

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

Present: Dale Parus, Karen McKinnon, Diane Kooiker, Shirley Bruursema, Peggy Hemerling, John McNaughton, Lance Werner, Kelly Richards

Staff Present: Carol Dawe and Sheryl VanderWagen

Absent: Maggie McKeithan

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Dale Parus. There were 23 additional participants.
  - a) Introduce New Members: Matthew Lubbers-Moore is the new director at Fruitport District Library
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Lance Werner moved, supported by John McNaughton, to approve the agenda as presented - *motion carried*.
- 3) **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS:** None
- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Brian Mortimore (KDL) spoke about the meeting in Rockford regarding the Rockford branch. He was proud of the number of people who attended and spoke in support of KDL and particularly Heather Wood-Gramza who spoke as a local resident at the meeting. Lance Werner introduced Jennifer DeVault, KDL's new Director of Operations.
- 5) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Peggy Hemerling moved, supported by Shirley Bruursema, to approve the board minutes from November 11, 2021, as presented – *motion carried*.
- 6) **FINANCIAL REPORT:**
  - a) November Financials and Check Register: Motion by Lance Werner, supported by Karen McKinnon to approve the November financial report and check register as presented – *motion carried*.
- 7) **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** None
- 8) **COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Carol Dawe did not have anything to add to her written report. She reported that work on the ARPA grant is moving forward. The committee has a meeting next Tuesday.
- 9) **COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 10) **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a) Kent District Library and Krause Memorial Library: Lance Werner provided background information regarding the current situation. In the past 18 months, the City of Rockford, Algoma, Cannon, and Courtland Townships have been exploring pulling out of KDL and establishing an independent library district largely because they want KDL to build a new or expand the existing library building. Lakeland provided statistics and reports to both parties regarding the financial impact on Lakeland should this separation from KDL take place. If the Lakeland Board were to accept Rockford and the neighboring townships as an independent member, KDL would withdraw from Lakeland and restrict borrowing to only KDL patrons. This would also result in a substantial budget reduction at Lakeland that could not be made up by revenue from state aid and operating fees from those 4 units of government that would form the new district library in Rockford. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, there was a public meeting in Rockford that was attended by over 300 residents. Approximately 70 residents spoke out against the separation. The LLC Board agreed to form an ad-hoc committee to address this issue and support KDL.
- 11) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Heather Wood-Gramza reported that Howard Miller Library will hold an open house to showcase their new Tovertofel (Magic Table) that projects images on the floor and other surfaces, allowing people with cognitive differences to interact with them. They have been using it with staff but will soon make it available for the public. Amber McLain reported the results of the

recent book challenge at Patmos Library. She has a 24-page packet for the book, Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe that she will share if there are challenges to this book at other libraries. At Patmos, the book will become part of the professional collection but will be available to patrons for checkout. She noted there are several opportunities in the coming weeks to learn more about the uptick in challenges to library materials. She will send the dates and times out on email.

**12) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

John McNaughton reported that Jessica Bratt is the new Assistant Director at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Karen McKinnon reported that work is progressing on the addition. She is also seeking a new youth services staff member at Leighton.

Peggy Hemerling thanked the Lakeland staff for getting things done and picking up the slack when needed. She especially, thanked Terry Cross for his efforts.

Shirley Bruursema reported that she conducted a trustee training session with Clare Membiela from the Library of Michigan on December 6. There were 49 trustees in attendance. They will repeat the program on December 13, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. She will deliver holiday gift baskets to the staff at each of the KDL branches in the coming week.

Kelly Richards noted that this is his last meeting and that he will be departing for Philadelphia next month. He noted that he will miss everyone and encouraged us to support each other as new issues continue to crop up.

**13) NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, January 13, 2022, 9:30 a.m. at Kent District Library Service Center.

**14) ADJOURNMENT:** Karen McKinnon, supported by Peggy Hemerling moved to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. - *motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sheryl VanderWagen