

Mountain Regional Library System Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: 7-24-2024 Time: 10:00 am

Location: Mountain Regional Library - Young Harris, GA

“Minutes Approved”

Chair Paula Whitehead called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, determining there was a quorum present. Board members present were Paula Whitehead (T), Jim Reynolds (T), Dustin Smisson (F), Nick Wimberley (F), Patricia Allen (U), Kaye McCann (U). Present from MRLS staff were Heath Lee (Director), Vicki Adkison (Asst. Director), and Susan Shook (MRLS Admin. Assistant).

There were no public comments.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Patricia Allen made a motion to adopt the agenda, as written; Jim Reynolds seconded; all were in favor; none opposed.

Having no comments regarding the meeting minutes of May 15, 2024, Patricia Allen made a motion to adopt said meeting minutes; Kaye McCann seconded; all were in favor; none opposed.

Director Lee updated the Board regarding the Fannin County new library facility. There was Board discussion.

Dustin Smisson introduced himself as a new Regional Board member, as he is Chair of the Fannin County Library Board of Trustees.

The Volunteer Policy was discussed briefly. Patricia Allen made a motion to table action on the Volunteer Policy; Kaye McCann seconded; all were in favor; none opposed.

Director Lee stated that renovation is being considered for the Union County Library in the near future. Kaye McCann made a motion to approve funding for Union County Public Library Site Assessment; Dustin Smisson seconded; all were in favor; none opposed.

Mr. Lee reported a list of MRLS IT devices that were out-of-date, broken, or unusable. Patricia Allen made a motion to approve this surplus inventory to be recycled; Jim Reynolds seconded; all were in favor; none were opposed.

Lee updated the Board on the possibility of working on a community project with the City of Young Harris for a T-Mobile grant of \$50,000 for MRL, with the City of Young Harris being the primary grant applicant. Patricia Allen made a motion to pursue the T-Mobile grant with the City of Young Harris; Kaye McCann seconded; all were in favor; none opposed.

Chair Paula Whitehead assigned Patricia Allen, Kaye McCann, and Jim Reynolds to the Personnel Committee (Whitehead is ex-officio). Whitehead assigned Dustin Smisson, Nick Wimberley, and Patricia Allen to the Nominating Committee (Whitehead is ex-officio).

Heath Lee gave the Director's report, updating the Board on State Health Benefits, stating that the schedule for increasing contributions was moved ahead, and that adjustments had to be made to the contribution requests to the counties. The broadband switchover, on July 1st, from Windstream to Blue Ridge Mtn. EMC went smoothly, with virtually no loss of service at any of the library branches.

Vicki Adkison reviewed with the Board members the MRLS 4th Quarter Finance Report (income statements and balance sheet), stating that the library system is in sound financial condition.

Director Lee updated the Board on the MRLS 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, stating positive progress on objectives of the plan. He reviewed FY24 General Usage Statistics for the library system, which show impressive increases in programs, attendance, total circulation, and in computer and wireless sessions.

Patricia Allen made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 am; Jim Reynolds seconded; all were in favor; none opposed.

Paula Whitehead, Chair