

**BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2024**

Present

MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County
Ora Briggs – Sussex County
Sylvia Claggett – Isle of Wight County
Deborah Dawson – Surry County
Pam Lease – City of Franklin
Kathy Lippard – Isle of Wight County
Jessica Moore – Sussex County
Judge Alfreda Talton-Harris – City of Franklin
Pam Vaughan – Isle of Wight County
Bill Worsham – Southampton County
Ben Neal – Library Director
Bonnie Lauver – Assistant Library Director
Debbie Carter – Budget & Finance Manager

Remote (via Zoom)

Absent

Jennifer Cuthbertson – Southampton County
Terri Hedgepeth – City of Franklin

Chair, Deborah Dawson called the meeting of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees to order at 3:19 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Agenda

Ms. Briggs moved, and Ms. Blunt seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Consideration of Remote Meeting Participation Requests

None

Minutes

Ms. Moore moved, and Ms. Lease seconded the minutes be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Library Director's Report

Summer Reading Program 2024 launched in late June. The first few weeks of programs have seen several hundred families in attendance. Over 12,000 children's books were checked out as of July 16, 2024.

As of 7/16/2024, there are two vacancies system-wide.

BRL staff continued to achieve 100% completion of continuing education goals, and staff completed 162 total trainings in the just completed fiscal year.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Ms. Moore – no report

Personnel & Policy – Ms. Vaughan – no report

Long Range Planning – Mr. Neal for Ms. Hedgepeth – The committee met on July 22, 2024 regarding values, vision, and mission. There will be a work session for the full Board at the September Board Retreat. Please review the draft in the packet and bring ideas and thoughts to the Retreat.

Accounts Payable

Mr. Worsham moved, and Ms. Vaughan seconded that the accounts payable be filed for the Annual Audit. The vote was unanimous.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Board Member Comments/Announcements

Mr. Worsham – attended LRP meeting and today's orientation, and is very encouraged.

Judge Harris – spoke on the importance of educating people on all the library has to offer, including Library of Things and Kanopy.

Ms. Briggs – Community Coalition will hold a back to school event on August 3, 2024 from 12p – 4p to include school supply giveaways, inflatables, water toys.

Ms. Dawson – reminded Trustees about the upcoming United for Libraries 3-day virtual conference (July 30 – August 1). Mr. Neal will send out registration information.

Announcement of Next Meeting

The next Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees meeting will be Board Retreat on September 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Franklin Branch. The Board meeting will immediately follow the Retreat.

Adjournment

Ms. Briggs moved, and Judge Harris seconded the meeting be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Carter for
Sylvia Claggett, Secretary