

**Kalamazoo Public Library**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

DATE: March 24, 2003

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Boardroom/Central Library  
315 South Rose Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

President Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustees present were: Donald Brown, Loren Dykstra, Lisa Godfrey, Rand Johnson and James Vander Roest. Absent: Robert Brown, Doreen Thomas.

**I. RECOGNITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no recognitions, resolutions or communications.

**II. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

No one addressed the board.

**III. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2003

B. Personnel Items

**Melissa Diaz** will transfer to the position of Library Assistant 3, full-time, assigned to Bookmobile/Oshtemo, Youth and Branch Services, effective April 1, 2003. Ms. Diaz has been half-time within the same department but assigned to Oshtemo and Washington Square Branches. She first joined the salaried staff in June 2202; she was previously an hourly aide and substitute in various library departments.

**Joanna Lundberg** will move to the position of Librarian IV, Lead Librarian, Oshtemo/Bookmobile, Youth and Branch Services, on April 1, 2003. Ms. Lundberg has been a KPL librarian since 1972 and has held positions in the Children's Room and in branches. She is currently Librarian I, Government Documents Librarian, in Adult Services.

The board accepted the minutes and personnel items as presented.

Disposition:

**IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A. Financial Reports for the Periods Ending December 31, 2002

**Recommendation:** Director Amdursky recommended the board approve Financial Reports for the Period Ending February 28, 2003.

**MOTION:** MS. GODFREY MOVED AND MR. VANDER ROEST SUPPORTED APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AS RECOMMENDED.

Executive  
Summary:

Mr. Amdursky indicated he had no comments in addition to the notes included with the reports.



**Motion carried 5-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

V. A. Policy Revision: "Rules of Conduct for Library Use"

**Recommendation:** **The director recommended the board revise the "Rules of Conduct for Library Use" policy as presented.**

Executive  
Summary:

At last month's meeting when revisions to the "Rules of Conduct for Library Use" were approved, a trustee asked if the rules were sufficient to handle all unacceptable patron behaviors that generally occur.

Security guards and department heads provided examples of misbehavior not specifically addressed in our rules. Our attorney recommended that more unacceptable behaviors be specifically listed in the policy and wrote two new rules to address those behaviors. To avoid constant revision to the rules and to address behaviors still not directly addressed, the last clause of rule thirteen was adjusted and is expected to be sufficient.

Discussion:

Ms. Godfrey indicated she was interested in adequately addressing misbehaviors of whatever type arise, but feels the listing of examples of misbehavior is misleading and may be misinterpreted or challenged as an inclusive list. Perhaps the wording in the last clause of rule number three is sufficient.

Mr. Vander Roest agreed that a list of inappropriate behaviors excludes unlisted behaviors by implication. He suggested dropping rule #13 and including a couple of examples from #13 after the catch-all phrase in rule number three.

She is also concerned that the language in #17 and the concluding paragraph does not make it clear that a staff member other than the director can take immediate action to address a policy violation and that some of the wording, such as "partial disrobing," can be misinterpreted.

Mr. Amdursky said we have been able to address inappropriate behavior successfully in the past by using the general language in rule number three. In response to Ms. Godfrey's concern about whether the policy wording makes it clear that staff other than the director can take immediate action to react to incidents, Mr. Amdursky indicated the wording in the policy is meant to refer to the formal written communication patrons receive from the director rather than the immediate action that may be taken by staff who are on duty when an incident occurs.

Ms. Godfrey requested that the board's attorney be asked to consider whether the clause in rule number three, followed by a couple of examples from #13 provides enough specificity to still allow us to make the discretionary decisions on items we didn't happen to list.

Mr. Amdursky will confer again with the attorney about the concerns raised.

**MOTION TO  
TABLE:**

**Ms. Godfrey moved and Mr. Vander Roest supported tabling the revision of the "Rules of Conduct for Library Use" policy for 60 days to allow further consideration of the voiced concerns described above by the board's attorney.**



**MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Finance & Budget Committee

No report.

B. Personnel Committee

No report.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Directors Report

Mr. Amdursky reported Governor Granholm's visit went very well and offered an opportunity to showcase central library, largely due to the efforts of staff in community relations, administrative office and facilities management. He was able to speak personally with the governor for about a quarter of an hour on several library-related topics to which she was receptive.

The U.S. Patriot Act workshop web cast at KPL recently addressed troubling issues for libraries. He hopes to play portions of a videotape of the session at future board meetings for trustees. Mr. Amdursky was asked to pursue whether requests for information under the Privacy Act can be referred to the board rather than the director if that is how the board would prefer to handle them. He also asked trustees' opinion about posting signs for the public to let them know their private information at the library is no longer secure. He was asked to return to the board with a recommendation on wording for such signage if it is pursued.

He was also asked about Patriot Act II, which he said has not yet been proposed but for which wording has been developed reflecting what the Department of Justice would like to see included.

Trustees asked for an update on the director's discussions with the Kalamazoo Public Schools' Superintendent regarding the possibility of pursuing legislation to allow district libraries to levy up to 6 mills to enable the library to provide and manage school libraries. He said he has communicated with the superintendent and that the discussions were positive and this possibility seems like it could be good for everyone involved. He would like to pursue it to a greater degree.

Mr. Dykstra pointed out that many families pay taxes to support the library whose children do not attend public schools and he would want any such plan to serve the entire constituency.

Trustees want to be kept more informed about this issue and asked that more specifics be provided. Mr. Amdursky will provide more information at the April meeting.

Mr. Amdursky will also be returning to the board with a recommendation regarding the legal rights of minors in relation to our registration policy in response to the complaint we

recently received from Dr. and Mrs. Kaps, who feel it is their right to know what materials their child has borrowed. Our attorney is researching this issue and the director expects to bring this issue back to the board in April.

Mr. Vander Roest asked if we have American sign language capability if requested. Mr. Amdursky said he would look into it.

**VIII. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Ann Sarenus, 2007 Miles Ave., thanked trustees for their attention over the last two years that she has been attending board meetings as president of KPLA. Kevin King is the new president for 2003/2004.

**IX. TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Mr. Dykstra asked staff to be vigilant in monitoring the unauthorized posting of notices and signs outside of our buildings.

Ms. Godfrey thanked Ms. Sarenus for her service as KPLA president and commented on the current pleasant relationship between KPLA and the board.

President Brown said he appreciates the Director's innovation and creativity and looks forward to a thorough report on the possibilities for a relationship between KPL and KPS to provide school libraries.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objections, President Brown adjourned the meeting of the Kalamazoo Public Library Board of Trustees at 5:07 p.m.

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Doreen Thomas, Secretary