



HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024 ♦ 7 pm
Virtual

Board members present were: Kelly Smith, Chair; Elizabeth Banach; Phillip Dodge; and Antonia Watts. Also present were staff members/citizens including, Dorna Anderson, Amanda Barrett, Lew Belfont, Jean Boone, Marlene Bordner, Megan Bowen, Angela Brade, Mary Brosenne, Kelly Clark, Erica Coady, Larr Cuffley, Vera Davies, Stacey Fields, Robin Ford, Cari Gast, Rita Hamlet, Kelsey Hughes, Jill Hurst-Wall, Kathleen Jacobus, Allison Jessing, Kathleen Klebba, Addison Landers, Christie Lassen, Steve Lewicky, Tanya Malveaux, Brooke McCauley, Phoebe McDougal, Kim Montenyohl, Stevia Morales, Nana Owusu, Ben Sfanos, Michele Shade, Stephanie Shane, Charles Smalls, Ruth Vargas, Sheng Wu, and Tracy Yamamoto.

Kelly Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Kelly Clark introduced Jill Hurst-Wahl of Widerstand Consulting who presented an overview of the internal equity audit her firm is performing on HCLS. Jill explained what an anti-racism audit entails and noted that her firm has done work for Calvert County Library and Montgomery County Public Library. The 8-week process will culminate in a report with recommendations.

The Board unanimously approved the Board meeting minutes for January 17, February 16 and March 4.

Discussion turned toward the proposed changes to Supplement 3 which involve cleaning up language, adding in local codes and video games, and adhering to County guidelines. This last update derived from meetings with the Office of Law and police department who informed us that HCLS does not have the authority to suspend customer privileges beyond requesting customers leave for the day in the case of improper conduct. Additional discussion yielded that right now Supplement 3 language aligns to the State Library Freedom to Read bill and that use of meeting rooms is open to the public with freedom of speech adherence. The Board approved the updates to Supplement 3 along with the proposed FY 25 closings and board meeting calendars.

Angela Brade presented on the FY 25 capital projects, noting that 400 people responded to the County's survey on the Downtown Branch, and that another survey is to circulate on parking. The likely completion of this stage of gathering community feedback will be moved from April to May.

Angela attended the Howard County Planning Board meeting regarding the ElkrIDGE Branch proposed expansion. The proposed County Executive's budget calls for \$4 million in FY 25 to support this project. The plan is to have another meeting with the County Executive's office before May.

I presented the current financial report, noting that there will be more spending in the fourth quarter on equipment to replace furniture at the branches.

Lew Belfont introduced Erica Coady, Enchanted Garden Instructor, who presented on Teen Sprouts, a new workforce development course for teens. She stated the components of the agricultural and life skills immersion program and noted that registration to take part in the program just opened. Lew explained that this grant aligns with Pillar 3 of the Blueprint.

Christie Lassen gave an update on the website redesign project before turning it over to Addison Landers who produced a video showcasing elements of the new web site. A question from the Board asked about seeing a mobile

version of the new web site. Christie then addressed a sold-out Evening in the Stacks, HCLS Spelling Bee, and Battle of the Books. She closed by relaying that a firm, Gropen, has been chosen to fabricate wayfinding/signage at the Elkridge Branch.

Nana Owusu gave an update on Friends & Foundation of HCLS activities. \$17,500 was raised from Evening in the Stacks. He thanked Branch staff for their efforts in selling raffle tickets. Friends has exceeded their goal for the annual campaign memberships. He further related that the Friends is undertaking a strategic plan exercise.

I provided an update on legislative bills. HB 489: SLRC funding, will benefit all libraries in Maryland. HB 609: collective bargaining is currently in process where libraries and state legislators are working toward language that works for library workers and library systems in Maryland. HB 785: Freedom to Read Act, proceeds with support in both chambers. The library community is waiting on MAPLA's lobbyist to confirm when the bill will officially be enacted.

Kelly adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm to convene in closed session.

Below is a summary of the closed session held on March 20, 2024.

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:
 - a. Time of closed session: 8:13 pm – 9:05 pm
 - b. Place (location) of closed session: Virtual via zoom
 - c. Purpose of the closed session: to discuss collective bargaining negotiations and public security
2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:
 - a. Names of members voting aye: Elizabeth Banach, Phillip Dodge, Kelly Smith
 - b. Members opposed: none
 - c. Members Abstaining: none
3. Statutory authority to close session: This meeting was closed under the following provisions of General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b): Topic #7: § 3-305(b) (9) and (10) (add others as needed)
4. Listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:
 - a. Topic description: To discuss collective bargaining negotiations and personal security
 - b. Persons present for discussion: Tonya Aikens, Elizabeth Banach, Angela Brade, Phillip Dodge, Stacey Fields, Steve Lewicky, Kelly Smith, and Sabina Taj
 - c. Action Taken/Each Recorded: The board received an update on collective bargaining negotiations and public security at HCLS branches.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wed., June 12, 2024**, and will be virtual unless otherwise noticed.

Respectfully submitted,



Tonya Aikens
President & CEO