



HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022 ♦ 7 pm
Virtual

Board members present were: Tom Munns, Chair; Antonia Watts, Vice Chair; Phillip Dodge, Treasurer; Anne Markus; Rob Mentz; Kelly Smith; and Sabina Taj. Also present were leadership team staff members/citizens including Dorna Anderson, Michaela Baxter, Lew Belfont, Emily Bell, Angela Brade, Mary Brosenne, Vera Davies, Stacey Fields, Cari Gast, Mickey Gomez, Cheryl Grimes, Rohini Gupta, Crystal Hawkins, Allison Jessing, Carmen Jessop, Nay Keppler, Kathleen Klebba, Nina Krzysko, Addison Landers, Christie Lassen, Steve Lewicky, Tanya Malveaux, Lauren McCloskey, Kim Montenyohl, Mai-Leng Ong, Emma Ostendorp, Victoria Riese, Ben Sfanos, Stephanie Shane, Margaret Smith, and Geneka Young.

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

The Board unanimously approved the January 19, 2022 Board meeting minutes. Lew provided an Operations Update, introducing HCLS staff members Carmen Jessop and Geneka Young who spoke on HCLS' teen programming at the East Columbia Branch. Carmen addressed Teen Time which focuses on academic success, community service, and digital literacy. She highlighted the activities the teens have done, including working in a garden. She described how programming is designed for the students with their input as well as working with families and post-COVID activities. Geneka, who oversees the Homework Club at the East Columbia Branch, spoke on how she curates classes for teens that are focused in the areas of youth advocacy, restorative practices, digital equity, and the exploration of unconventional careers in STEAM. In response to a question from the Board, Geneka explained that most students come from the schools surrounding the East Columbia Branch.

Christie announced the upcoming spring activities, including the Battle of the Books slated for April 29 at Merriweather Post Pavilion, the online Spelling Bee this Saturday, Evening in the Stacks on May 14 at the East Columbia Branch, and Project Literacy Graduation on June 9 at the Miller Branch. She noted that HCLS hosted an Open House for Bee participants where a couple hundred people attended.

Angela provided an update on capital projects beginning with the Glenwood Branch where new educational interactives have been installed in the children's area which have drawn record number of attendees. Regarding the Downtown Branch, Angela related that HCLS has been having fruitful meetings with the County and that all project partners are still intact. Tom referenced his testimony regarding the capital projects at the County Executive's public hearing.

I addressed legislative updates, including House Bill 1225 which provides for collective bargaining for Harford County Public Library. We will be watching this closely and updating the Board accordingly. Board discussion yielded that such activities are usually local and inquired as to which unions are pushing for this legislation. If the amendment is accepted, public libraries statewide are likely to back the use of Howard County's collective bargaining language. I then addressed Senate Bill 448 regarding per capita funding for libraries which is going forward. We are working with Delegate Ebersole to get support from the House. The bill has received unanimous support from the Senate.

The Board approved the FY23 Calendar as well as the FY23 Board meeting dates, in addition to Supplement 3 which was approved with no changes. Stephanie provided an update on the District 1 and District 5 vacancies, explaining that the County Executive is planning to put forward the recommended names from the interview committee. She then presented the nominating committee, comprised of Tom Munns and Rob Mentz, for next

year's slate of officers which was approved by the Board.

Mickey Gomez updated the Board on Friends & Foundation of HCLS spring fundraising activities, including flower basket sales and branch raffles and a wine pull for Evening in the Stacks. The theme for these efforts is to support teen spaces at HCLS branches. She asked for Board support of the wine pull by May 1. She further asked the Board to spread the word on these fundraising efforts. She closed by noting that the Friends is close to reaching its revenue goal for the fiscal year and that they have applied for a grant for strategic planning. Board discussion ensued on Evening in the Stacks with our acknowledgment that we will compare this Spring's event with the typical February event to see which timeframe works best.

Tom thanked all for attending, adjourning the meeting at 7:46 pm to reconvene in a closed session. Below is a summary of the closed session held on March 16, 2022.

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:
 - a. Time of closed session: 7:48 pm - 9:10 pm
 - b. Place (location) of closed session: Virtual via zoom
 - c. Purpose of the closed session: to discuss personnel matters
2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:
 - a. Names of members voting aye: Phillip Dodge, Anne Markus, Rob Mentz, Tom Munns, Kelly Smith, Sabina Taj, and Antonia Watts
 - 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 #1: § 3-305(b) (x) ◇ Topic #2: § 3-305(b) () ◇ Topic #3: § 3-305(b) () (add others as needed)
4. Listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:
 - a. Topic description: Personnel Matters
 - b. Persons present for discussion: Tonya Aikens, Phillip Dodge, Stacey Fields, Steve Lewicky, Anne Markus, Rob Mentz, Tom Munns, Kelly Smith, Sabina Taj, and Antonia Watts
 - c. Action Taken/Each Recorded: No action was taken

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wed., June 15, 2022** and will be virtual unless otherwise noticed.

Zoom Chat:

19:02:13 From Allison Jessing (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Could we turn on the captions? I have screaming kids in the background so those would be helpful 😊

19:03:45 From Tonya Aikens to Stephanie Shane(Direct Message):

Are we able to turn on captioning?

19:03:51 From Stephanie Shane to Allison Jessing (she/her) and all panelists:

Unfortunately don't know how to do that.

19:04:37 From Angela Brade to Hosts and panelists:

go to live transcript on bottom of screen

19:05:02 From Angela Brade to Hosts and panelists:

its next to the record button

19:05:27 From Tonya Aikens to Stephanie Shane(Direct Message):

Looks like someone just assisted. Please schedule time with Allison to train on that and other key zoom tools in the event she is not in the meeting to assist. Many thanks.

19:05:48 From Tonya Aikens to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you Angela

19:06:31 From Antonia Watts to Stephanie Shane(Direct Message):

Because people are using the chat, public information might require that you keep this record with the video. I have said to Tonya and the board that I recommend the chat be closed.

19:26:05 From Stacey Fields to Stephanie Shane(Direct Message):

Steve Lewicky is saying he didn't get the link. He told me last week he had the link. Is he a panelist as well and can I just send him my link like Angela did for Tonya?

19:27:23 From Stephanie Shane to Stacey Fields(Direct Message):

yes

19:43:08 From Tonya Aikens to Everyone:

<https://app.etapestry.com/cart/TheFriendsoftheHowardCountyLi/default/index.php>

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonya Aikens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tonya Aikens
President & CEO