



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DRAFT: Special Session Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2020

**HPLD Administration Bldg., 2650 W. 29th. St., Greeley, CO 80631; and,
Virtual Conference through GoTo Meeting
4:00 p.m.**

1.0 OPENING OF MEETING 4:04 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Guests: William Garcia and Donovan Gibbons, attorneys for the High Plains Library District

Following Board Members were present:

Chairman/ Region 3: Ken Poncelow

Vice-Chair/ Region 5: Mary Heberlee (arrived at 4:25 p.m.)

Secretary/ Treasurer/ Region 4: Mary Roberts

Region 1: Trustee John Damsma

Region 2: Trustee Gerri Holton

Region 6: Trustee Joyce Smock

At Large: Trustee Jana Caldwell

Staff: James Melena, Natalie Wertz, Elena Rosenfeld, Dr. Matthew Hortt

Chairman Poncelow read the following statement into record:

High Plains Library District (HPLD) is dependent on the trust of its community to successfully achieve its mission. Therefore, it is crucial that all Trustees conduct business on behalf of the High Plains Library District with the highest level of integrity, truth and honor, avoiding any impropriety or the appearance of impropriety.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Secretary Treasurer Roberts moved to approve the agenda as presented

Second: Trustee Caldwell

Vote: Unanimously approved; 6:0

1.3 Public Comment

There was no public comment

2.0 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

2.1. Executive Session for the purpose of §24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., Conferences with an attorney for the purpose of advice on specific legal questions.

Motion: Secretary Treasurer Roberts moved to go into Executive Session at 4:06 p.m.

Second: Trustee Caldwell

Vote: Unanimously approved; 6:0

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Motion: Secretary/Treasurer Roberts moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 4:56 p.m.

Second: Vice-Chair Heberlee

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously approved; 7:0

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 4:46 p.m. No action was proposed or taken. There was a brief recess and the Special Session resumed at 5:02 p.m.

2.2. Approval of Public Board Statement Regarding Racism

Executive Director Matthew Hortt reported on the work on developing a statement on behalf of the High Plains Library District. He read the proposed statement into the meeting record:

The High Plains Library District has always and will continue to stand against racism and violence in all shapes and forms. Our Black community is suffering; we support them and look for ways to ease their grief and loss. Racism, whether it be individual or systemic, degrades the very foundation of all our institutions, including our libraries. We also support our local and national law enforcement agencies while denouncing the deplorable acts of some in their ranks. Tasked with a difficult job, they too suffer grief and loss because of the egregious actions of a few.

Our mission is Helping build Community, and that is more vital now than ever before. Libraries are a place to create community and foster acceptance and inclusivity. Maya Angelou wrote, "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better." We as a District will continue to provide programming, services, and resources that contribute positively to what our patrons know and do.

The following action items in our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan reflect our stance against violence and racism. We will further our mission by:

- 1. Focusing Outreach on building relationships with our underserved communities*
- 2. Creating a welcoming and inviting environment for our diverse district population*
- 3. Curating collections and offering programs that are representative of cultures and nationalities of the populations in each service area*
- 4. Selecting and focusing on targeted segments of the population to design programs*
- 5. Holding staff led conversations about innovating services and programs to better support community needs*
- 6. Supporting all sections of the community to achieve their literacy goals, in their native language or a secondary language*
- 7. Offering and moderating programming that encourages crucial conversations and civil discourse*

Each of these action items is intended to further build and strengthen our community. We invite you to stand with us as a participating patron of this Library District.

Board Discussion:

Trustee Damsma questioned the language of the statement and whether the statement should focus on the Black community or whether it should address all communities.

Proposed revision:

Trustee Damsma recommended revising the second sentence in the first paragraph to focus on the fact that all communities are hurting rather than focusing on the Black community. One Board member noted that all communities in the United States are disintegrating.

Considerations supporting the proposed revision: Trustee Damsma explained that this movement was initiated when a white policeman killed a black citizen. However, the movement is about systemic and individual racism in all of its states and forms. By focusing on the Black community, the statement is too limited. If an issue comes forward that involves a member of the Hispanic community, does the District need to create a new statement? All of our community – Black, White, Hispanic, Somali, Asian – any you can think of – is affected by this supposed systemic racism.

Responses to the proposed revision:

- Trustee Caldwell stated that to remove the focus from the Black community, it would then be inconsistent to focus on law enforcement in the next paragraph. To remove one statement should lead to removing the other one which leads to a generalized statement that the District is against racism and violence.

Response to removing the reference to Law Enforcement

- Chairman Poncelow mentioned that if the statement about law enforcement is removed, then the Board will need to vote to redact their vote about making such a statement at the June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting.
- Chairman Poncelow explained the violence inflicted on law enforcement officers has similarities to how military personnel returning to the United States from Vietnam were mistreated. It is important to recognize that most of those working in law enforcement are working for the good of the community.

- o Trustee Holton stated we wouldn't be having this conversation if we haven't had a situation that helps us to see what we might not have seen before. This happening was in the Black community and we need to address it. If the statement does not address the specific issue, then there should be no statement at all.

Revised proposal: There was discussion about the possibility of adding a more inclusive statement to recognize other communities after focusing on the Black community.

- After reviewing CHAT comments from the public, Executive Director Hott shared that an often-made suggestion was using "Black, Indigenous, and people of color."

Response to the proposed revision: Treasurer/Secretary Roberts noted that through identifying a list of specific groups, there are also groups that are ignored such as people of different religions, women, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. It is better to stay specific to the specific situation.

Recommendation: No changes

- Trustee Holton and Caldwell supported the statement as proposed. Both statements are specific to what is specific to what is happening and are the reason the statement was created.

Members of the Board noticed that guests attending online were using chat comments and wanted to know what was being said.

MOTION: Trustee Damsma moved to insert a public comment in the agenda for after the Board concludes their discussion but prior to the vote.

SECOND: Trustee Holton

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously approved

Guests who wished to comment were asked to share their name and address. They were informed that there will be a two-minute time limit unless the Chair chooses to extend the time. The Board will not respond to the comments. As appropriate, action will be directed to staff. Those who start name calling or using profanity would not be allowed to complete their statement.

The following public comments were made. Each person who commented was asked to share their address.

Name	Address	Comment
Shark	Not shared	If the statement is to address a certain community, then name the community. If you are focusing on the events; then it's about the Black Community. If you aren't going to say that, don't say anything at all.
Jillian	I live off 16th St	I have two comments. I want to emphasize the importance of being specific. Blanket statements about all types of discrimination detract from the issue at hand, which is the "black lives matter" movement. Second, someone said "standard sexual orientation." I want you to address what you mean by that and reflect on why that is not appropriate language.
Paula	Not shared	I am very disappointed the in the lack of representation in this meeting. I am very disappointed by the statements in this meeting. For an entity that serves this diverse community You need to do better Keep reading These blanket statements are an act of violence to the Black community Your lack of effort is violent to the Black community

Note: At 5:41 p.m., as Jillian was attempting to make a public comment by voice, there were technical difficulties with the online meeting software and the audio recording failed. The audio recording of the meeting concludes at this time.

Note: Due to the technical difficulties noted above, comments from Jillian and Paula were typed into CHAT and then read to the Board by Executive Director Hortt. The comments added to the minutes were pulled directly from the CHAT boxes.

MOTION: Trustee Caldwell moved to release the approved statement

SECOND: Vice-Chair Heberlee

VOTE (by rollcall): Passed; 5:1

Vice-Chair Mary Heberlee - Yes

Secretary/ Treasurer Mary Roberts - Yes

Trustee John Damsma - Yes

Trustee Gerri Holton - Yes

Trustee Joyce Smock - No

Trustee Jana Caldwell - Yes

2.3. Award Downtown Library Construction Manager at Risk RFP

Executive Director Hortt shared the committee recommendation to enter a contract with G.H. Phipps

Motion: Secretary/Treasurer Roberts moved to award the RFP to G.H. Phipps

Second: Vice Chair Heberlee

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously approved; 7:0

3.0 ADJOURNMENT at 5:52 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board,

Motion: Secretary/Treasurer Roberts

Second: Trustee Caldwell

Vote: Unanimously approved, 7:0

HPLD Board Secretary/ Treasurer
Mary Roberts

Recording Secretary
Elena Rosenfeld