

Pittsylvania County Public Library
Board of Trustees
November 13, 2023
History Research Center & Library

The Library Board of Trustees met on November 13, 2023. Library board members present included Alice Shelton, Karen Eades, Janice Fitts, Portia Fitzgerald, Sandy Mitchell, Shelby Buffington, York Pilson, Debra Turner, and Rhonda Griffin.

Karen Eades, Chair, called the Library Board meeting to order at 3:06 pm.

The consent agenda containing the minutes of the Sept 11, 2023 Library Board meeting, the agenda without amendment and the financial and operations reports for July and August 2023 were approved on a motion by Janice Fitts, seconded by Shelby Bufington.

Action Items:

Information Items:

Nan Cormack provided a presentation on book challenges. First Amendment rights and violations were discussed. Nan explained view-point discrimination and issues with barriers to accessing books. She mentioned the library's reconsideration form and that anyone challenging an item must have read the item in its entirety and complete one challenge form per book. Nan cautioned the board about governmental overreach, as well as potential and pending lawsuits. Nan informed the board that public libraries are not custodians of children, that it is the parent's responsibility to monitor what materials their underage child is reading.

Rhonda Griffin informed the board that some staff and/or staff member's family may identify in the LGBTQ+ community, which, due to HR and employment laws, should be considered before the board makes a policy not allowing staff to purchase LGBTQ+ materials. Currently staff at different locations purchase materials for their location and target patrons.

Other items:

The Board discussed having more consistent meeting times. The Board decided to have future meetings at 3:00 PM so that board members could possibly get home before dark. The Board directed Rhonda to update the meeting schedule and public notice on the county website to reflect the 3:00 meeting time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Next board meeting was scheduled for Jan 8th at 3:00 pm.