

MINUTES OF THE EDISON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2023

Present: Patricia Massey, Lisa Krauze, Sue Cason O'Neill, Fiona Meade, Jyothi Pamidimukkala, Tony DePasquale, Shreyens Patel, Ray Alcantara, Joseph Romano

Absent: None

Also Present: Dominick Bratti (Board Attorney), Allan Kleiman (Library Director), Debra Sarr (Assistant Director), Margot Harris (Council Liaison), Anthony Iovino (Architect from Acari+Iovino)

The President called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. She led the Salute to the Flag and the Open Public Meetings statement was read; roll call was taken.

The minutes of the regular open session meeting of March 14, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent.

The minutes of the closed session of March 14, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent.

Anthony Iovino from Acari + Iovino presented the renovation plan for the main branch. Questions were raised on proposed design and discussed. Mr. Iovino then discussed his opinion of costs and answered additional questions.

President's Report:

Ms. Massey recognized the library workers in attendance for their hard work and expressed that she hoped everyone was able to visit the library or bookmobile for National Library Week. She thanked Mr. Romano for facilitating a meeting with the superintendent. Ms. Massey stated that the meeting was very productive and that communication between the schools and library will continue to be strengthened.

Financial Reports:

No questions raised regarding the Operating Account, Capital Account, North Edison Account, or Payroll account.

Questions raised on the bill list and discussed.

On motion and second (Krauze, DePasquale); the bill list of April 15, 2023 with a grand total of \$212,487.65 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Patel, Alcantara, Romano, Massey

Director's Report:

Mr. Kleiman announced that the former Principal Teen Librarian Caroline Aversano has been promoted to Supervisor of Programs and Services. She will be working to increase programming.

Mr. Kleiman advised that several meetings have been held regarding the bookmobile and that the route is almost complete. The next steps will be driving the proposed route and then providing notice of stops. He also shared that the bookmobile was open for visits at the branches during National Library Week.

An update was provided on the Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library. The Library Foundation and Friends of the Library book sale at the Clara Barton branch was successful. There is now a continuous book sale at the Clara Barton branch. Mr. Kleiman thanked the Library Foundation for providing funds for gaming equipment and summer reading prizes.

Mr. Kleiman discussed the open house that was held at the Clara Barton branch.

Mr. Kleiman advised that he spoke to the auditor and the issue holding up the 2021 audit has been resolved. The unspent 2021 monies have been returned to the library. We are waiting for the "open" Purchase Orders from 2021 to be resolved and monies returned to us as well.

An update was provided on the North Edison branch construction project. Discussions have been had with the architectural firm. Next steps are to go over budget numbers to get realistic figures based on what the engineers have provided and to look for a construction manager for the project.

Ms. Sarr discussed the successful game day program that was held earlier in the month with six Edison police officers.

Committee Reports:

Facilities & Bookmobile – Met on April 13th. Ms. Massey shared that the committee met with Anthony Iovino to get an idea of the proposed plans for Main that were presented at today's meeting.

Finance – Met on April 25th. Ms. O’Neill advised the committee reviewed the finances and banking.

Personnel – Met on April 25th. Ms. Mead stated that the Union had ratified the new contract on April 30th.

Policies & Bylaws – Did not meet

Strategic Planning – Did not meet

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

On motion and second (Massey, Romano); the resolution to eliminate the \$5.00 fine for a Library card after the first loss was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O’Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Patel, Alcantara, Romano, Massey

On motion and second (Romano, O’Neill); the resolution to approve the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company, CPA to prepare the 2022 Library Audit, for the fee of \$10,600 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O’Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Patel, Alcantara, Romano, Massey

On motion and second (Krauze, Pamidimukkala); the resolution to approve an agreement between the Edison Public Library and AFSCME Local 2204-1 (Non-MLS Staff) for the period of January 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2024 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O’Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Patel, Alcantara, Romano, Massey

On motion and second (Massey, Romano); the resolution to close the Edison Public Library and branches on Friday, June 9, 2023 for the Annual Staff Development Day was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O’Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Patel, Alcantara, Romano, Massey

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

Mr. Ramon requested that the Board of Ed be informed of prospective routes for the bookmobile so they can be posted and parents can be advised.

Mr. Romano advised that bids have been secured for the Herbert Hoover School with 13 construction companies bidding. Thomas Jefferson, Woodrow Wilson and John Adams are going out to bid in May. As well as JP Stevens and Edison High at a later date. All will have construction managers and he thinks every project should have.

Mr. Romano thanked Mr. Kleiman for taking the time to provide information and mentioned that the Library and Board of Ed should be open together.

Ms. Massey noted that in addition to National Library week, it is Autism Awareness month, Poetry month, and School Library month.

Closed Session:

Ms. Massey put forth a resolution to go into closed session to discuss contracts and legal issues. On motion and second (DePasquale, Romano) closed session was entered at 8:34 PM.

Motion to return to open session was issued and seconded (O'Neill, Patel) at 9:50 PM.

On motion and second (DePasquale, O'Neill) the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 PM.