

**LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
BOARD MINUTES – Official
Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.
Kent District Library Service Center**

Present: Dale Parus, Karen McKinnon, Diane Kooiker, Maggie McKeithan, Shirley Bruursema, Peggy Hemerling, John McNaughton

Staff Present: Carol Dawe and Sheryl VanderWagen

Absent: Lance Werner, Kelly Richards

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Dale Parus. There were 14 additional participants.
 - a) Introduce New Members: Jeffrey Babbitt is the new director of the Dorr Township Library
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** John McNaughton moved, supported by Peggy Hemerling, to approve the agenda as presented - *motion carried.*
- 3) **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS:** None
- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Amber McLain (OJ) has created an information packet to distribute considering recent challenges to library materials from the public. She will also be contacting ALA for more information.
- 5) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Shirley Bruursema moved, supported by Karen McKinnon, to approve the board minutes from October 21, 2021, as presented – *motion carried.*
- 6) **FINANCIAL REPORT:**
 - a) FY2020-2021 Final Draft Reports
 - b) Monthly Financials and Check Register: Motion by John McNaughton, supported by Peggy Hemerling to approve the FY2020-2021 Final Draft Reports and the other financial reports as presented – *motion carried.*
- 7) **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Dale Parus reported that he is happy to see that the State is beginning to release monies to the libraries. He noted that the new infrastructure bill is likely to focus on broadband and to stay tuned for those details. We are also waiting for the new census figures to be released and for the impact of that on our state aid. He anticipates that he and Carol will begin to look at strategic planning after that information is known.
- 8) **COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Carol Dawe did not have anything to add to her written report. She spoke about censorship and the fact that this is part of a national trend. She encouraged library staff to consult with ALA, the Library of Michigan and her if questions arise in our local libraries. ALA has provided a toolkit and that link is found on the ALA website. She reminded everyone that they should have a collection development policy and that the Lakeland board recently approved a model policy for libraries to adapt if needed. There were several comments from the audience. Jessica Hunt reported that a patron came to her with a list of titles and wanted her to check that against what was owned by the library. Heather Wood-Gramza noted that just like ALA has a toolkit for libraries, there are toolkits for patrons out there to use to object to titles in the library. John McNaughton noted that they have received many “copy/paste” emails from patrons who are not always residents of their service area. Carol noted that other cooperatives have also noticed that many of the concerns and objections are coming from outside library service areas, and that there have been threats to library staff in some cases. Kelly Tinkham noted the importance of educating library board members so that when these objections occur, the proper procedures are followed. There is a group called “Mary in the Library” and staff should educate themselves about what titles this group is targeting to prepare responses.
- 9) **COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 10) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comment.
- 11) **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Karen McKinnon reported that their addition has a roof. Leighton Township Library received a \$500 mini grant from Allegan County to purchase books for their 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

Shirley Bruursema reported that KDL recently faced a challenge to a title in their collection and that Lance's comments at that meeting were well-received by the public. KDL will be finalizing their new budget for January 2022.

Diane Kooiker reported that their new book vending machine is scheduled for installation next week.

Dale Parus reported the Ionia Community Library lost its millage bid but that they will be returning to the voters in 2022.

12) **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, December 9, 2021, 9:30 a.m. at Kent District Library Service Center.

13) **ADJOURNMENT:** Johh McNaughton, supported by Peggy Hemerling moved to adjourn at 9:58 a.m. - *motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,
Sheryl VanderWagen