



Board of Library Trustees

March 24, 2015 – 3:30 p.m. – **Minutes**
New Bedford Main Public Library, 613 Pleasant Street

The Board of Library Trustees met on March 24, 2015, 3:30 PM,
in the Trustees Room of the Main Library.

Present: Carl Cruz, Vice-Chair
Elsie R. Fraga
The Very Reverend Father Constantine Bebis
Helen Rogers
Diana Henry
Jill Horton-Simms
Lee Blake
Karen Stefanik, Head of Branches, Interim Director

Excused: Mayor Jon Mitchell
Dr. John Fletcher
Rev. Kevin Harrington

Guests: Kristine Arsenault
John Carvalho
Jason DeFalco
Olivia Melo
Dr. Pia Durkin

Called to order: Mr. Cruz called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

Ms. Blake made a motion to accept the February Trustees' minutes, it was seconded by Ms. Henry and unanimously approved.

Ms. Blake made a motion to accept the Trustees' minutes for the special February meeting, it was seconded by Mrs. Fraga and unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Horton-Simms made a motion to accept the staff reports, seconded by Mrs. Fraga.

Mrs. Rogers asked about the status of the Teen Assistant. Ms. Stefanik replied that Mr. Easton was reviewing applications and ready to start interviewing. Mr. Cruz suggested that any interviews wait until new director Olivia Melo starts in April.

Dr. Durkin arrived, and Father Bebis made a motion to go out order on the agenda to accommodate Dr. Durkin's schedule, it was seconded by Mrs. Fraga and unanimously approved. (See New Business.)

After speaking with Dr. Durkin, Ms. Blake made a motion to go back into the regular agenda, it was seconded by Father Bebis and unanimously approved. The meeting continued with the staff reports.

Mr. Cruz brought up the parking situation at the Casa da Saudade Library. Ms. Stefanik replied that DFFM was planning to remove the dumpster there, which at least would open up one space. With the snow, parking at Howland-Green has also been a concern.

The staff reports were approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Art:** Dr. Fletcher, Chair – Mrs. Fraga made the motion to wait on Ms. Hodson’s request to give a book to Rotch-Jones-Duff House until the new director starts. This motion was seconded by Ms. Henry and unanimously approved.
2. **Bookmobile:** Mrs. Rogers, Chair – Ms. Stefanik reported that in early March the Bookmobile slipped on some ice and hit a parked car. The driver of the car looked at his car and said there was minimal damage and left before the police arrived. The police cited no fault. Ms. Stefanik and the Bookmobile driver filled out a report of this accident to send to the City Solicitor’s Office.
3. **Building:** Ms. Blake, Chair – The painting in the Children’s Room is finished and painting has started in the director’s office. They are doing minor touch ups to the paint in the Children’s Room. Ken Blanchard with DFFM will be looking into changing the configuration of the bathrooms at the Main Library.
4. **Finance Committee:** Mrs. Fraga, Chair – The Barnet Scholarship money is available and Ms. Henry can contact Bookkeeper Carmen Brodeur for more information and the amount available. Ms. Stefanik is having the MIS Department look into ordering 10 refurbished computers. Ms. Blake said that Comcast has a grant for computers, and she will send this information to Ms. Melo.
5. **Gifts:** Father Harrington, Chair – Nothing to report.
6. **Personnel:** Mrs. Rogers, Chair – The Personnel Committee has received an application for the Head of Special Collections position. Ms. Melo wants to change the job description of the Head of Reference and Technical Services to reflect the more modern needs of the library.
7. **Policy:** Ms. Blake, Chair. The Library is waiting for the final policies from the Solicitor’s Office.
8. **Scholarships:** Ms. Henry, Chair. Nothing to report.
9. **Director’s Report:**
Ms. Horton-Simms moved to accept the Director’s Report and it was seconded by Ms. Henry.

Mrs. Fraga asked about getting the lift for the shelves when the library is re-carpeted. Mr. Cruz said that this issue will be addressed when Olivia Melo begins in April.

The Director’s Report was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Kristine Arsenault came to discuss moving the mural of New Bedford mayors from its current location in City Hall to the library. In November, the Board voted not to have the mural installed in the Children’s Room. Ms. Arsenault suggested that perhaps it could be installed in the juvenile room instead, and said the Mayor thought it would be a wonderful teaching tool for classes visiting the library. Because of the size, there are not many other walls in the library that could accommodate the mural. Ms. Melo said she would look at the mural and see if there are any other locations she could suggest.

NEW BUSINESS

The Superintendent of the New Bedford schools, Dr. Pia Durkin, attended the meeting to discuss how the library can best assist the schools. Jason DeFalco, Chief Academic Advisor, and John Carvalho, Head of Publicity, also were in attendance. Ms. Blake asked with what literacy programs the library can help. Dr.

Durkin said the schools have updated their reading program to be aligned with Massachusetts reading standards. The new reading programs have students analyzing stories, not just reading the words. Each school has a 90 minute uninterrupted literacy block to allow classes to focus better. Dr. Durkin will add the Trustees to the schools' monthly –newsletter. A priority for Dr. Durkin is to add 20-30 ESL teachers as an additional 2400 children have been identified as needing ESL help.

Dr. Durkin said that the history department is growing. Jason DeFalco, Chief Academic Advisor, said that there is a Director of Literacy and Humanities, and these departments go together. They will be working on the humanities and social studies curriculum. Mrs. Rogers expressed concern about the libraries in the schools. Dr. Durkin said there is no budget for the school elementary librarians, but there is a librarian at the high school. Mr. Cruz pointed out that teachers should be aware of the New Bedford library's collections of Portuguese and Spanish material. Dr. Durkin invited Olivia Melo to come to a principals' meeting to discuss what services and collections the library has; principals can then contact the libraries individually to take advantage of these services. Some principals are new and might not be aware of which libraries are close to their schools. Ms. Blake said that more schools need to be aware of the Bookmobile. Dr. Durkin said it is a valuable service, but timing is an issue as principals want an uninterrupted block of time to focus on literacy. The schools and the library can prioritize which schools need the Bookmobile the most, and use the Bookmobile to reinforce good behavior. Dr. Durkin mentioned having a city campaign to get a library card, and have schools compete to see which school's students get the most library cards. Ms. Melo pointed out that September is Library Card Sign-up Month and would be a good time for that.

NEXT MEETING:

Regular meeting: Tuesday, April 28 at 3:30pm

Ms. Blake made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Mrs. Rogers and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.