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

DATE: December 14, 2009  
TIME: 4:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Powell Branch Library  
Barnabee Gallery  
1000 West Paterson Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

III. A.  

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS  


REGULAR SESSION  

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

Agenda Approval: Approved as presented.

I. RECOGNITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, COMMUNICATIONS  

A. 403b Plan Revision  

Recommendation: The director recommended the board adopt a resolution authorizing an amendment to Kalamazoo Public Library’s 403b Plan for the following material modification:

For distributions made after December 31, 2007, plan participants may make a direct rollover of a distribution directly into a Roth IRA. The rollover may be made only if the distribution would otherwise qualify as an eligible rollover distribution.

Executive Summary: Under Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) revenue procedures, a qualified plan must be operated in accordance with written plan documents. As a result, the plan must be amended to reflect any change in law, regulation or other official guidance that becomes effective during the plan year. The resolution (Formal Record of Action) and the Pension Protection Act (PPA) Amendment were prepared by Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. to comply with IRS requirements.

MOTION: J. VANDER ROEST MOVED AND L. GODFREY SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED.


MOTION CARRIED 6 - 0. The resolution was adopted.
II. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Four people addressed the board regarding their decision to stop bookmobile service.

Mary Balkema spoke about the convenience of bookmobile service for children and how that convenience of the bookmobile and access to a first class library are important in helping to improve the literacy rate of KPL district children. She understands budget restraints, but suggested that rather than make service cuts, the board could look to save money by aligning staff benefits with those of the private sector.

Don VerHage represented Mr. Michael Markel, President of the Oakwood Neighborhood Association and read the following resolution approved by the Association’s Board of Directors on December 2, 2009:

Whereas: The Kalamazoo Public Library Bookmobile has been serving Library patrons since 1956, and;
Whereas: The Kalamazoo Public Library annual budget is $10,700,000 and the cost to operate the Bookmobile is $152,000, and;
Whereas: Bookmobile staff salaries and benefits will still be paid, as they assume other duties, with a net savings of $43,000, and;
Whereas: The Kalamazoo Public Library recently received an operating millage renewal from the taxpayers of Kalamazoo, and;
Whereas: Over 600 patrons checked out nearly 20,000 library materials in the past year, an increase of 2% over last year, and;
Whereas: Many library patrons, including dozens of Oakwood residents depend on the Bookmobile to deliver quality family-oriented entertainment and educational materials, and;
Whereas: There is no satellite library in the Oakwood neighborhood, and;
Whereas: The Kalamazoo Public Library and the Bookmobile, are owned by, and exist to serve, Kalamazoo residents;

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Board of Directors of the Oakwood Neighborhood Association expects the Library Board to reconsider a decision to terminate Bookmobile operation, and to continue to support this popular, critical, and successful outreach program.

Signed: Michael Markel, Jr., President, ONA

Mr. VerHage added he has observed that many people visit the bookmobile and given the current economy, it is a bad time to cut this service.

Cheryl Lord indicated she is also a director on the Oakwood Neighborhood Association Board, and provided the KPL board with a copy of the resolution. People are coming to her at the neighborhood center in shock that after 53 years of supporting millages, an extra millage was not requested nor citizens given a chance to raise funds to retain bookmobile service. They consider the service valuable, essential and critical. Since there is no branch library in the southwest portion of Kalamazoo, the bookmobile is their branch, so for them the board is cutting their branch. The bookmobile is reaching non-traditional people. People without cars walk and ride bicycles to the bookmobile. Children with
emotional and physical challenges who cannot use a traditional branch are comfortable using the bookmobile. Losing the bookmobile will cut off people with the least time, energy and money to fight this cut, people without resources such as computers or phones. Via Mail service will not work; it won’t provide the opportunity for people to look at, hold, read about authors and determine the next area of interest they want to pursue. She believes library trustees love books so surely they understand how important it is to keep this service; there is nothing to put in its place.

**Ruth Borst** shared that her 13 year old son who has learning disabilities and special needs, has started going to the bookmobile every week. His visits are helping him to maintain and foster his interest in learning and reading and increase his independence.

**Disposition:** On behalf of the board, President Wright indicated it is not easy to come and speak before a public body, but to hear from constituents is important. She thanked the speakers for coming and sharing their comments and indicated they would receive a response.

### III. CONSENT CALENDAR

- **Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 26, 2009**
- **Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 16, 2009**

**Personnel Items**

**Retirement**

Judy Powell will retire effective October 31, 2009. Judy was hired at KPL in 1980 as an aide, (then called student assistant) and hired as a half-time salaried KPLSP library assistant/switchboard operator in 1981. She moved to a full-time position within the audiovisual department in 1983 and to the library assistant 4 position at Powell Branch in 1997, where she has been since.

**Resignation**

Wendy Mutch (Woltjer) resigned from the position of materials selection coordinator within Information and Reader Services, effective October 31, 2009. She began at KPL as a children’s room librarian in 1999 and moved to the materials selection position in 2005. Wendy is moving from the Kalamazoo area.

**New Hire**

Matt Smith, formerly law library intern, was hired to fill the half-time (.5) Library Associate position within Information and Reader Services, assigned to the Law Library, effective October 1, 2009.

**Disposition:** The board accepted the Minutes of the Meetings of October 26, 2009 and November 16, 2009 and the personnel items as presented.

### IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **Financial Reports for the Period Ending December 31, 2009**

**Recommendation:** A. Rohrbaugh recommended the board accept the Financial Reports for the Period Ending December 31, 2009 as presented.

She commented the reports go hand in hand with the budget revisions that are the next item on the agenda.

Discussion: J. Vander Roest noted he appreciates D. Schiller’s conscientiousness.

Motion carried 6-0.

V. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEMS

A. 2009-2010 Budget Revisions


Executive Summary: The Close Estimate Budget Revisions for the General Operating Fund, the Capital Improvement Plan, and the Other Gifts and Grants funds were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Finance and Budget Committee. The Personnel Committee also reviewed and endorsed the reduction of staff positions. An overview of each budget is included below:

1) Close Estimate Budget Revisions for General Operating Fund for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010

Kalamazoo Public Library's Close Estimate Budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 is based upon property tax revenues only slightly greater than those for fiscal year 2008-2009. Changes to other income estimates are due to non-recurring insurance reimbursements, the anticipated reduction of State Aid to 60% of that received last year, an increase in estimated Universal Service Fund reimbursements, and extending low interest rates through the end of the fiscal year.

Expenditure allocations have been reduced by $149,022 from the Preliminary Budget due primarily to the reduction of staff positions and scaling back expenditures for support and marketing efforts. During calendar year 2009 a total of 5.25 full time equivalent (FTE) positions have been reduced as positions are vacated and work realigned. The total realization of the savings from the reductions of positions is ongoing with several not to be in effect until late this fiscal year. In addition, the anticipated transfer of support to the Capital Improvement Plan has been reduced in order to balance revenue and other sources and expenditures within the fiscal year. Due to the reduction in balances held in the Capital Improvement Plan and Other Gifts and Grants funds, the Reserve for Cash Flow has been adjusted upward to reflect cash flow requirements through the end of the tax year.

Combined with the $362,621 of additional beginning fund balance carried over from the previous year, the adjustments recognized in the FY 09-10 Close Estimate Budget result in total ending fund balance increasing by $636,621 from the Preliminary Budget. We anticipate the increased funds will be necessary moving forward to the anticipated revenue reductions for fiscal year 2010-2011.

2) Capital Improvement Plan for the Three Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2011

Changes from the previous three-year budget include the reduction of anticipated transfer from the General Operating fund during fiscal year 2009-2010 by $150,000. Offsetting this loss of available funding is the elimination of the Bookmobile Reserve, also $150,000. Several project expenditure allocations have been reduced due to either cancellation of the project or the actual project costing less than anticipated. Two new allocations are proposed: $3,100 for additional public workstation chairs for Central library and $10,000 for electronic
3) Other Gifts and Grants Budgets for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010
As discussed during the last budget revision, the A20 Agency Gifts & Grants fund and the A30 Gifts & Memorials fund are proposed to be combined in the future, with all remaining projects to be budgeted and accounted for under the A30 Gifts & Memorials fund structure. This proposed budget will accomplish that mid-year. New revenue items include $15,000 from the Fetzer Institute to support the Reading Together, $3,155 in several grants to the ONEplace Non-Profit Management Support Center for workshops and special projects, and even though it was received in late 2008-2009, the Kidbuilders Book grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation is budgeted in the amount of $41,642.

Discussion: J. Vander Roest noted the Finance & Budget Committee reviewed the budget extensively. No one likes to have to cut budgets, but it is the responsible thing to do at this time.
L. Godfrey commented property tax revenues are down and will likely continue to go down; the board needs to react.
A. Rohrbaugh said we are at a good point in that process, taking important steps and there will be more to come.
J. Vander Roest agreed that further, more severe cuts may be needed in the future.
Motion carried 6-0.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Non-Resident Fee for 2010
Recommendation: A. Rohrbaugh recommended the Board renew the non-resident fee for 2010 at $190.00 per household and $95 per student non-resident card.

Executive Summary: The non-resident fee for 2010 is based upon the average tax on a residential parcel within the library district. It is an average calculated by dividing the average residential property tax revenue by the total reported residential parcels. The fee for 2010 calculates at $191.62 per household. During 2009 the library sold 23 household and 3 student non-resident cards, down from prior year sales of 30 household and 4 student non-resident cards.

Total parcels in the library district rose by 204 parcels while the residential taxable value fell by $8,256,492 or 0.5 percent. This resulted in a decrease in the district average residential property tax of $537 per parcel to $48,411 or a decrease from the prior year of 1.1 percent.
MOTION: J. VANDER ROEST MOVED AND C. ADDISON SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO RENEW THE NON-RESIDENT FEE FOR 2010 AT $190 PER HOUSEHOLD AND $95 PER STUDENT NON-RESIDENT CARD.

Motion carried 6 – 0.

C. Strategic Planning

Recommendation: Director Rohrbaugh recommended the board authorize her to contract with Sandra Nelson to lead a strategic planning process for KPL for a cost of $19,000 plus expenses.

MOTION: L. GODFREY MOVED AND C. ADDISON SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH SANDRA NELSON TO LEAD A STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS FOR KPL FOR A COST OF $19,000 PLUS EXPENSES.

Executive Summary: A. Rohrbaugh reminded the board they authorized her at the November meeting to bring a proposal for a strategic planning process using a consultant experienced in library strategic planning to this December meeting. Also at the November meeting, she presented the background for such a process, based on the eighteen PLA Service Responses outlined in the guide *Strategic Planning for Results*, published by the Public Library Association. She is pleased that Sandra Nelson, author of the guide, is available and willing to lead this process for us. She provided Ms. Nelson’s proposal and commented with board approval of the recommendation, she will finalize the contract arrangements with her.

It is her expectation that Ms. Nelson will meet with board members on February 1 during her first of three visits to Kalamazoo. The director will keep board members informed as the process develops and dates and times are set.

Discussion: R. Brown has some concerns about the process but will support the recommendation with some reservations about spending funds on a consultant when the budget is being reduced. However he feels this opportunity is too good to pass up – the benefits far outweigh the cost which seems rather modest for a good consultant. As we continue making reductions we need to be very conscious of what is embraced and what is excluded. He reiterated his concerns about the process and will continue to express them.

J. Vander Roest said as we continue to have to make cuts, although there is the element of concern over spending funds on a consultant, it is the sensible way to go and not to hire a consultant would be bad policy.

A. Rohrbaugh commented the response from other library directors is that the process helped immensely to set priorities and to determine which services to de-emphasize.

L. Godfrey felt a consultant provides the opportunity for someone to assist us in allocating our resources most productively for our citizens.

C. Addison noted the value of providing direction for the library for several years.

MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

D. Community Committee for Strategic Planning

Recommendation: DIRECTOR ROHRBAUGH RECOMMENDED THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE, MADE UP OF BOARD AND STAFF REPRESENTATIVES, TO FOLLOW THE MODEL IN “STRATEGIC PLANNING
FOR RESULTS," CREATED BY SANDRA NELSON AND INVITE COMMUNITY
LEADERS TO SERVE ON OUR COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE AS
ADVISORY TO THE BOARD.

Executive
Summary:
The strategic planning model calls for 12 – 18 committee members representing business,
community service organizations, cultural groups, education, government, health, legal,
media, among others, in addition to a board and a staff representative. The committee has
identified several possible representatives within various categories. If this recommendation
is approved the next step will be to narrow down the choices and extend invitations to join
the committee and help us with this strategic planning process.

When invitations have been accepted and the Community Planning Committee membership
is set, the list will be shared with the board. It would be premature to share the list at a
public meeting in advance of inviting the representatives; waiting until the January 25 board
meeting would not allow enough planning time before the February 2 meeting of the
committee.

MOTION: C. ADDISON MOVED AND L. GODFREY SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO
AUTHORIZE THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE, MADE UP OF
BOARD AND STAFF REPRESENTATIVES, TO FOLLOW THE MODEL IN
“STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR RESULTS,” CREATED BY SANDRA NELSON,
AND INVITE COMMUNITY LEADERS TO SERVE ON OUR COMMUNITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE AS ADVISORY TO THE BOARD.

Motion carried 6 – 0.

E. Policy Revisions: Anti-Discrimination and Harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity

Recommendation: The director recommended approval of revisions to both the Anti-Discrimination and
Harassment Policy and the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy to update and make
consistent in KPL policies the listing of protected classifications.

Executive
Summary: When the KPL board resolution endorsing the city of Kalamazoo’s non-discrimination ordinance was
written, it was realized the listing of protected classifications in policies that refer to the listing were
both inconsistent and dated.

The revisions to these two policies will reflect the intent of inclusiveness and make any
future updates more straightforward.

MOTION: C. TENBRINK MOVED AND C. ADDISON SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO
REVISE THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT POLICY AS
RECOMMENDED.

Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: C. TENBRINK MOVED AND C. ADDISON SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO
REVISE THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY AS
RECOMMENDED.

Motion carried 6-0.
Recommendation: Director Rohrbaugh recommended the board approve the following services for resident cardholders only:

- Hot Picks, both books and AV
- Book Club in a Bag
- Book My Favorites
- Electronic devices/players (currently Sony iPods and e-Readers)
- Notary public service
- Proctoring exams
- First opportunity to register for computer classes

Executive Summary: Historically we have called services available only to our resident cardholders or those who purchase a resident card, “value added services”. The term has meant extra value beyond the basic borrowing privileges available to resident cardholders and not available to reciprocal borrowers. As far as she is aware, those value added services were designated by the previous director and were not considered or approved by the board.

The services which have been available only to resident cardholders have included Hot Picks, both books and AV

- Book Club in a Bag
- Book My Favorites
- Electronic devices/players (currently Sony e-Readers and iPods)

She recommended adding notary public services, proctoring exams, and first opportunity to register for computer classes to this list, and that the board approve the entire list. Board approval of these services for resident cardholders only, will not impact on our reciprocal borrowing arrangements with other libraries. Reciprocal agreements have focused on the traditional loan of library materials, a service available at all libraries. They have not included such specialized or extra value services, many of which are not available at other libraries. However, adding notary public services, and especially proctoring exams and registering first for computer classes, will impact on the use of these services.

Proctoring exams is a service we have recently reinstated. We offered this service many years ago, but dropped it when KVCC also began offering it free of charge. KVCC is now charging for exam proctoring. We believe we can offer this important service without a charge if we can limit it to resident cardholders.

Computer classes have had no restrictions since we began offering this service in 1998. Increasingly, folks from throughout southwest Michigan are registering for the limited spaces in our classes. We maintain waiting lists for many of them. Limiting these classes to resident cardholders up until 24 hours in advance of the class seems reasonable. If there are available spaces in the class at that point we would welcome others, but not at the expense of those who pay taxes to support KPL.

From time to time, we have considered if any of our programs which require registration should be limited to resident cardholders first: storytimes, some tween and teen programs, craft workshops, summer reading games. She did not recommend limiting those services.

Visits and programs from classes or groups outside of our district to the library have been handled on a case-by-case basis as have requests for a library staff member to visit and do a program for an out of district group. That approach would continue.

MOTION: R. BROWN MOVED AND L. GODFREY SUPPORTED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION AS APPROVED.
Discussion: There was discussion about notary services to the public, including concerns about how much time it might be taking staff to notarize documents, whether we are infringing on a paid service offered by others, what types of documents are involved generally, how library notaries perform this duty. President Wright said it sounded like there were a number of questions that need to be answered about this particular service and suggested it should be removed from the recommended list of services provided to cardholders.

AMENDED MOTION: R. BROWN AMENDED THE ORIGINAL MOTION TO EXCLUDE NOTARY SERVICE AND L. GODFREY SUPPORTED THE AMENDMENT.

Discussion: The director was asked to return to the board with more information about notary service including what notary resources are available in the community and at what cost, what types of documents are notarized, how many have been notarized in the last six months, average time spent per document with each patron.

In response to a question about proctoring exams, the director provided recent examples of proctoring requests and indicated we are able to offer the service at the current level; it is a helpful service while people are looking for jobs in these tough economic times.

It was noted other services might be identified through the upcoming planning process and that the entire list might be looked at after that process is complete.

Trustees agreed they should vote on the amended list if services are restricted to borrowers.

Motion Carried 6 – 0.

The director indicated we will begin implementing limiting the services on the list to cardholders. She will return to the board with the requested information about notary service and will likely recommend it be added to the list; for now we will continue to offer the service as we do now.

G. Reclassification of Librarian Position

Recommendation: Director Rohrbaugh recommended approval of the reclassification of a librarian I position in Youth and Neighborhood Services – Children’s Room to librarian II to reflect the incorporation of librarian II duties into this position, effective December 1, 2009.

Executive Summary: Steve Siebers transferred in November to the Collection Development Specialist librarian IV position in Information and Reader Services. The librarian II position he vacated in the Children’s Room will not be filled at this time, due to budget constraints. As a means to minimize the impact on public service, the most essential duties performed by the librarian II position will be incorporated into the librarian I position in the Children’s Room, currently held by Bill Caskey. Bill’s responsibilities will expand to include oversight of system-wide program development, oversight of the summer reading program, production of the children’s program calendar, and a greater role in community outreach. Less essential duties currently assigned to both the librarian I and librarian II positions will be reduced or eliminated.

In light of the increased level of responsibility entailed and the higher qualifications required to perform the new work, it is appropriate to reclassify the Children’s Room librarian I position to librarian II. To mitigate a disruption in service to the public, Bill has begun transitioning to his new responsibilities. Therefore, a reclassification date of December 1, 2009 is recommended. The cost of this reclassification for the remainder of the fiscal year is $1,112.00.

This recommendation was reviewed and supported by the Personnel Committee.
MOTION: R. BROWN MOVED AND L. GODFREY SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION TO RECLASSIFY THE LIBRARIAN I POSITION IN YOUTH AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES – CHILDREN’S ROOM TO LIBRARIAN II TO REFLECT THE INCORPORATION OF LIBRARIAN II DUTIES INTO THIS POSITION, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2009.

Discussion: R. Brown indicated the Personnel Committee agreed the reclassification was appropriate in light of the addition of more responsible duties.

The director noted this is not just a matter of dollars, but that there are services we have offered in the past that we will not offer as a result of not filling the vacant children’s librarian position.

L. Godfrey suggested the planning process might determine the position should be filled by eliminating another.

Motion Carried 6 – 0.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Budget Committee
J. Vander Roest: indicated the Finance & Budget Committee had an extensive and productive meeting with the resulting endorsement of the three budget revisions.

Personnel Committee
R. Brown: The Personnel Committee met to review the reclassification recommendation for the children’s librarian position.

Building Committee
A. Rohrbaugh: reported the self checkout kiosk was launched earlier in the day. Staff has been assigned to assist patrons as they learn to check out their own materials. Miller-Davis is expected to erect a barricade in front of the current circulation desk December 29, when staff will move to the temporary desk. The expected completion date for the circ area work is the end of January.

We are pressing on with replacement flooring at Washington Square. The replacement carpet for the first floor will be very similar in look to the existing carpet. We will remove the carpet on the lower level and replace it with “ceramic carpet” to seal the dampness out due to continued flooding issues.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Directors Report

In addition to her written report, the director indicated she plans to bring a revised “Rules of Conduct” policy to the January board meeting to reflect the appeals process approved by the board. We will also review for any other appropriate changes.

She will keep the board up to date on bookmobile developments every month. The 2009 Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee raised $23,000 for the Ready to Read program. Online registration for library cards has been launched.

Disposition: Trustees received the information.

VIII. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one addressed the board.

IX. TRUSTEE COMMENTS
Minutes of the December 14, 2009 Kalamazoo Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting, cont.

J. Vander Roest wished everyone happy holidays and good books to enjoy. He thanked the staff, especially D. Schiller, for working through budget revisions and noted we have to make cuts because of the ramifications of a drop in property taxes of 5% this year.

C. TenBrink and C. Addison each wished everyone happy holidays.

L. Godfrey attended “Best Books of 2009,” felt it was a great program, and encouraged repeating it.

V. Wright is pleased with how the kiosk looks, enjoyed her duty as “Time keeper” at the Spelling Bee, though no one bribed her, and noted and thanked the Gilmore Foundation, Fetzer Foundation, and the Friends of Kalamazoo Public Library for their recent gifts.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, President Wright adjourned the meeting of the Kalamazoo Public Library Board of Trustees at 5:20 p.m.

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Cheryl TenBrink, Secretary