

PERRY COOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Emergency Meeting

Library Director Patricia Dollisch Fiscal Officer AB Kile Byington Board President Dave Oates Vice President Deb Statler Secretary Mary Roush

Board Members AB Chris Coe Amanda Young AB Paul Sipes Julie Rhea

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Dave Oates. The Library Director and board members except for the Fiscal Officer and board members Chris Coe and Paul Sipes were in attendance. This emergency meeting was called in response to concern for in person programming in the library, the results of the meeting with the Environmental Health Director from the Morrow County Health Department and the staff meeting that followed the EHD's visit. Also, in attendance were staff members Kim Oates, Lisa Timmons and Jane Wiggernhorn.

PATRICIA: Victoria Miller from the Environmental Health Office at the Morrow County Health Department visited the library and made recommendations for re-opening (notes filed with minutes). Victoria suggested that starting in-person was a possibility, but that the health department is expecting a surge in cases and the library should be prepared to be on-line at some point. Patricia said that she and Jane were thinking that on-line might work until Ms. Miller verified that small children carry a higher viral load and since they are typically asymptomatic we would not know anyone was infected until a staff member tests positive or becomes ill. With that in mind Patricia and the staff recommend starting programming on-line to avoid an in-person/on-line yo-yo. The greater concern was the threat of all staff being required to quarantine if even one staff falls ill or has a positive test. At that point the library will be closed for two weeks as there will be no staff to keep the doors open. Patricia asked that the previous motion made by the board that was made and approved to start in house programming be rescinded.

Amanda gave statistics from Ohio.gov regarding Covid 19 and feels that programming should be in person.

Kim wants to offer in person as soon as possible but feels that the online option is safer.

Lisa mentioned that by doing online programming there would be no holiday breaks and no missed weeks of learning.

Jane offered information about the online program as to how it would operate and that there would be Zoom meetings, materials would be signed out to families to use for the class and that staff would be checking in with them often.

Julie noted that parents may be more involved since this is a voluntary program.

that she was upset for days after the last meeting and was finally able to have a conversation with Dave that helped her calm down. She then noted that when the board went into executive session at the August 11, 2020 meeting to discuss personnel issues and then came out of executive session and voted to have in house programming she surmised that the meeting had not been about personnel after all. Amanda corrected her by saying that three quarters of the meeting was about personnel and the rest was programming. Patricia noted that we would review the laws regarding open meetings at the ~~November~~ meeting.

October MR
She then presented information from the Ohio Library Council (OLC), the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) which all offer direction and information that she believes indicates in person programming would not be safe for the staff, children or caregivers. Major concerns, aside from the actual programs, are how to socially distant waiting adults, how to control maximum capacity, continual sanitizing, limited staff to do temperature checks and health questionnaires, and restroom practices for children not accompanied by an adult. All of this while providing service at the desk and on the phones. She also shared that she had consulted with Stephanie Zmuda at the Morrow County Health Department regarding programming plans. A major concern is the possibility of the library having to close for at least two weeks for quarantine.

She indicated that the reason the staff members were present was to answer any questions that board members may have regarding the document they drafted and sent along for the board to review and to voice their concerns about the library being open to the public for programming in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Discussion ensued:

Amanda offered information that she had received from Jessica at the Morrow County Health Department and Jason at the Ohio Department of Health and she said that both had recommended that as long as the library was not at more than 50% of its capacity per fire code, they did not see issues with holding in house programming.

The library staff voiced the following concerns:

Nicole: patrons not wearing masks, especially Amish patrons. Another concern is not just kids bringing the virus to the library but the employees carrying something into the kids. Several of the employees have spouses with high exposure jobs.

Kim said that kids touch everything and that there have been new reports of 70,000 new cases of Coronavirus among young children. She is concerned about exposure and taking it home to her elderly mother.

Jane wanted nothing more than to have in person programming, but knows that on-line is our best choice for now. She has contacted parents and while most of them would prefer the in-person option, they were also understanding of online programming.

Lisa added that library staff is not to accompany children to the restrooms and how would this work with parents not able to congregate?

Board members offered the following comments:

Mary questioned the PPE practices already being done, commended staff and asked for their input on the situation. She also told Patricia that the issue seemed urgent and that she should feel free to

Mary asked that programming start out on-line and be evaluated monthly.

Further discussion regarding the topic took place.

Mary made the motion to start ^{All MR} ~~A to Z~~ preschool programming online and evaluate this on a monthly basis to see if the situation had changed or the staff was comfortable to start in person programming. Julie seconded it. All agreed.

Amanda made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deb seconded it. All agreed. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

David M Oates

President, Board of Trustee

Mary L Roush

Secretary, Board of Trustees