

Washington Parish Library  
Library Board of Control  
Bogalusa Branch  
Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 5:30pm  
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to order by President at 5:35pm  
Board Members Present: Mrs. Suzie Betts, Ms. Kewanda August,  
Ms. Penny Moses, Ms. Emma Ross, Mr. Perry Talley, and Mrs. Sally Thomas.  
Absent: Mr. Donald Westmoreland.
- II. Invocation led by Ms. August.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Talley.
- IV. Approval of Agenda  
A motion was made by Ms. Moses to accept the agenda as presented; seconded  
by Ms. August. All present Board Members agreed.  
Motion passed.
- V. Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2023 meeting.  
A motion was made by Mr. Talley to approve the minutes of the previous meeting  
as presented; seconded by Ms. Moses. All present Board Members agreed.  
Motion passed.
- VI. New Business
  - A. Officer Elections
    1. President  
Mrs. Thomas nominated Mrs. Betts for President of the Board; seconded by Ms.  
Moses. After a few minutes without any further nominations, Mrs. Thomas  
moved to close the nominations and proceed with the vote; seconded by Mr.  
Talley. All present Board Members agreed and voted Mrs. Betts to her second  
term as President.  
Motion passed.
    2. Vice President  
Ms. Moses nominated Mrs. Thomas for Vice President of the Board; seconded by  
Ms. August. After a few minutes without any further nominations, the Board  
proceeded with the vote. All present Board Members agreed and voted Mrs.  
Thomas to another term as Vice President.  
Motion passed.
    3. Treasurer  
Members of the Board questioned the need for a Treasurer. A motion was made  
by Ms. Moses to investigate whether or not there was a need for this office before  
proceeding with nominations and voting; seconded by Mr. Talley. All present  
Board Members agreed.  
Motion passed.

#### B. Friends of the WPL Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Mrs. Ireland asked the Board to approve the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon in April. This is usually brought up at the March meeting, but Mrs. Ireland would like to be able to give the staff and public more notice. As always, the Board is welcome to attend the luncheon as well.

Mr. Talley moved to allow the Library to close from 11am-2pm one day (to be specified at a later date) during National Library Week (4/7-4/13) to allow staff to participate in a Staff Appreciation Luncheon held by the Friends of the Washington Parish Library; seconded by Mrs. Thomas. All present Board Members agreed.

Motion passed.

#### C. Request for Interview

A freelance reporter has reached out to Mrs. Ireland about covering the Washington Parish Library and the changes being implemented to comply with Act 436. Mrs. Ireland thinks this would be a great way to get the word out about the upcoming changes and let the community know the reason behind them, but she wanted the Board to make the final decision. The reporter, once he finds a publication interested in the story, will interview Mrs. Ireland, some staff, and some members of the community about these changes.

Ms. Moses moved that Mrs. Ireland pursue this opportunity with the understanding that she would immediately stop the interview if it becomes clear at any point that the piece will be harmful to the Library; seconded by Mrs. Thomas. All present Board Members agreed.

Motion passed.

#### D. Director's Annual Review, Committee of Mrs. Betts, Ms. Ross, and Mrs. Thomas

The Committee offered to give the results of the review in Executive Session, but Mrs. Ireland waived her right to privacy in an effort to maintain transparency. The Committee gave Mrs. Ireland a score of 292 out of a possible 300 points.

Mr. Talley made a motion that the Board accept the review as presented by the Committee; seconded by Ms. Moses. All present Board Members agreed.

Motion passed.

### VII. Committee Reports

#### A. Finance Committee - Mrs. Thomas, Ms. Moses, and Mr. Talley

The Finance Committee met briefly before the Board meeting and looks forward to meeting in the future once the financial reports are received from Parish Government.

#### B. Human Resources - Ms. August, Ms. Ross, and Mrs. Betts

The Human Resources Committee will be meeting immediately after the Board meeting.

#### C. Infrastructure - Ms. Ross, Mr. Talley, and Mrs. Thomas

The Infrastructure Committee met before the Board meeting and discussed proceeding with Angie. During this discussion, Mrs. Ireland brought up replacing the carpet at the Thomas Branch with the same flooring that is in the bathroom and small kitchenette. She also asked about the possibility of expanding the Thomas Branch, as that had been something the Board was interested in doing several years ago but had been put aside until the Angie Branch was settled.

VIII. Director's Report - separate attachment

The Director presented a report of 2023, including the fact that the library staff had received almost \$40,000 in grant money during the year.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Thomas to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Moses. All present Board Members agreed. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm, Thursday, March 21, 2024 at the Franklinton Branch.