought to light a need for specific policy statements. Mrs. Moston stated that members of the committee had checked about 20 books prior to proposing the language for the revision. She read the proposed policy revision statements aloud and stated that the revisions came as a recommendation from the Library Materials Committee. Dr. Beckner noted that the words "legal guardian" had been excluded from the read statements, but were part of the language that was shared with the Board and that was being proposed.

Mr. Hughes expressed his concerns with the bulleted statement, "Pronouns or dress inconsistent with biological sex," adding that he felt "dress inconsistent with biological sex" was something that would need to be further defined. Mr. Poore agreed that the statement needed more clarity. Mrs. Moston stated that the description was specific to gender identity, not dressing as a tomboy, imaginary dressing, or play dressing.

Following discussion, Mrs. Odom moved to amend the proposed language to include the phrase “for the purpose of gender transitioning” at the end of each bulleted description, subsequently striking “for the purpose of altering biological sex” in the second bulleted statement. Dr. Beckner seconded. Mr. Hill asked those in favor of the amendment to indicate in the affirmative. With ten votes in favor and one opposed, the amendment carried.

Mr. Hill called for a vote to approve the following proposed revision to the *Collection Development and Maintenance Policy*:

The Library recognizes parents/legal guardians are the primary source of education for their children, and that they have a fundamental right and responsibility to direct the upbringing and education of children under their care including issues of moral, social, physical, civic, and spiritual development.

To that end, materials targeting audiences aged 0-12 in which the illustrations, themes, or story lines affirm, portray, or discuss changing the appearance of a minor’s gender in ways inconsistent with the minor’s biological sex, will be located in the Parenting and Early Childhood (PEC) collection, including:

- *Social transitioning: Pronouns or dress inconsistent with biological sex for the purpose of affirming gender transitioning.*
- *Medical or surgical procedures: Puberty blocking drugs, cross-sex hormones, or surgical procedures for the purpose of affirming gender transitioning.*
- *Gender fluidity: The possibility of changing genders at will or being no gender at all for the purpose of affirming gender transitioning.*

All were in favor and the policy revision passed unanimously.

Mr. Hoard encouraged any member of the public to file appeals as they felt the need to do so. Mr. Hill acknowledged that the individual who had filed the appeal was present in the audience.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. James reported that the Greenville Concert Band program held on February 17th was successful, with over 200 people attending. She stated that the Friends of Greenville County Library System generated over \$17,000 in sales and memberships during January and February, adding that the digital displays at branch locations and the StoryWalk were underwritten by proceeds from the Friends of the Library sales.

Mrs. Collins noted that the Library System’s recent Instagram posts were “fantastic”, and commended staff responsible for the posts.

APPEARANCES

Mr. Hill announced that there was time available for public comments. He reminded everyone to keep their remarks to three minutes, and informed presenters that he would be timing them and letting them know when their time was up. The following individuals spoke:

Name	Purpose of Appearance
Susana Saravia	“Speak on removing a book”
Autumn Bible	“Speak on book policy”
Leslie Johnson	“Transgender people”
Claire Walsh	“speak about books”
Melissa Nichols	“speak on policy”
Adam Fischer	“love and inclusivity”
Beth Wadsworth	“Against porn and transgender books in our library”
Sam Hooker	“Speak on proposed policy”
Paul Nadas	“Speak on policies”
Davis Kopp	“Speak on the books”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hoard so moved. Dr. Beckner seconded. Mr. Hill adjourned the meeting at 1:45p.

S. Allan Hill
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James
Executive Director

Jill Cornwell
Recording Secretary