West Baton Rouge Parish Library

Library Board of Control Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Minutes

The West Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control held an emergency meeting Thursday, June 27, 2019, in the Library meeting room. President, Joanne Bourgeois called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Present: Joanne Bourgeois, President, Brenda Morgan, Treasurer, Gina Lemoine, Andrea Kent and Chris Kershaw.

Absent: Scarlet Callicoatte, Ola Harden

In attendance were Attorney Phil Canova and staff members Sarah Colombo, Cadie Russo, Jim Bridges, Luis Interiano and Jerry Durden.

Ms. Bourgeois declared a quorum present.

Board Member Kelson Swancy arrived at 4:06.

New Board member Andrea Kent introduced herself to the group. She is from Erwinville, has a child who was “born and raised” in the library, and believes firmly in the importance of libraries.

Mr. Phillip Canova, lawyer, was also introduced to the group.

There were no Public Comments.

Ms. Bourgeois noted that there was a rough draft of the May 21 meeting minutes, but that they were incorrectly formatted. Mr. Kershaw moved to defer the acceptance of the minutes from the May 21 meeting to the next official Board meeting. Ms. Lemoine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bourgeois stated that Ruth Bond resigned as West Baton Rouge Parish Library Director, effective end of business on June 24, 2019. The job advertisement for a new director will be placed on the State Library’s website and applications will be accepted until July 31.

Ms. Bourgeois stated that at the advice of Parish officials and State Library personnel, the Board would name a staff liaison rather than an Interim Director so that the appointed person does not have an advantage over applicants for the Director position.

Ms. Morgan moved to name Lauren Jung as liaison. Ms. Lemoine seconded the motion. No other nominees were named. Mr. Kershaw asked for information about Ms. Jung. Ms. Bourgeois stated that she has been here for several years and had worked here as a student in high school and college and has longevity in the library. Mr. Canova read from the library’s web page that she is the Collection Manager. Mr. Kershaw asked if Ms. Jung was the longest serving employee. Ms. Bourgeois stated that she was not. She stated that the liaison would only have the power to communicate with the Board and to sign checks when needed. The vote was called and the motion passed.

At this time, Ms. Bourgeois stated that there was an item from the preliminary audit report that the Board should address in Executive Session. Ms. Lemoine made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, Ms. Swancy seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr.
Canova stated that the employee consented to Executive Session. The public was asked to leave and the recorder was turned off at 4:11 p.m.

Ms. Callicoatte arrived at 4:15 p.m. and entered the Executive Session.

The public returned to the meeting room when the Executive Session ended at 4:25 p.m. The recorder was activated. Mr. Kershaw made a motion to end Executive Session. Ms. Swancy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Morgan motioned that the Board adjourn; Ms. Kent seconded the motion. Before calling for a vote, Ms. Bourgeois noted that the next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, July 16th at 4:00 p.m. in the library meeting room. The motion to adjourn carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 4:26 p.m.

/s/ Joanne Bourgeois
Joanne Bourgeois
President, Library Board of Control

/s/ Sarah Colombo
Sarah Colombo
Secretary, Library Board of Control