



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Session Minutes
Monday, July 17, 2023
5:00 p.m.
Hudson Public Library
100 S. Beech Street, Hudson, CO 80642**

1.0 OPENING OF MEETING AT 5:02PM

1.1 Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

All were Present unless noted:

Chair Ken Poncelow

Vice-Chair Mary Heberlee

Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Smock

Trustee Jana Caldwell

Trustee Teresa Curtis attended online

Trustee Gerri Holton

Trustee Nick Nakamura

Quorum was established.

Legal Counsel William Garcia

HPLD Staff: Dr. Matthew Hortt, Kim Parker, Rick Medrano, Marjorie Elwood, Natalie Wertz

Guests: Bob Grand, Barb Baker, Sara Hackleman, Ken and Cindy Williams

Chair Poncelow read the following statement into record:

High Plains Library District 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 Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda: Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Smock

SECOND: Vice-Chair Mary Heberlee

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6:0

- 1.3 Approval of Consent Agenda
a. June 19, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
MOTION to approve the consent agenda: Trustee Jana Caldwell
SECOND: Trustee Gerri Holton
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 6:0

- 1.4 The Good We Do
For July 4th, HPLD Staff organized the 10th anniversary Naturalization Ceremony for those who had recently obtained their US Citizenship. Twenty-six people from twenty countries participated. Dr. Hortt thanked Tim Ruth, Bridget Parker, and their team for their work on it. Cindy Welsh, HPLD Librarian who started the program ten years ago, was the keynote speaker. It was an extremely successful event due to the hard work and flexibility of the staff, especially due to the bad weather that postponed the event.

- 1.5 Public Comment
No public comment

2.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ACTION

- 2.1 Request for Reconsideration of a Material (Action) – Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director

Dr. Hortt explained that the District had received a Request for Reconsideration and the requester requested that the Board be involved in the decision. He then outlined the process that the District uses in these circumstances.

Sara Hackleman, HPLD patron who requested the reconsideration, made a statement that contained the following points.

The book '*Bye Bye, Binary*', a children's board book, does not meet the description of a board book for ages zero to four. There are too many words on each page and the vocabulary is not age appropriate ("social constructs", "smashing gender norms", etc.). Because of that, she asked that the book be moved to the young adult or adult section.

She said she did not want to undermine the library's mission to provide diverse content, because she agrees there should be a wide variety of perspectives. However, again, this content is not age appropriate and is confusing to the age group. She added that the District should offer all perspectives on the topic, and she asked the Board to be the leaders that our youth need today and stand against this indoctrination.

Prior to this Board meeting, the request was reviewed by HPLD Staff and a sub-committee of Board Trustees. After looking at options, which included keeping the book as is, moving it, or removing it from the collection, the recommendation from staff and the sub-committee was that the book be kept in the library where it is. Discussion ensued about pros and cons of keeping it where it is; moving it to another section; 1st amendment rights; and adding to the collection other viewpoints on the topic, rather than removing the book from the collection, to allow everyone a choice.

MOTION to have *Bye Bye, Binary* be retained in the collection as is: Vice-Chair Mary Heberlee

SECOND: Trustee Gerri Holton

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: 3:4

The motion did not pass.

MOTION to direct staff to reevaluate the section location for this material and bring a recommendation back to the Board at the next meeting: Trustee Nick Nakamura

SECOND: Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Smock

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: 5:1

Vice-Chair Mary Heberlee - Yes

Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Smock - Yes

Trustee Jana Caldwell - Yes

Trustee Teresa Curtis - Yes

Trustee Gerri Holton - No

Trustee Nick Nakamura – Yes

The motion passed.

- 2.2 Lincoln Park Library Next Steps (Information) - Dr. Matthew Hортt, HPLD Executive Director
The Lincoln Park building has been listed for sale. The realtors are working on the sale of the property and the City of Greeley has expressed interest in it.
Information only. No Board action to be taken.
- 2.3 Centennial Park Refresh Contract (Information) – Dr. Matthew Hортt, HPLD Executive Director
The Centennial Park Library will close on September 5th and remain closed for two and a half weeks, because of construction. The District will start advertising the closure to the public.
Information only. No Board action to be taken.
- 2.4 Grover Update (Information) - Dr. Matthew Hортt, HPLD Executive Director
The District just received an IGA from Grover. The next step will be to work on securing the title to the property, and in the next few months the District should have a construction schedule.
Information only. No Board action to be taken.
- 2.5 Board Portal and Orientation Discussion (Information) – Dr. Matthew Hортt, HPLD Executive Director
In a previous meeting, Dr. Hортt talked about staff communicating with the Board through texting. He let the Board know that there were technical issues and therefore that practice has not been adopted. A resolution will be reached shortly.
Information only. No Board action to be taken.

3.0 DIRECTORS REPORT

3.1 Review Draft Agenda – Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director

a. August 21, 2023 RS

Two action items will be added to the agenda: *Request for Reconsideration of a Material and Reconsideration Committee.*

3.2 District Updates – Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director

Proposition HH, pertaining to property taxes, will cause changes in HPLD's budget process. Colorado voters will vote on HH on November 7th, and then both the State and County Assessor will make a mad dash to get the District's valuations to staff. If it passes, the Assessor may have until December 28th to get valuations in. If that is the case, Dr. Hortt will not be able to present the budget to the Board in early December, as is normally done, and the Board may need to have a Special Session Board Meeting around December 28th or 29th, or January 2nd or 3rd to approve the budget. The approved budget and certification are due on January 5th.

Board recruitment for next year's open positions is open and has been advertised. Trustee Caldwell suggested that staff contact previous applicants.

The District's Executive Team is looking at structural changes to the organization, which will be considered in the strategic plan. Dr. Hortt will present them to the Board when they are completed.

Dr. Hortt has a meeting scheduled with the Town of Mead. An agreement has been made between the District and the Fire Station.

Progress continues to be made toward the DSS expansion.

4.0 BOARD COMMENTS

4.1 Chair Ken Poncelow praised Tami Crossen, Hudson Library Executive Director. He and she were part of a group who went to the Sterling prison and fed and did a program for 2,300 inmates. She said it was fantastic.

4.2 Vice-Chair Mary Heberlee is pleased with the expansions into different parts of the county. She's hopeful that Lincoln Park Library can be traded for the ground under Centennial Park Library.

4.3 Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Smock was at an event in New Raymer, and the person sitting across from her said, 'Have you been to that new library in Greeley?'. She added that it's impressive that people can't say enough nice things about LINC.

4.4 Other Board Members

Jana Caldwell attempted to attend the Naturalization ceremony, but because of the weather delay could not stay to see it. She shared, though, that staff did a great job of making it beautiful and a festive occasion. She also told about the High Plains Chautauqua and was pleased that many of the day programs are being held in various libraries.

Teresa Curtis will go to CALCON, the annual conference of the Colorado Association of Libraries. She thanked Chair Poncelow for running a good meeting, Counselor Garcia for keeping the Board in line, and the patron who came forward and spoke tonight, because it's nice to hear from those we serve.

Gerri Holton attended the Naturalization Ceremony. She was impressed, and shared that it was very well organized and a joyous day. Kudos to Cindy and the staff who participated. Also, there are a couple of openings on the Foundation Board. Finally, she plans to attend CALCON this year because they have relevant sessions. She, too, gave kudos to Tami Crossen and her Board, because she attended Hudson's Board meeting in June.

Nick Nakamura wasn't able to attend the Natural Ceremony because of the weather delay, but he hopes to do so next year. He thanked his fellow Trustees for a nice discussion on a tough subject that will continue to get harder.

Counselor Garcia said he gave a tour of LINC to two students from the Colorado School of Mines.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT AT 6:13PM:

There being no further business,

MOTION to adjourn the meeting: Trustee Gerri Holton

SECOND: Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Smock

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 6:0

Joyce Smock

HPLD Board Secretary/Treasurer
Joyce Smock

Kim Parker

Recording Secretary
Kim Parker

