

Burke County Public Library
Departmental Trustees Meeting
May 26, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
C.B. Hildebrand Public Library

Trustees Present: Bakh Alam, Rose Ann Childres, Gene Huffman, Susan Keller, Vickie Oxentine, Mark Rostan, Mary Ellen Wiese, Gail Williamson, Anna Wilson
Trustees Absent: Dottie Ervin, Steve Settlemyer, Reba Williams
Staff Present: Jim Wilson

Mary Ellen Wiese called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Introduction of New Trustee: Jim Wilson introduced new trustee, Anna Wilson. The other new trustee, Reba Williams, could not attend the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the March 24 meeting was made by Susan Keller, and seconded by Rose Ann Childres. The minutes were approved.

Correspondence and Communications: None.

Financial Report: Director Jim Wilson reported that he has made adjustments to the budget to reflect the mandated reductions. The library has received its revenue from Hildebran and Drexel, and the revenue projections for fines and fees should be on target. The book money has been spent, and the book budget will likely have to be lowered for next year. The state was not able to free up money for state aid at the present time, so it will be late.

Staffing Update: Based on department size, the county has proposed a countywide reduction in force. The library could lose four part-time positions and one full-time position. Wilson has proposed an alternative plan to cut spending in other areas in order to maintain the current staff positions. A reduction in materials and programming would be necessary. To save staff, sacrifices will need to be made, but maintaining quality service is most important.

Building Repairs: There has been money put back in the budget, so repairs are in the works. The HVAC in the meeting room in Morganton is back on, and repairs to Valdese are currently being done. Hopefully, there will be money left for carpeting and brighter lights at C.B. Hildebrand.

General Library Update: The numbers are all up. Computer use is up 35% from last year. C.B. Hildebrand has received some new computers, and their old ones will be donated to the Senior Center. The Taste of Culture and the steel drum band performance were very well-attended, and many new programs are

planned for June. The Summer Reading programs have gotten off to a good start, and there is a wide variety of activities for all age groups. The adult summer reading program has expanded greatly.

There will be an abbreviated trustee workshop at the Patrick Beaver Library in Hickory on Thursday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m. Trustees are asked to tell Jim if they would like to attend. Lunch will be provided.

Mary Ellen Wiese talked about the informal lunches that have been held during the off-months when there no trustee meetings. They have been held at the Grind coffee shop. They are not official, but are a very good way to get to know one another and also discuss some library issues. The next lunch will be held at the Grind on June 16 at 11:30.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Jim Wilson asked for the trustees' support in formalizing an alternative proposal as a resolution regarding the county's reduction in force plan. The library proposes reductions in materials and programs in lieu of reducing staff positions. Rose Ann Childres moved to approve the resolution and Susan Keller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Vickie Oxentine, seconded by Bakh Alam, and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Morganton Public Library.

Respectfully submitted : Susan Keller