

North Central Washington Libraries
Board Minutes

July 21, 2021

I. Call to Order:

Kathleen Allstot called to order the July meeting of the NCW Libraries Board of Trustees at 2:44 PM July 21, 2021. The meeting was held at Pybus Public Market in Wenatchee, WA, following the completion of the Board Retreat.

II. Attendees:

The following persons attended: Board Members Kathleen Allstot, Katherine Meade, Denise Sorom, Jim Mitchell, and Jill Sheley. Barbara Walters, Executive Director; Kim Neher, Deputy Director; Mike Githens, Director of Finance; Aaron Floyd, Director of IT; Tim Dillman, Executive Assistant.

III. Guests:

Margaret Sullivan, Emily Buttner (Margaret Sullivan Studio), Kristin Foreman, Human Resources Manager.

IV. Consent Agenda:

Kathleen asked if there were questions or corrections for any items in the Consent Agenda which included the:

- a. Minutes of the June 17 regular board meeting
- b. Payroll & Vouchers
 - i. May Payroll for \$514,221.84 and Benefits for \$196,636.05
 - ii. May Accounts Payable for \$524,706.20

Denise Sorom moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Katherine Meade seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

V. Strategic Initiative Plan

Kathleen opened the meeting to discussion of the plan presented by library administration for the allocation of the Strategic Initiative Fund on facility improvements. Jill requested that the motion include language that provides flexibility to allow for future adjustments to allocation amounts. Kim said this would only provide for initial board intent and Mike reiterated that specific allocations would be brought to the board for approval when each project's budget is better understood. Kathleen asked to include the word preliminary in the suggest motion. Kathleen read a letter of support from NCW Libraries Trustee Nancy Spurgeon into the record.

Jim moved to.....

Katherine seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

VI. Financial Report

Mike reviewed the June financial statements. End of June tax revenues show collections at 57% of year end projections, a very strong indicator. Mike pointed out that the library received E-rate reimbursement in June.

In the expenses, Mike pointed out that salaries are at 45% of overall budget. This is about 6% under where it should be. Mike expects that salary and benefits will not be fully expended by year end.

VII. Announcements

Aaron gave a brief IT report, sharing that since he has started the IT team has identified 105 projects and 30 have been completed. Most recently the team did a large overall of IT equipment at the Moses Lake branch. IT has completed workstation assessments in all the branches and at the DC to make sure all staff workstations have basic needs met (i.e. ergonomic keyboards, webcams, mouses, etc.)

IT is currently vetting plans with library leadership for a 5-phase migration to Microsoft Office. This project will be followed by upgrades to the phone system.

The board had some discussion about future in-person meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Allstot, Chairwoman

Katherine Meade, Secretar

ADDENDUM:

The following letter is submitted for inclusion in the next meeting of library trustees.

Dear Library Trustees,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Chelan County who has noticed a pronounced bias in NCW Library's selection of new books, specifically in books written for children and young adults. I became aware of this bias after reading through the April 2021 mail order catalog. An inordinate number (approximately 40%) of the books dealt with matters of race, gender, or immigration. From the descriptions of the books provided it is clear that these books promote the values popularly referred to as "woke" and taken as a whole amount to a form of propaganda directed at impressionable children. I urge you to examine the mail order catalog and read the descriptions for yourself.

Many of the books deal with controversial topics like illegal immigration, gay marriage, transgenderism, and the importance of race. The tactic employed is always the same. Realizing that children have little patience for straightforward polemic, the authors of these books have employed a strategy whereby the main character of the book is a young person who is either an illegal immigrant or gay or transgender or of a racial/ethnic minority and is presented as a very sympathetic character that the young reader is likely to admire or identify with. It is an effective technique whose objective is the persuasion of young minds. All of us can probably remember identifying with characters from books or movies that we read or watched in our youth. But it is not a straightforward or honest technique if it is employed for the purpose of persuasion because there exists no equivalency in the real world between one's immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identification or race and the content of one's character. Nice guys and bad guys are pretty evenly distributed.

Admittedly, librarians would have a tough time balancing out their selections by finding books that portray transgenders, homosexuals, illegal aliens and racial minorities as liars, thieves, and bullies. Such books would have a tough time making it past today's thought police. For that reason I'm not suggesting that "balance" is the solution. Nor am I suggesting that there is no place in a public library for a sympathetic account of the travails of an illegal immigrant or a gay person. Rather I am protesting what is the overwhelming bias present in the selection of books promoted by NCW Library for young people. The librarians that select these books have, in effect, usurped what is properly the responsibility and the right of parents to instill certain values in their children. In all likelihood, a majority of parents in North Central Washington are of the opinion that immigration should be lawful, that a person's defining characteristic should not be their race, and that gender jumping should not be encouraged. In light of their book selections, NCW librarians don't agree, have decided that they know better and have endeavored to impose their standards on their young patrons.

I'm not suggesting an orgy of book burning. After all, there exist parents who share the librarians' ideology and they have every right to indoctrinate their children as they see fit. One possible solution to this problem is that books that deal with the controversial topics mentioned previously be categorized as such and that parental permission be required for access to these books. I realize that this would impose additional work for library staff but our country is experiencing a profound clash of values now and it is highly improper that public funds are being used by one faction in this clash to advance their cause.

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