

Mountain Regional Library System Board of Trustees Meeting
Towns County Public Library Hiawassee, GA
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Paula Whitehead at 10:00 a.m. Present were: Board members Paula Whitehead (T), Jim Reynolds (T), Nick Wimberley (F), Patricia Allen (U); MRLS staff Heath Lee, Vicki Adkison, Susan Shook; two visitors from the public.
Absent: Board members Kaye McCann (U) and Mike Sullivan (F).

Public Comments: None.

Adjustments to Agenda: A motion was made by Patricia Allen that Adoption of the April 11, 2024 MRLS Called Meeting Minutes be added to the agenda; the motion was seconded by Jim Reynolds; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Adoption of Agenda: A motion was made by Patricia Allen to adopt the agenda as adjusted; the motion was seconded by Jim Reynolds; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Patricia Allen to go into Executive Session; the motion was seconded by Nick Wimberley; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Committee Reports: Nominating Committee: A motion was made by Patricia Allen that FY25 MRLS Board officers be Paula Whitehead as Chair, and Patricia Allen as Vice-Chair; the motion was seconded by Nick Wimberley; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Personnel Committee: A motion was made by Jim Reynolds that the MRLS Board approve a 6% increase in the FY25 salary of Director Lee, effective July 1, 2024; the motion was seconded by Patricia Allen; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Adoption of Minutes: A motion was made by Patricia Allen that both the January 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes and the April 11, 2024 Called Meeting Minutes be adopted; the motion was seconded by Jim Reynolds; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Unfinished Business: Director Lee updated the Board on the progress of the FC Library project. Lee also stated that, beginning July 1, 2024, Blue Ridge Mtn. EMC will be providing E-rate service to the MRLS system.

New Business: The proposed FY25 MRLS Meeting dates, each meeting to begin at 10:00 a.m. are: July 24, 2024; October 23, 2024; January 22, 2025; May 21, 2025. A motion was made by Nick Wimberley to approve the proposed FY25 MRLS Meeting dates; the motion was seconded by Jim Reynolds; all were in favor, none were opposed.

A motion was made by Patricia Allen to approve the Director's Signatory Authority for FY25; the motion was seconded by Nick Wimberley; all were in favor, none were opposed.

A motion was made by Patricia Allen to conditionally allow the creation of a new bank account, to accommodate transactions made to the library system by credit/debit cards; the motion was seconded by Jim Reynolds; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Director Lee presented to the Board changes to the MRLS pay scale. A motion was made by Patricia Allen to approve the new MRLS Pay scale; the motion was seconded by Jim Reynolds; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Lee reviewed with the Board proposed changes to the MRLS Fines and Fees Policy. A motion was made by Patricia Allen to accept the proposed changes to the MRLS Fines and Fees Policy; the motion was seconded by Nick Wimberley; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Lee reviewed with the Board proposed changes to the MRLS Finance Policy. A motion was made by Jim Reynolds to accept the proposed changes to the MRLS Finance Policy; the motion was seconded by Patricia Allen; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Lee reviewed with the Board the proposed changes to the Meeting Area Policy. A motion was made by Patricia Allen to accept the proposed changes to the Meeting Area Policy; the motion was seconded by Nick Wimberley; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Lee reviewed the proposed FY25 MRLS Operating Budget with the Board. A motion was made by Patricia Allen to approve the proposed FY25 MRLS Operating Budget; the motion was seconded by Jim Reynolds; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Chairman's Report: Chair Paula Whitehead expressed thanks to Library personnel. She also thanked Board members for their support on the Regional Board.

Library Director's Report: Director Lee reported on the Staff Development Day held on May 6, 2024. The event, held at MRL, centered on Information Technology and Summer Reading Program. Guest speakers were on hand from GPLS and Georgia Homeland Security. Friends of the Library groups donated funds for expenses.

Construction of four study rooms at UCPL is almost done. Patrons will have access to private study rooms. Construction is being funded with local SPLOST and GPLS MRR funds.

Finance Report: Assistant Director Vicki Adkison reviewed with the Board the detailed MRLS FY24 3rd Qtr. Finance Report. She answered questions regarding figures on the report, and stated that the system is in good financial condition.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Patricia Allen to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Nick Wimberley; all were in favor, none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Paula Whitehead, Chair