

**GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
at  
Genesee District Library Headquarters  
5:30 p.m.  
4195 W. Pasadena Ave  
Flint, MI 48504  
July 15, 2024  
Minutes**

- Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.
- Present: Barnes, Crites, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey, Steffey and Towarnicky (at 5:38 pm).
- Also Present: P. Parker (Corporation Counsel), D. Conklin, and A. Goldyn.
- Absent: Conerly-Moon.
- Public Comments: None.
- Approval of Consent Agenda: R. Crites moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion supported by T. Barnes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Board Development: P. Parker presented a general background of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and answered questions from the Board.
- Corporation Counsel: Nothing to report.
- GDL Foundation: Nothing to report.
- Written Reports:
  - R. Crites inquired about the gender neutral fashion program. D. Conklin replied it was about unisex clothing, but any time you use the word gender it tends to attract some negative attention.
  - D. Hostetler stated he was very impressed with the strategic plan compilation that D. Conklin prepared. D. Hostetler inquired if the strategic plan taskforce will modify the existing plan that expires at the end of the year or use a consultant. D. Conklin replied there is no plan to use a consultant and the taskforce will create an all new strategic plan.
  - D. Hostetler reviewed the latest annual report and thinks it is outstanding on the amount of information contained in it.
  - D. Hostetler inquired if the recabling project for the branches is still on schedule. D. Conklin replied it is on schedule and expects all branches to be completed by the end of summer. D. Conklin stated that the Headquarters building will take the longest because it has the most network cables and is the hub of connectivity to all the branches. He continued to state that when cables are switched out at Headquarters there will be periods of internet service interruptions at the branches.
  - D. Hostetler inquired if we had found a Youth Services Librarian replacement yet and D. Conklin stated that A. Austermann was hired and started in the position on July 2. R. Crites inquired if we have a problem keeping people in that position and D. Conklin stated we do. R. Crites inquired if it is because they have too much work to do and not enough people. D. Conklin stated that is a loaded question. D. Conklin stated he wished

Written Reports  
(continued):

we could have more Youth Services Librarians; however, we have to stay within our budget and continue to pay down the unfunded long-term liabilities first. L. Ryals-Massey stated they are so creative and the connections the Youth Services Librarians make while in the position make them more attractive to other entities. D. Conklin stated that nothing has been mentioned during the exit interviews about being overworked and there have not been any complaints from the Union either.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if the Board had thank you notes to recognize employees' work and D. Conklin replied we do have them.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired about banning people from returning after reading about an incident at the Beecher branch. D. Conklin stated that depending on the incident, patrons can be banned for a couple of weeks, months or even lifetime.

L. Ryals-Massey suggested that D. Conklin hand out the annual reports when he visits the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and Grand Blanc Township for the annual update.

J. Steffey inquired if the fund balance is higher than recommended by the auditors that we spend it down. A. Goldyn replied that we do not want to spend it down and then not have enough in reserves in case the housing market hits another crisis like in 2008.

D. Hostetler stated that A. Goldyn had reported that the unfunded pension liability increased and that a lump sum payment would be recommended. He inquired if A. Goldyn had an amount in mind yet and A. Goldyn replied she is still thinking about it.

L. Ryals-Massey thanked A. Goldyn for her Government Finance Officer Association conference report.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if the new accounting software has an income-expense statement report. A. Goldyn replied that it currently does not have one set up. A. Goldyn stated that it would take quite a bit of time setting it up in the new program.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired about a vendor on the monthly payment list and wanted to know what they do for the library. A. Goldyn replied that they do a lot of the outlay and designing in the program guides and annual report.

Monthly Statistics: Nothing to report.

Finance Committee: Nothing to report.

Personnel/Policy  
Committee:

D. Hostetler stated that quite some time ago they started working to update the Board By-laws. He stated that before the end of the year he would like to start working on it again. He stated there has been some discussion about adding a section about Trustee development.

L-4029 Tax  
Authorization Form:

A. Goldyn explained the form authorizes GDL to collect property tax revenue needed to continue library operations. She stated the form needs to be signed by the Board Chair and Board Secretary. J. Towarnicky moved to have the appropriate members sign the form and be distributed to the local municipalities. Motion supported by J. Steffey. Roll call: ayes – Barnes, Crites, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey, Steffey and Towarnicky; nays – none. R. Crites inquired when the current millage ends and A. Goldyn replied at the end of 2026.

**Agenda Number: IV Item: B**

Board Comments: T. Barnes stated keep up the good work.

D. Hostetler stated that K. Flynn did a good job with the interview on abc12.

D. Conklin spoke about the GDL road trip that was put together for patrons and possibly Board Members as a self-guided tour of the branches. He handed each Board Member a Headquarters trading card for visiting this branch.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that A. Goldyn handed out a travel reimbursement form if any Board Member would like to be reimbursed for their mileage to and from the meetings.

Adjournment: 6:23 pm.