

The 868th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Elmont Memorial Public Library, Elmont Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York was held at the Elmont Memorial Public Library on February 22, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER/EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Livingstone Young, President at 7:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Livingstone Young, President
Ms. Natasha Warburton Welch, Vice President
Ms. Ellice Bekier
Ms. Gina Burnett
Ms. Mimi Pierre Johnson
Ms. Suzanne Schatz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Monique Hardial (prior excuse given)

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Jean Simpson, Library Director
Mr. Frank Marino, Business Manager
Tom Volz, Esq. Board Attorney
Ms. Catherine Antioco, Library Board Clerk

PUBLIC:
See attached sign in sheets.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved as follows:

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees, by motion dated December 21, 2023 determined to discontinue the use of the Library and its facilities for early voting due to demonstrated safety concerns, effective immediately; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees thereafter conferred with the Nassau County Board of Elections regarding the Library's concerns in connection with early voting; and

WHEREAS, the Nassau County Board of Elections agreed by letter dated January 24, 2024 to increase staffing outside of the polling place for purposes of directing voters to the appropriate entrances to ensure the safety of the patrons, staff and voters, and to endeavor to increase staffing within the polling site to improve voting efficiently and prevent long lines and delays in voting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby rescinds its December 21, 2023 motion to discontinue use of the Library and its facilities for early voting, effective immediately. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Ms. Bekier moved to go into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss any pending real estate, personnel or legal matters. Seconded by Ms. Pierre Johnson.

Unanimously carried.

The meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Agenda Items Only

No discussion.

Meeting Room or Theater Requests

There were no meeting room or theater requests for the Board's approval.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of January 25, 2024

The Minutes were approved as presented.

FINANCE

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2783 dated January 21, 2024 in the amount of \$50,714.18. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2784 dated February 4, 2024 in the amount of \$52,466.77. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to approve Bill Warrant #2785 dated February 9, 2024 in the amount of \$80,113.09. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Brief discussion followed.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to approve Bill Warrant #2786 dated February 22, 2024 in the amount of \$68,484.43. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to approve Board Appointees Warrant #2787 dated March 1, 2024 in the amount of \$15,858.47. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to approve the Amazon Expense Report for the period January 4, 2024 to February 5, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to approve the Credit Card Expense Report for the period January 2, 2024 to January 29, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Unanimously carried.

The Trustees reviewed the Monthly Position Paper for the period January 19, 2024 to February 16, 2024.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Simpson reported.

The Trustees were in possession of Ms. Simpson's report dated February 16, 2024. Also provided was the Personnel Report and reports from the Adult Reference Department, Young Adult Department and Children's Services Department.

The staff has been working diligently to provide additional staffing and programs in the Children's Department during the winter break. The Sensory Exploration Station has been a big success.

We are looking into purchasing a projector for the Teen Annex as the current one has not been working properly.

Brief discussion regarding Governor Hochul's Budget Proposal as it pertains to Library Aid.

Planning is underway for the April 27, 2024 Family Event.

The Popular Seed Library will resume in March.

The VITA tax preparation appointments held here at the Library are completely full.

The theme of this year's summer reading workshops is Adventure Begins at Your Library.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to hire Rafael Velasquez Part-time Cleaner, effective February 4, 2024 at a salary of \$17.50 per hour. Seconded by Ms. Bekier.

Unanimously carried.

ADVANCED CONSULTING CORPORATION

Mr. Marino reported.

He brought the trustees up to date on the solar energy/roofing project.

The two local high schools have confirmed receipt of the 2024 Scholarship Award Guidelines. We still have one children's show provided by Plaza Theatre to benefit these awards. To date, since its inception, we have awarded approximately \$70,000 in scholarships.

Our new 2023 Ford F250 pick-up truck was delivered. We will now begin the sale of the existing truck using the parameters of its sale outlined at the January 25th Board meeting.

The Trustees are in possession of the draft proposal of the administration's 2024/2025 Library Budget. The Trustees set a budget work session for February 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion regarding the funding agreement between the Elmont School District and the New York State Urban Development Corporation which includes the UBS Arena, retail center and hotel.

The Library's commercial insurance policies were renewed on January 22, 2024.

LEGAL

Other than routine matters handled by the law firm and that discussed in Executive Session, Mr. Voltz had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for the Board's consideration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports for the Board's review.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business for the Board's attention.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for the Board's attention.

PUBLIC

See attached Sign In Sheet

Among those who approached the microphone were:

Ms. Lynette Battle

Ms Mickheila Jasmin-Beamon

Ms. Tiffany Capers

Ms. Claudine Hall

Sheldon Meikle

Mr. Dwayne Palmer

Besides appreciation for reinstating early voting at the Library was a thank you for the museum passes, requests to expand Children's programming on Saturdays and praise for the Plaza Production on February 20th of Rainbow Fish.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elmont Memorial Public Library. If necessary, the Board will convene into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. followed by public session.

Ms. Warburton Welch moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.
Seconded by Ms. Burnett.

Unanimously carried.

* * * * *

Respectfully submitted,