

Kalamazoo Public Library
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC MEETING
Date: January 18, 2024
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Van Deusen Room, Central Branch

CALL TO ORDER:

President Roth called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

The agenda was approved.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Jannie Williams, Christy Roth, Kori Jock, Emily Greenman Wright, Linda Mah, Lisa Godfrey, Denise Miller

Absent: None

II. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Sidney Ellis, a resident of Kalamazoo, commented that he understands and commends the Kalamazoo Public Library in finding a new space for the Alma Powell Branch. He stated he thinks it's very important for the Northside community to have a library, and the Alma Powell Library has been a very important fixture in the area. He urged that there be a library on the Northside.

Levi, a youth patron, commented that he loves factual books and wonder books. He stated he is sad about the Alma Powell relocation. Levi stated he loves the piano and kitchen at the Alma Powell branch and asked to have a new library built soon.

Wendy Fields, Kalamazoo Branch President of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), stated has the Library considered creating a new entrance at the Douglass Community Association. Wendy made another comment regarding the director's search, stating the public should have the opportunity to have a meet and greet with the candidate being considered for the director's position.

III. DIRECTOR SEARCH PROCESS DISCUSSION: KATHY SCHOENFELDER FROM RAY & ASSOCIATES

Kathy Schoenfelder, Vice President of Ray & Associates, reviewed five candidate applications with the board. The board decided that it would move four candidates to the next round of interviews.

MOTION: D. MILLER MOVED AND L. MAH SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO MOVE FOUR CANDIDATES FORWARD IN THE INTERVIEW PROCESS.

Roll Call Vote: J. Williams – yes; L. Godfrey – no; L. Mah – no; K. Jock – yes; C. Roth – yes; E. Greenman Wright –yes; D. Miller – yes

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

IV. COMMENTS BY TRUSTEES

- Trustee Godfrey gave no comment.
- Trustee Mah gave no comment.
- Trustee Miller stated she is excited the interview process is moving forward.
- Trustee Jock thanked the members of the community members who gave public comments in support of the Alma Powell branch, and thanked everyone who made the interview process possible.
- Trustee Greenman Wright echoed thanks to community members who showed support for the Alma Powell branch.
- Trustee Williams echoed thanks to community members who showed support for the Alma Powell branch. She also stated that it's exciting to see the energy from community members in the room. She stated that it gives her hope and excitement to see what's coming down the road. Trustee Williams continued to state she's anxious to have community conversations because stakeholders, constituents, patrons, and taxpayers should have a voice in the Library's decisions.
- President Roth echoed thanks to community members voicing their concerns and excitement regarding the Alma Powell branch. She also stated she is looking forward to the upcoming interviews and continuing to move forward in the director search process to find the best executive director.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, President Roth adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

X _____
Jannie Williams
Secretary