

**Mountain Regional Library System Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Location: Mountain Regional Library – Young Harris, GA**  
**Wednesday, July 27, 2022      10:00 a.m.**

**“Minutes Pending Approval”**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patricia Allen at 10:00 a.m. Present: Board Members Patricia Allen (U), Stacy Head (U), Devan Mahan (U), Kaye McCann (U), John Thompson (F), Nick Wimberley (F), Judy Slaton (T); MRLS Staff Heath Lee, Vicki Adkison, Susan Shook. Absent: Carol Crawford (F), Kathleen Tickner (F), Shirley Miller (T), Jim Reynolds (T). Present from the public: Juliette and Dustin Barnes (scheduled to speak), and 7 other people.

Adjustments to Agenda: There were no adjustments to the Agenda.

Adoption of Agenda: A motion was made by John Thompson to adopt the agenda; the motion was seconded by Judy Slaton; all were in favor; none were opposed.

Public Comments:

Dustin Barnes came forward to speak to the Board. On behalf of himself and his wife Juliette, and their attending friends, Mr. Barnes expressed his fervent disapproval of the book “It’s Perfectly Normal”, and insisted that the book be removed from the TC libraries.

A Request for Reconsideration had been submitted on March 31, 2022, asking that the book be removed from the library, or at least moved to the adult section. At the April 19, 2022 Towns County Library Board meeting, the Board had voted to leave it “as is”, in the Juvenile section.

Mr. Barnes disagreed with that decision, and became abrupt in his language to the Regional Board, saying that the book contained pornographic images showing children engaging in sexually explicit acts, and that, if the book remained in the library, the Board members were complicit in supporting pornography. He wanted the Board to vote that the book be removed immediately from the libraries, or he would file a complaint with local authorities, under the Federal Protection Act, and would ask for a legal investigation of Board members who wanted to keep the book available in the libraries. Some of the attending people asked questions of the Board regarding the book.

Adoption of May 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Nick Wimberley to adopt the minutes from the May 18, 2022 regional board meeting; the motion was seconded by Devan Mahan; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Adoption of June 7, 2022 Called Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Nick Wimberley to adopt the minutes from the June 7, 2022 called meeting of the regional board; the motion was seconded by John Thompson; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Old Business:

Director Lee reported on the Fannin County Library Project, showing a proposed outdoor rendering by Place Services of the new facility, and preliminary 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor plans. Some earthwork will need to be done to make space for more parking, since the lot is sloping. Fannin County will submit a request for quotes for architecture bids for the new 10,500 sq. ft. building. Funding for the new facility will include \$2.6 million from the State, \$1.3 million from the County, and donations from the Foundation. The FC Board of Education will vacate the current building, and turn the title over to Fannin County.

There was discussion of building timelines, requirements, and funding. Nick Wimberley stated that the FC Commissioners had voted just the day before to spend the \$1.3 million for the new FC library project.

New Business:

(i.) Chair Patricia Allen introduced new Regional Board member Devan Mahan from Blairsville, who will represent the City of Blairsville. Devan spoke briefly to the Board.

(ii.) Director Lee discussed the FY23-FY28 MRLS Technology Plan, which must be in place to apply for state funding. The Technology Plan includes many details from the Strategic Plan, and a technology replacement schedule. The Technology Plan has been shared with the local library boards. A motion was made by Kaye McCann to approve the FY23-FY28 Technology Plan; the motion was seconded by Devan Mahan; all were in favor, none were opposed.

(iii.) Mr. Lee discussed with the Board the three FY24 MRR applications for grant funding: (1) HVAC replacements for MRL; (2) HVAC replacements for UCPL; (3) structural repairs for admin. office spaces at MRL. A motion was made by Kaye McCann to approve the three FY24 MRR Applications; the motion was seconded by Devan Mahan; all were in favor, none were opposed.

Chairman's Report:

Chair Patricia Allen and Director Lee reviewed committees and made the following assignments for FY 23:

- Personnel Committee: Patricia Allen, Stacy Head, Judy Slaton;
- Nominating Committee: Kaye McCann, Carol Crawford, Devan Mahan, Heath Lee;
- Executive Committee: Patricia Allen, Kaye McCann, Nick Wimberley.

Library Director's Report:

Dir. Lee reviewed several of the upcoming important dates, i.e.: the RFID tagging scheduled to begin on August 1; final FY22 Budgets to GPLS by August 26; annual documents and State Aid Application due on September 2; TC Schools PLAY Card Project to begin September 5; self-check stations possibly delivered to UCPL and MRL by September 12; annual Library System Report due by September 16; MRR Applications due by September 30; end of ARPA tech funding (BOAZ IT) on September 30.

Mr. Lee also reviewed some of the FY22 accomplishments of MRLS, i.e.: approved a new Strategic Plan; total attendance up 17%; total circulation up 12.3%; upgraded broadband services; changed our URL to digital; repaved MRL parking lot; all MRLS staff received pay increase; began using new MIP accounting software; changed to new VoIP phone system; received grants from GPLS Marketing, ARPA Tech, ARPA eBooks, MRR grants, GPLS LibTech, USAC Erate, Sandra Deal grant, Rosalyn Carter grant; received additional funding for the FC Library project.

Mr. Lee discussed with the Board the general usage statistics for FY21 and FY22, regarding general attendance, programming, circulation, and computer use. Statistics for FY22 showed large increases in all categories, over the stats for FY21.

Finance Report:

Vicki Adkison presented to the Board the Balance Sheet for MRLS as of June 30, 2022. The balance sheet listed assets and liabilities for MRLS, and reported the net surplus/deficit for each branch of the system. The income statements listed amounts of the revenue sources and expense categories for the respective branches from 7/1/21 through 6/30/22.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made by John Thompson to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Stacy Head; all were in favor, none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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Patricia Allen, Chair