

Washington Parish Library
Library Board of Control
Franklinton Branch
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 5:30pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order by President at 5:38pm

II. Roll Call by Director

Board Members Present: Ms. Kewanda August, Mrs. Suzie Betts, Ms. Penny Moses, and Ms. Emma Ross.

Absent: Mr. Derek Dantin, Mr. Perry Talley, and Mrs. Sally Thomas

III. Invocation by Ms. Penny Moses.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Emma Ross.

V. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Yes

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

VI. Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2024 meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on December 19, 2024 at the Bogalusa Branch; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Yes

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

VII. New Business

A. Officer Elections

1. President

Ms. Moses nominated Mrs. Betts for President; seconded by Ms. August.

With no other nominations, a motion was made by Ms. Moses to close nominations and elect Mrs. Betts as President for another year; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Abstain

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed - Mrs. Suzie Betts is President for 2025

2. Vice President

Ms. Moses nominated Ms. Ross for Vice President; seconded by Ms. August. With no other nominations, the election was held with the following votes.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Ms. Ross

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Ms. Ross

Ms. Kewanda August: Ms. Ross

Ms. Emma Ross: Ms. Ross

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed - Ms. Emma Ross is Vice President for 2025

B. Committee Appointments

1. Finance

Mrs. Betts appointed Mr. Dantin, Ms. Moses, and Mr. Talley to the Finance Committee with the approval of all present Board members.

2. Human Resources/Personnel

Mrs. Betts appointed Ms. August, Ms. Ross, and herself to the Human Resources/Personnel Committee with the approval of all present Board members.

3. Infrastructure

Mrs. Betts decided to postpone assigning anyone to the Infrastructure Committee, as there is another opening on the Board with Mrs. Thomas' resignation. This committee will be assigned once the Board is filled completely again.

C. Plans for 2025

Mrs. Ireland talked about the priorities of the Library for 2025, which include updating the website, updating job descriptions, and putting the millage on the October 11th ballot.

D. 80th Anniversaries

Mrs. Ireland explained that this year was the 80th anniversary of the ordinance that created the library system and next year is the 80th anniversary of the Library opening. So she thought it would be fun to "go back to the 80s" with a fun temporary logo that calls back to the old MTV logo. She also showed the Board the new library cards which cost less than the previous ones and include a key tag. Anyone who signs up for a library card for the first time will get this new card with the 80s logo. If someone who already has a card with the Library wants the new one, they can get it for the \$1 replacement fee.

E. Director Review

This was postponed until the February meeting.

F. Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Friends of the WPL)

Every year during National Library Week, in April, the Friends of the Library host a luncheon for all of the staff. This requires that every branch close for 2.5 hours during that day. Mrs. Ireland wanted to get this approved early.

A motion was made by Ms. August to close the branches from 11:30am to 2pm on a date in April to be determined at a later date by the Director with the Friends of the Washington Parish Library to allow the staff to attend the Staff Appreciation Luncheon; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Yes

Mrs. Sally Thomas: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

VIII. Director's Report

Mrs. Ireland prepared a report for the Board. Programming statistics are still being calculated so Mrs. Ireland plans to have an updated 2024 report for the February meeting.

IX. Announcements

A. Ms. Moses announced that Ms. August has been named the Unity Queen. She talked about increasing community involvement and mentioned the idea of having programs with Ms. August. Ms. August enthusiastically agreed that she would be available for Library programs.

B. Ms. Moses also asked for a directory of the staff members that includes pictures so that they can learn everyone's names. Mrs. Ireland agreed that this would be a good idea and added the idea of having a list of the Board members with their pictures for staff, as well.

C. Mrs. Betts reminded Mrs. Ireland that the new Board member, Mr. Derek Dantin, would need a name tag, as will the other new Board member when they are appointed.

D. Mrs. Ireland reminded the Board about the state training set to take place at the next meeting on February 20th.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Ross to adjourn; seconded by Ms. August.

All present Board Members agreed. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.