

**CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of November 15th, 2022**

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, November 15th, 2022, 12 noon, in the conference room of the Main Library in Newton.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Canrobert, Pam Cansler, Morgan Williams, Jeanne Lebens, Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Jenny Gerami-Markham, Assistant Library Director and Candi Dula, Business Manager.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Carmen Isenhower, Honey Estrada-President, Tamara Shavers-Vice Chair

**CALL TO ORDER**

Morgan Williams at 12:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public attended.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Staffing Update**

Library Assistant ½ time at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library – Carolyn Smith

Librarian II at Maiden Branch Library –Allison McKiernan

Librarian I in Adult Services Newton – Amy Kendrick

Library Services Specialist II at St Stephens – Beverly Pittman

Library Services Specialist – Kirsten Lutz

Several new hourly employees to fill in like substitute teachers.

We received the resignation for Chaoya Yang the part time Library Services Specialist II from Maiden. She has accepted an archivist position with the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Programming - refer to the November Newsletter**

- I. Worlds Enough Bookmark Challenge
  - a. To build collaboration between library systems and highlight diverse and wonderful public libraries available to our community. The artist for Worlds Enough, a children's book of poetry, is doing programs at the Hickory City Library and the Catawba County Library. There are 10 bookmark in total and when assembled in the right order they form a larger illustration from the book.
- II. Early Literacy Programming
  - a. The Main library here in Newton presents a Tiny to Two program on Mondays and a preschool storytime on Wednesdays and Fridays. (all at 10 am)
  - b. Sherrills Ford-Terrell, Southwest and St Stephens all deliver 2 story times a week; Maiden are currently offering one a week on Thursdays. \*St Stephens offers Bilingual storytime on Wednesdays.
    - i. Interplay Learning – working with staff right now- launching on Dec 1
    - ii. Adult Steam & Crafts – canning Blueberry jam with the Cooperative Extension Office, Soap making, needle felting, macramé gnomes, hand lettering.
    - iii. Health and Wellness – yoga, Zumba, Walking, Healthy eating: Soup making and healthy grains classes.
    - iv. Community Navigator – Bradley Fedele
    - v. Health Insurance and Legal Aid – yesterday at Southwest – today at Newton from 2-7.
    - vi. Medicare Open Enrollment – Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

Career and Workforce Development – continued partnership with NC Works for online programs including topics like NC Works Scholarships, Expungement Workshops, Resumes and Interviewing Tips.

Book Clubs - Piece of Cake, Mystery Mavens, Books Between Friends, Mountain View Book Buzz, St Stephens Theme Based Book Club

NEW- the library is partnering with NCDHHS to help expand the At-Home Testing in NC by becoming a Community Access Point.

**Grants**

– Bright Ideas Grant – Southwest Children’s Space

LSTA Children’s Area at Southwest Branch – to add Main Street Kiosk, Light Table, Story Driven Block Play, fun furnishings. Some of the items have been delivered- we are scheduling to have the entire branch painted.

Non-recurring State Aid- \$89,471 –We updated all of the WiFi access points at all library branches to the latest version called Wi-Fi 6 – it expands the access and increases the speed. It allows for many more users than the old access points. We purchased the software called Interplay Learning that will teach people about the skilled trades. (plumbing, electricity, HVAC, etc.) We also covered the interior paint at the Southwest Branch. We had a grant to cover \$2000 of paint and the ARPA funds covered the rest. And balance will go to re-carpet the main branch here in Newton as it is becoming a safety hazard. That will cost \$68,500 for the carpet and \$10,000 for shelf movers.

WiFi-6 Access Points	24	\$ 4,385.95
Interplay Learning Software Seats	50	\$ 8,000.00
Interior Paint Southwest Branch Library	1	\$ 11,765.00
Carpet Main Library Upstairs	1	\$ 65,320.05
		\$ 89,471.00

**Facilities Updates:**

- i. Re-opening at St Stephens Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am
- ii. Paint at Southwest
- iii. Carpet at Newton

**Broadband Internet Access and Technology Lending**

- We have 61 hotspots in circulation right now – 51 are checked out, 10 are available for people
- We are still working with the County’s Broadband Taskforce to promote the NC Broadband Survey and to educate community members about the Affordable Connectivity Program- anyone at 200% or less of the poverty guideline is eligible. For a single person that means \$27,180 it will pay up to \$30 a month/household for internet service.

**Library Marketing Update: Lindsay’s PowerPoint**

**Board Member Advocacy / Input**

- Thank legislators for supporting the NC Kids Digital Library with \$300,000 in recurring funding.
- The 2022-23 State Budget: last year State Aid was 14,182,131 this year it is 14,482,131 an additional \$1 million in non-recurring funds was added to State Aid, it is critical that we continue to push for recurring funding in the state budget.

2020 - 14,732,141  
 2019 – 14,682,131  
 2018 – 14,790,131

**Library Endowment**

Current balance at NC Community Foundation \$80,100.32 and \$130 in county account this fiscal year for a total of \$80,230.32.

As of June 30, 2022 we had \$80,100.32

Ending balance Sept 30, 2022 is \$76,397.07 plus \$2,015 that we have not yet deposited.

**Other Business - Awards**

The library team won the Best Presentation to the Mini-Gov group. It was a real honor as it is voted on by the participants in the training. We have submitted nominations for awards from the NC Public Directors Association and we are waiting to hear about those awards.

**Presentation:** Interplay Learning and Meta Quest 2

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1pm.

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Candi Dula, Business Manager