



## HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020 ♦ 7 pm  
HCLS Savage Branch

Board members present were: Anne Markus, Chair; Robert Mentz, Vice Chair; Andy Dalal, Treasurer; Bruce Rothschild; and Antonia Watts. Also present were staff members/citizens Steve Lewicky, Counsel to the Board, Lew Belfont, Angela Brade, Mary Brosenne, Stacey Fields, Christie Lassen, Suki Lee, Diane Li, Phil Lord, Tanya Malveaux, Lauren McCloskey, Stephanie Shane, Alan Simpson, and Jereme Scott.

Dr. Markus called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The Board unanimously approved the November 20, 2019 Board meeting general and executive session minutes.

I presented the proposed FY 21 Operating Budget, whose funding remained unchanged from the November 20 presentation. The only modifications were a shifting in personnel recommendations to align with a focus on early childhood education. The Board unanimously approved the proposed budget.

Ms. Brade summarized activity on the Glenwood and Downtown Columbia branches, with renovations to the former scheduled to start at the end of January, and meetings currently happening for the latter in the hope to begin design pending approval of capital funding. HCLS is currently soliciting input from staff and will also seek community input for programmatic ideas that affect design, including interactive early learning spaces, cooking kitchens, theatre, and art center. The existing plan calls for an integrated building solution on 2.6 acres with the library on the first two levels, market and affordable housing on the next five levels and an attached parking garage. Current discussion is centered on the associated parking garage, a forthcoming tax credit submission by the Howard County Housing Commission and project funding.

Stephanie Shane reported that there were four applicants to the upcoming At-Large vacancy when Bruce Rothschild's term ends in June. She then disseminated application packets to Board members Dalal, Mentz and Watts who will serve on the nominating committee. Per the nominating committee's recommendation, Ms. Shane will email applicants to schedule interviews on either Tuesday, February 18 or Thursday, February 20.

I extended an invitation to Board members to attend the Maryland Library Day's Legislative Reception scheduled for five pm on February 5. A follow-up email is forthcoming to solicit interest by the Board members in carpooling/caravanning to the event.

Christie Lassen provided additional details for this year's Evening in the Stacks, scheduled for February 29, 2020 at the East Columbia Branch, to include a speaker discussing privateering, gaming tables, rum tasting, mocktails, and a DJ. Lew Belfont summarized recent activity on the Strategic Plan, detailing the January 9 ABCD workshop held at the Miller Branch that drew approximately 100 attendees. The next step is to cull through all the info gathered from this workshop plus other conversations with the community to put forward a plan that will capitalize on the identified community assets. I related that the workshop has already sparked movement within Howard County to include a recommendation for creating an HCLS asset-based community web site and a desire for a quarterly meeting with key nonprofits to provide updates on their activities. I flagged the "High Demand Titles" section in the HCLS Happenings document, noting that we request additional moneys for materials to keep pace with customer demand. The Board reviewed the rest of the highlights, plus the financial statement, upcoming calendar of events, and *HCLS in the News*.

Dr. Markus thanked everyone for attending, adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm, which was unanimously approved to reconvene in Executive Session pursuant to §10-508 of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, in order to discuss personnel matters.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wed., March 18, 2020** at the Miller Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonya Aikens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tonya Aikens  
President & CEO