

HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2015 ♦ 7 pm
HCLS East Columbia Branch

Board members present were: Bruce Rothschild, Chair; Andy Dalal, Vice Chair; Treasurer, Tom Munns; Richard Alexander; Anne Markus; and Louise Riemer. Also present were staff members/citizens Judy Boman, Angela Brade, Mary Brosenne, Stacey Fields, Cari Gast, Ann Gilligan, Valerie Gross, Christie Lassen, Suki Lee, Tanya Malveaux, Mike Riemer, Stephanie Shane, Susan Stonesifer, and Ron Wilson.

Mr. Rothschild called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, welcoming everyone and wishing all a Happy New Year. The Board unanimously approved the November 19, 2014 Board meeting minutes.

The Board discussed the differences between the proposed FY 16 Operating Budget as provided and the one discussed in November, noting in particular the decrease of new positions to one part-time instructor for the East Columbia Branch, and reductions to Objects 2 (Contracts) and 3 (Curriculum). The Board unanimously approved the adjusted FY 16 Operating Budget as proposed, which reflects an increase of 5.94 percent in County funding over FY 15.

I reported on the County's request for an analysis of the additional capital funding requested for the new HCLS Elkridge Branch in FY 16, with the aim of lowering the amount. Ms. Brade explained that the County and architectural firm are analyzing engineering, site, and covered parking costs to determine whether reductions are possible there. She outlined three areas HCLS is assessing as possible areas to trim: costs associated with the project's (1) interim location, (2) opening day collection, and (3) FFE, adding that contingency funds would likely be available to restore some of these cutbacks, if taken. The Board approved a motion authorizing HCLS staff to, if necessary, reduce the FY 16 Capital Budget request for the new Elkridge Branch by up to \$2 million, from the areas Ms. Brade noted, notifying the Board of its decisions. Dr. Markus asked that the Elkridge community's expectation of an interim location be taken into consideration when evaluating possible places to cut.

Ms. Brade summarized the status of current capital projects. She reported that (a) the renovation projects at the East Columbia and Central Branches are in the process of being assigned to a new design/build team, (b) the Administrative Branch is nearing completion, with IT staff and accompanying infrastructure scheduled to move first to the new venue in March and April, (c) Administrative Branch conference rooms have been named in honor of great literary figures, as chosen by staff (d) Glenwood Branch renovations may be forthcoming, with the County absorbing the costs outside the FY 16 Capital Budget. In response to questions, it was noted that, while plans for the specific Clarksville Branch under discussion last year disbanded, another potential HCLS branch in the Clarksville/Highland area will be examined as part of our new Facilities Assessment & Master Plan.

Referencing the invitations in Board packets, Ms. Shane reminded the Board that the Legislative Reception in Annapolis is scheduled for February 18.

Mr. Rothschild congratulated staff on the Strategic Plan Community Leadership Breakfast, thanking everyone and commenting on participants' praise following the successful event involving 100 leaders.

Ms. Lassen described plans to celebrate HCLS' 75th Diamond Anniversary, including the commemorative library cards, a selfie campaign, Evening in the Stacks postcards, a cookbook, a newspaper insert, a time capsule, participation in the Longfellow Fourth of July parade, and a culminating event featuring Diane Rehm.

Highlights from my report included the "Frog & Toad" and "C Street Brass" events, Brainfuse, Battle of the Books, Dr. Majid Fatuhi's presentation, Evening in the Stacks videos, new HCLS tote bags, and the full-day academy sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education that Ms. Brade and I presented for Maryland's public library CEOs on HCLS' vision and curriculum. Ms. Lee and Ms. Malveaux related interesting passport stories from their respective branches.

The Board reviewed the financial and statistical reports, and other packet items, including an updated Calendar of Events. I explained two items to be addressed at the March Board meetings, (1) a flag donation from the local VFW, and (2) Charles Broida's retirement from the practice of law, creating a vacancy at the position of Board Counsel. Following expressions of gratitude for Mr. Broida's dedicated service for nearly two decades, Mr. Rothschild asked Board members to submit any replacement recommendations to my attention.

Mr. Rothschild thanked everyone for attending, adjourning the meeting at 8 pm. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wednesday, March 18** at the Central Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie J. Gross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Valerie" being the most prominent part.

Valerie J. Gross
President & CEO