

Daniel Pierce Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 18, 2024

A meeting of the Trustees of the Daniel Pierce Library was called to order at 7:05 pm with President Mari Martin presiding. Other Trustees present were Cathy Coombe, Pat Doogan, Bill Richardson, Bob Eddings, Leanore Egan, Dave Schneyer, Mike Schiffer and Kate Kelly. Also present were Library Director, Elizabeth Wolpert and Finance Manager Cathy Russo.

Public Comments: Bill Richardson announced that DPL won a raffle from Aroma Thyme Bistro for a Holiday Party. Staff and board members may attend January 6th at 5:00pm.

It was moved by Kate Kelly and seconded by D Schneyer to pay the \$5 entry fee per person for the event from the GPP account.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the November 20 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Correspondence: Leanore Egan read a thank you note from Mari Martin.

Financial Reports: C Russo presented the financial statements for November. The Balance sheet figures were similar to balances of the previous month with the exception of a few items that she noted. Library operating expenses were within normal ranges. It was moved by W Richardson and seconded by P Doogan to accept the financial statements for November. Motion carried.

Moved by D Schneyer and seconded by W Richardson to transfer \$10,000 from GPP account to the general operating account. Motion carried.

Director's Report: Director Beth Wolpert presented the Director's Report for November into December. The project of rearranging the collection to allow for expansion, is now complete. A new fundraising activity called Pages and Percs will begin soon in the original building. It will be a used book store and cafe.

She reported on her acceptance of a new position at the Jersey City Free Public Library. Beth will be leaving DPL early January to begin this new position.

Old Business: It was moved by D Schneyer and seconded by B Eddings to increase the staff bonus by \$50 rather than \$25. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. A motion was made and seconded to accept the resignation letter of Beth Wolpert, effective January 6, 2025. Motion carried.

2. B Richardson proposed a motion to amend the by-laws:
 - i. Whereas the Daniel Pierce Library Trustees maintain bylaws and those bylaws in Article III Section 2 state that “The Director shall be responsible for appointment, assignment, transfer, promotion and dismissal of all staff members. All staff changes shall be reported to the Board.”
 - ii. This section shall be amended to: “Section 2. The Director shall be responsible for recommending appointment, assignment, transfer, promotion and dismissal of all staff members to the Board of Trustees. All staff changes shall be reported to the Board when occurring outside of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.
 - iii. A new section shall be created under Article II Duties of Officers
 1. The Section title shall be renamed Article II Duties of Officers and Board As A Whole
 2. A new Section 7 shall be created: The Board as a whole shall be responsible for appointment, assignment, transfer, promotion and dismissal of all staff members by simple majority vote at any regularly scheduled meeting or duly called special meeting of the Board.

The motion was seconded by D Schneyer. There was substantial discussion. The vote was nullified as it was only the first reading of the proposed bylaw change.

3. A motion was made and seconded to create a Library Management Committee for the purpose of leading the library through the interim period following B Wolpert’s resignation and until the appointment of a new full-time library director. The committee shall be comprised of the Executive Committee members. There was considerable discussion.

It was moved by C Coombe and seconded by L Egan to lay the main motion on the table until the January meeting. Tabling the main motion will allow the Trustees to review the current organizational structure. Motion carried.

Committee Updates: The Board discussed scheduling a follow up meeting for GPP to discuss concerns, positive aspects, ideas for the future, etc. It will be scheduled for some time in January.

It was moved by B Richardson and seconded by K Kelly to enter Executive Session. Session was entered into at 8:50pm.

It was moved to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Coombe and seconded by M Schiffer . The meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Coombe, Secretary