

Eastern Shore Regional Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2024 4:30 pm  
Zoom

**In Attendance:** John Venditta, Amanda Watson, Maida Finch, Gloria Urban, Ann Smith, Patty Tomasovic, Tamar Sarnoff, Sarah Dahl, Kathleen Lyons, Susan Sherman, Seth Hershberger, Linda Prochaska, Sarah Guy, Erin Counihan

**Call to Order:** Maida Finch called a Closed Session of the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. At 5:30 pm, Maida called to order the Open Session of the board meeting.

**December 12, 2023 Minutes:** Susan Sherman made motion to accept the December 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes as written. Gloria Urban seconded the motion. All were in favor. The December 12, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

**Financial Report (John Venditta):**

- John provided a Balance Sheet and Budget Comparative for the board.
- We had a pre-construction meeting for ESRL's renovation on Monday. Now those expenses will start coming out monthly.

**The Financial Report was accepted and filed for audit.**

**CEO's Report (John Venditta):**

- I now meet with some staff for a weekly Transition Meeting, where we talk about how things need to transition once I am retired.
- On Saturday, the movers are coming in to take all of our furniture to storage. Starting on Monday, the office will be closed for renovation. We will have a small office in the building that Amanda, Tracy and I will be using. Deliveries will go on as normal. Most of the staff will do a combination of being on the road and telecommuting.

**Staff Development Report (Alicia Blake):** Alicia's handout was given to the board.

**Library Services (Amanda Watson):**

- Amanda handed out a Library Services report to the board to cover some highlights for the Information Services and Information Technology Department.
- Product Updates – We are on target as far as the DEI collection; We are still above the national average. We have a change in our wireless printing supplier, but we expect to get more information in the coming months on that. We have been busy getting Microsoft deployed completely and moving over to Outlook from our Zimbra email system. So far, everyone is very happy with the new

product. Windows 10 is coming to an end, so my staff have been conducting audits at branches to allow enough time for equipment upgrades where needed.

- Amanda handed out a statistics sheet. This shows some of the upgrades and IT numbers she has been referencing.
- Upcoming – Network upgrades, we are expanding our audits and looking at the network as a whole; seeing where we can make upgrades. We already have some equipment that we are going to start deploying during the ESRL renovation, to take full advantage of everyone being on the road.

**Old Business:** Maida spoke on the CEO search. Things are proceeding smoothly and we had a good meeting with Bryan.

**Director Liaison Report (Seth Hershberger):**

- The directors continue to meet regularly with John for updates.
- The transition to Microsoft 360 – ESRL staff has been available all of the time for training and questions during the transition. We are looking forward to the transitions ahead.
- Directors will meet with the CEO search finalists on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

**Maryland State Library Agency (Tamar Sarnoff):** Tamar shared State updates with the board.

- The Governor's proposed operating budget was released in mid-January. We are waiting for final approval on that. It includes \$.40 per capita increase to the public libraries and an addition \$.20 per capita increase to the regional libraries.
- We are waiting for the final review and approval of the budget for the State Library Resource Center, which supports all of Maryland libraries. The initial request was to have a five-year funding formula included in the Legislation. It looks like we are probably going to have to settle for a three-year funding formula.
- Thank you to everyone who provided testimony during this Legislative session.
- The Freedom to Read Act has passed out of the second reading. There is going to be another hearing tomorrow morning.
- The Collective Bargaining Bill looks to be moving forward without the recommended amendments that the library community has asked to have put in.
- There is legislation next week regarding the Regional Resource Centers. That hearing is next Wednesday in House Ways and Means. Tamar can forward the information on this if anyone is interested.
- The Fine Free Materials for Children legislation has been amended again. The new position is that any material that is geared towards children, designated J for Juvenile or YA for Young adult, will also be part of the fine free group. Additionally, there is new language regarding returning fees that were paid to the library if the customer can return material within six months of payment of lost or damaged material fines.

**Next meeting:** June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm via Zoom.

**Maida adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.**



**Eastern Shore**  
REGIONAL LIBRARY



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