

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 14, 2023

PRESENT: Cheryl Cufari, Sharon Jordan, Steve McCutcheon, Julie McDonnell, Jude McQueen, Carmel Patrick, Brenda Schworm, Angela Tatem, Madelyn Thorne, Tina Chericoni Versaci, Christine Witkowski

**ABSENT AND
EXCUSED:** David Fronk, Bernice Rivera

Ex-Officio: Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director; Beth DeMidio, Assistant Library Director of Operations; Michelle Ostrelich, Schenectady County Legislature, Vice-Chair Education & Libraries; Janice Martin, Board Clerk

GUESTS: Kaela Wallman, Christine Filippelli, Robin Pelton, Anne Skrebutenas, Meg Levine

Tina Chericoni Versaci called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Meg Levine, a volunteer for STARS (Schenectady Takes Action for Reading Success) talked about the outreach event that was held at Hamilton School and how critical it is to keep promoting early literacy.
- Cheryl Cufari and Chris Witkowski attended a celebration at Duryee Memorial AME Zion Church on November 19, 2023 that honored former Library Trustee, Marsha Mortimore.
- Cheryl Cufari shared an email she received from a library patron concerning children's librarians and children's programming. Brenda Schworm added that she received feedback from an acquaintance concerned about children's programming being cut.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2023
- b. Approval of Expenditures – Resolution 1

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Sharon Jordan, seconded by Carmel Patrick. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Tina Chericoni Versaci reported that Randy Fine resigned as library trustee at the end of the November 9, 2023 board meeting. She communicated that right away to the board, but wanted to formally thank him and acknowledge his 10 years of service.
- All trustees must complete 2 hours of trustee education by December 31, 2023. A reminder email will be sent out.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Beth DeMidio reported on current happenings at branches and adult programming.
- There is an author visit at KBJ on Thursday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m., being co-sponsored by The Open Door: Kim van Alkemade. Please join us.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – No report.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

- Written report submitted by Sharon Jordan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- The Long-Range Plan will be extended for one additional year to 2024. There are a few minor changes and the plan will be presented at the January 25, 2024 board meeting.

POLICY COMMITTEE – No report.

MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM REP

- Chris Witkowski reported that MVLS Director, Eric Trahan, shared that “pre-advocacy day” planning is here. Chris will forward the information to Tina Versaci.

NEW BUSINESS

- Angela Tatem asked if a committee could be formed to discuss an editorial in the Gazette regarding library programming.
- Julie McDonnell thanked Tina Chericoni Versaci for her service as President of the Board since transitioning from Vice-President in October 2022. All trustees shared her sentiment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. on a motion by Jude McQueen, seconded by Sharon Jordan.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.