

TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Yelm School District Administrative Office Board Room, 440 Yelm Ave. W., Yelm, WA

April 24, 1996

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M I N U T E S

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Helen Timm, President; Art Blauvelt; Jean Davies; Carolyn Dobbs; Bill Lawrence; Amory Peck; Janelle Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Liane Bascou; Kristin Blalack; Judy Covell; Deborah Gitlitz; Carol Gorsuch; Thelma Kruse; Jim Morgan; Sandra Sebbas; Bob Stalder

GUESTS PRESENT: Pam Bachmeier; LeRoy Bendien; Donald Brouillard; Terri L. Brouillard; Cora Chenoweth; Gene Davis; Christie Gorman; Dean Hooper; Mary Ingalls; Ruth Jacobson; Bill Timm; Wilma Tokarczyk; George Williams; Sue Williams

The board met in a work session 6:40 to 7:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the board's liability insurance policy. TRL's insurance agent from Bell-Anderson was present to explain the policy and answer questions. Board members decided to review the materials they were provided and schedule another work session with the insurance agent. President Timm called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM

NO.

1 Introductions were made. Bob Stalder introduced the new Youth Services Librarian I at Lacey, Deborah Gitlitz. While attending the ALA Midwinter Conference, he had interviewed several people for this position, one of whom was Ms. Gitlitz. She has been working for TRL since March 11.

2 Correspondence and Public Comments

A. 3/15/96 letter from Gail Pollock, Washington State Commission

Ms. Pollock's letter expresses appreciation to TRL for the use of the Service Center meeting room for the State Library Commission's March meetings.

B. 4/15/96 letter from M. Beth Harvey and 4/17/96 response from Thelma Kruse

Ms. Kruse said Ms. Harvey had a circulation complaint. It was a mistake on TRL's part and Ms. Harvey's complaint has been satisfied.

C. Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of a Video from Joan Velikanje and 4/17/96 response from Thelma Kruse

Ms. Kruse explained that when TRL receives a complaint about material, a committee of staff, headed by Collection Manager Judy Covell, reviews the complaint and makes a recommendation. This complaint regards a video "Polar Bear Alert" produced by National Geographic. Ms. Velikanje believes the video is out of date, feels some of the Native American residents are not shown in a favorable light, and thinks the video does not honor the bear. The committee agrees the video is out of date, does not agree with the other concern about the Native Americans, and feels that while Ms. Velikanje is correct about the video not taking the position of honoring the bear, that the stance National Geographic took is a legitimate approach as well. The committee recommended TRL keep the video in its collection and add other material which is more up to date and with a different point of view.

2 D. Public Comments

Ms. Broulliard read a statement (attached to the original of these minutes) describing her experience at the Tumwater library on April 9, 1996, regarding Internet. Her statement describes what she encountered that day and relates her opinions about the kind of information children are able to access on Internet.

Ms. Timm responded that the TRL Board and staff agonized over Internet for several months before reaffirming TRL's Internet Policy. Mr. Blauvelt reviewed the issues and alternatives discussed before the board came to its decision. The TRL Board feels that parents and guardians are responsible for children's use of Internet. Since everyone has a different opinion of what is obscene or objectionable, the board decided to place that decision on the shoulders of parents and guardians. TRL is taking steps to make sure that Internet stations are more private.

Ms. Ingalls, who identified herself as a psychotherapist, urged the board to change its Internet Policy. She said some of the types of materials available on the Internet is such a serious problem that it should not be left only to the parents. She feels it is an endangerment to the whole community. She assumes Internet is a costly service. Ms. Kruse responded that TRL purchased the equipment. The data lines were already in place. The charge for the lines is about \$200 to \$300 extra a month, but the lines also allow other online services including our computer system. Ms. Ingalls said the prospect of unlimited access to information is very exciting, but it bothers her that the library is becoming a source of danger.

Mr. Williams agreed with Ms. Broulliard and Ms. Ingalls and said he thinks TRL has to take a stand at some point. Making only the parents responsible leaves the door wide open because children will not always go to their parents and will use Internet without their parent's permission. He would like to hear a solution that will work. Ms. Timm responded that we have no control over what is available on Internet and the board feels it has reached the best solution possible.

Mr. Bendien commented that the fundamental issue is the First Amendment. We have no right to tell someone else what they should look at or should read. He agrees with what the TRL Board has done so far and does not believe they can do anything further. Library staff cannot dictate to people what they can look at in the library. We may hate pornography, but we cannot stop it. He feels it is a parent's responsibility to monitor children's use of Internet, although he realizes there are parents who do not accept that responsibility. He said we cannot stop Internet and can only hope that children will use it for worthwhile information.

Ms. Dobbs said as a parent, she sympathizes with other parents and hopes there will be better solutions down the road. She said it is important for people to keep raising their concerns and thinking of solutions. The TRL Board's immediate strategy has been to let parents know what is available on Internet and to try to make sure there is privacy in use of Internet. Other possible ideas the board has contemplated are not workable.

There was discussion that Internet is also available in schools. Janelle Williams explained the difference between schools and libraries. The teachers act in place of the parents by law while the children are in school and are able to monitor the information given to children. She is a teacher and hears students talk about the wonderful things they can find on Internet. Mr.

2D Blauvelt said federally mandated laws are changing the landscape of Internet. Internet is bringing information into small communities that is not available elsewhere. He encourages people to spend time on Internet to find out the benefits available. He suggested that if TRL abandons Internet, only children of parents with enough money to purchase the equipment necessary would have access to Internet. Ms. Peck added that she is sure that if staff had spotted the nude picture taped to a machine which Ms. Broulliard referred to, they would have removed it immediately. She supports the board's Internet Policy, but also supports the people who speak directly to the board about their concerns.

Ms. Timm requested that the board move on to the business items on the agenda and come back to public comments at the end of the meeting. Mr. Blauvelt advised the board that the computer hacker in the Aberdeen library pleaded guilty to first degree computer trespass which is a felony C offense. He received 90 days and has been banned from using TRL libraries for five years.

3 Approval of Minutes

96-16 BILL LAWRENCE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF MARCH 20, 1996, AS DISTRIBUTED; AMORY PECK SECONDED THE MOTION. BILL LAWRENCE, AMORY PECK, ART BLAUVELT, CAROLYN DOBBS, JANELLE WILLIAMS AND HELEN TIMM VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; JEAN DAVIES ABSTAINED BECAUSE SHE WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE MARCH 20 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4 Vouchers

Payroll and payroll-related vouchers for March 1996 amounted to \$526,255.72.

96-17 CAROLYN DOBBS MOVED TO APPROVE VOUCHERS NO. 46246 THROUGH NO. 46523 FOR APRIL 1996 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$254,021.93; ART BLAUVELT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5 Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

6 New Business

A. AmeriCorps - Youth in Service Grant

Timberland Regional Library has an opportunity to apply for an AmeriCorps - Youth in Service position for the 1996-97 program year. If successful, this project will create an outreach position to bring weekly library programs to five neighborhood centers located in Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey and Rochester. The person in this position would also explore the feasibility of conducting story programs in licensed home child care facilities. If the grant is successful, it will comply with one of the Long Range Plan Objectives to create pilot projects to reach children and their caregivers at areas outside the library. Funding is requested for a part-time person, 20 hrs./wk., for a total of 900 hours. TRL's cost would be approximately \$1,000. Ms. Thompson said people from the neighborhood centers will be meeting at the Olympia library to see how they can work with the library. As she understands the process, AmeriCorp develops a roster of approved projects and the people interested in becoming AmeriCorps youth look at the roster to see what interests them. They will go through a security check.

6A  
96-18

BILL LAWRENCE MOVED TO APPROVE AN AMERICORPS - YOUTH IN SERVICE GRANT APPLICATION; ART BLAUVELT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7 Reports

A. Focus on Yelm

Ms. Blalack reported the Yelm library has had a large increase in circulation. The library is well used and they are seeing more people from Pierce County at the library. Mike McGowan, the Library Associate, has been a real asset to the library. In 1995 he facilitated 26 programs for the library with attendance ranging from 18 to 150 for summer reading programs. The Friends inaugurated the Yelm building campaign in January. Mr. Hooper, who is coordinating the fund drive for the new library, reviewed the efforts being made. The city has received a donation of 2 acres of land; 2 architects have offered their services at reduced fees if we adapt designs of libraries already constructed; the building fund is approximately \$72,000 with pledges still outstanding; one foundation has awarded \$25,000 and there are possibilities of receiving additional funds from other foundations; fund raising projects include the sale of tiles, sale of donated logs, personal donations, and an auction scheduled in August. The Yelm Friends have requested the City of Yelm indicate its support for a bond issue, or a community development block grant, or general obligations bonds. The Friends also would like to discuss TRL's partnership program with library administration to see how it could apply to this building project.

D. Partnership Program Administrative Guidelines Committee

Ms. Kruse reported a committee is meeting to revise the administrative guidelines for the partnership program. She hopes to have draft guidelines for the board at its May meeting.

B. Facilities Audit

Ms. Kruse plans to have staff provide a report at each board meeting regarding some aspect of service or project which is going on. This month Mr. Morgan was scheduled to provide a facilities audit report. Because of the length of this meeting, Mr. Morgan will provide this report at the May meeting.

C. Foundation Start-Up Committee

Ms. Sebbas reported the committee held its first meeting last month. The committee has developed a mission statement and will work on bylaws at its next meeting. There is a possibility that we can speed up the process and establish a foundation by September. The committee feels that the actual foundation board needs to set the direction and can handle more of the tasks that this committee was originally going to handle.

E. Director

Ms. Kruse reported that the sign and newspaper boxes at the Service Center were recently knocked down in a vehicle accident. The insurance will cover the loss. Mr. Lawrence reported that the Hoodsport building committee is looking at the possibility of moving the North Mason library to Hoodsport. The committee has found a potential site in Hoodsport. An analysis of Internet placements in the libraries has been done. The study indicates where we need to purchase new pieces of furniture and where stations can be relocated to be closer to staff

7E and provide more privacy.

Ms. Timm called for an Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing property acquisition. The Executive Session ended at 9:10 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened.

2 D. Public Comments, cont.

Ms. Broulliard presented a letter from W. D. Rearick (attached to the original of these minutes) regarding children and public library access to pornography on the Internet.

There was discussion of whether or not the TRL Board should hold another work session regarding Internet. Several board members commented that they are still committed to the Internet Policy they have adopted. Mr. Blauvelt said he anticipates this matter will be a topic of discussion at every board meeting and the main thing is that the board be prepared to answer concerns. If board members think their position is changing, then it would be time to have another work session. Ms. Kruse said she has been talking about Internet at the local library board and county commission meetings at which she is presenting the district's Long Range Plan.

Ms. Ingalls said the policy does not address the issue of parents who do not want their children to have such freedom on Internet. She likes the idea of moving the Internet stations closer to staff because that may intimidate some children.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Janelle Williams  
President

Thelma Kruse  
Secretary