

**DOUGLAS COUNTY LIBRARIES**  
**Board of Trustees Business Meeting**  
**April 26, 2023**  
**Highlands Ranch, Colorado**

President Burkholder called the business meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

This meeting was held and was noticed in compliance with both Colorado Open Meeting Law and the Douglas County Libraries Bylaws.

The following were present:

**TRUSTEES:** Suzanne Burkholder, Jessica Kallweit, Rick LaPointe, Zach McKinney, Terry Nolan, Meghann Silverthorn, and Ted Vail

Meghann Silverthorn and Rick LaPointe attended via conference phone.

A quorum was present.

**STAFF:** Amber DeBerry, Casie Cook, Jill Corrente, Julianne Griffin, Patti Owen-Delay, and Lisanna Parkhurst

**SECURITY:** Deputy Sapp, Douglas County Sheriff's Department

**GUESTS:** Auditors Kim Higgins and Janeen Hathcock, Eide Bailly

**PUBLIC:** Andrew Fraidy, Aaron Wood, Byron Frizell, Adam Hillard, Angela Thomas, Meg Furlow, Cathy Lees, Amity Wicks, Kim Zimm, Keri Beaumont, Dave Lilly, Kelly Allan, Sam Allan, Ben Allan, Ross Allan, Amy Carlson, Cormac Loftus, Alex McCall, Julie Stephens, Michael Linderman, Adam Rutan, Paul K., Robin Mendelson, Kelly Mayr, Jen Iverson, Cindy Williams, Nancy Student, Laurie Kelly, Joel Wood, Martha Richards, Jessica Fredrickson, Lloyd Guthrie, Shane A., Sheryl Noven, Michael Clarkson, Estelle Mathis, Eric Day, Erika Devlin, Margaret Shaheen, Amy Windju, Greg Francisco, Saine Kallos

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Public comments were recorded to ensure the board heard all concerns, given the large number of speakers. Below is a summary of concerns from speakers. The recording did not start until after the first speaker, Meg Furlow.

All public-comment speakers were residents of Douglas County. Mr. Fraidy was called, but did not sign up to speak.

**Meg Furlow:** Supports library policy, opposed to ban of books, values diversity.

**Aaron Wood:** Issue with content of books, sexual, views these as inappropriate for children or young adults; concern about process for selecting books.

**Byron Frizell:** Issue with tax money spent on books with content that is inappropriate for children, sexual.

**Adam Hillard:** Issue with content. Sexual content, drug and alcohol use, inappropriate for targeted reader, children.

**Angela Thomas:** Supports library policy, opposed to ban of books, values diversity. This is an issue of parental responsibility.

**Cathy Lees:** Supports library policy, parental responsibility. Library to provide materials and be neutral.

**Amity Wicks:** Issue with content, sexual content. Display usurps parental control. Materials should be in a secured area.

**Keri Beaumont:** Supports library policy, open access. Opposed to ban of books.

**Dave Lilly:** Issue with content and unsupervised access that tax dollars are spent on. Not wanting to ban books; supports parental rights; vote on books brought into the library.

**Amy Carlson:** Issue with content, inappropriate for age, sexual and explicit. Loves diversity and freedom; these books are concerning in crossing a line of inappropriateness.

**Cormac Loftus:** Support of the public library. Issue with content, inappropriate for children; not for sexuality, for promoting specific sexuality for minors and promoting criminal acts. Consider controls so small children are not exposed. Not wanting to ban books.

**Adam Rutan:** Agrees with Loftus and Wood. Issue with content and display of books; access by children, inappropriate in the public realm, sexualizing children. Remove these books, stick to educational-books. Come up with book rating system, or put in adult section.

**Robin Mendelson:** Supports library as a place for exposure to diversity.

**Kelly Mayr:** Supports library policy, broad views. Values difference; don't ban books or deny access.

**Jen Iverson:** Supports library policy. Kids don't perceive sexuality in this book, adults and parents put sexuality into it.

**Laurie Kelly:** Agrees with Wood. This is not about banning books, issues with content for age appropriateness. Adult entertainment marketed to children. Wants to understand what is going on here.

**Jessica Fredrickson:** Supports library policy, sees return on investment in tax dollars, values diversity. Douglas County Libraries has a Children's Library Card to support parents' rights to guide their child's choices.

**Lloyd Guthrie:** Supports library policies, values Library Bill of Rights, values broad set of perspectives, opposed to ban of books.

**Eric Day:** Supports library policies; no issues with this book or age placing.

**Amy Windju:** Opposed to banning books, believes in age-appropriate content; concern about books being displayed reflecting a particular ideology. Taxes are supporting social justice activism group through library purchase of book "ABCs of Gender Identity."

**Greg Francisco:** Not about banning books, about caring about content our kids are reading in a public library. Put in locked area, doesn't belong in a library; get it online.

**Michael Clarkson:** Supports library policy, values diverse representation.

That concluded the public comments portion of the meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Nothing was removed from the consent agenda. There was no discussion.

**MOTION 23-04-01:** Nolan moved and the motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda consisting of the March 23, 2023, Board Business Meeting minutes, and the Budgeted Capital Expenditure for reupholstery. Vail seconded the motion.

**PRESENTATION:** Annual Audit Report

Janeen Hathcock and Kim Higgins presented the annual report reflecting the audit results. Hathcock acknowledged management, Casie Cook, and Tammy Goodwin on their work on the audit and the smooth transition with a change in director of finance.

The audit opinion is presented unmodified and is the best opinion you can get. Hathcock reviewed the annual report financial statements. GASBY 87 was implemented, resulting in a large number of accounting practice changes.

Higgins reviewed the Opinion Letter to Governance. Auditors are required to look at risk items in particular.

**EXECUTIVE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

DeBerry mentioned Pasicznyuk's written report and asked for any questions.

Burkholder asked the current number for enrollment in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. De Berry responded that as of today it is 4,625.

## **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### **Executive Committee**

Nolan shared that, as discussed, we are presenting a proposal to mitigate issues with board turnover with three trustees up for reappointment every two years, and one in the third year.

**MOTION 23-04-02:** Vail moved and the motion carried unanimously to approve the letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting a change to library trustee terms from three years to four years, and that current terms be amended to institute this change in 2024. McKinney seconded the motion.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Burkholder shared conversations on:

- Recognizing staff for National Library Week
- Partnership possibility with Wellspring
- Safety summit and safety audit
- Reviewed the financials

### **Policy Committee**

Nolan reported that the committee is reviewing internal policies, as the board approved the external policies last month.

### **Succession Committee**

Silverthorn reported that the committee met earlier in the month and reviewed a draft of a Succession Plan with two scenarios: planned succession and unplanned succession. Committee suggested a third scenario of a temporary loss of leadership.

## **PARTNER REPORTS**

### **Partnership of Douglas County Governments (PDCG)**

Vail reported that there was no April meeting. The next meeting will be May 17, 2023.

### **Douglas County Youth Initiative (DCYI)**

McKinney reported that the Douglas County Youth Awards ceremony was attended by Burkholder and staff member Jaime Gotlieb. Youth saw community support.

### **Urban Libraries Council (ULC)**

The ULC Board met on Friday, April 21, 2023. Conversation was around strategic planning and survey results of matters of importance to members, which will feed into the strategic planning. There were conversations about national topics, such as urban issues creeping into suburban libraries. Silverthorn will bring more details to the May business meeting.

Douglas County Libraries Foundation (DCLF)

Kallweit reported that the Foundation met on Monday, offering highlights:

- Volunteer Services Manager Michael King reported on volunteerism in Douglas County Libraries.
- The Foundation will be sponsoring Forest of Stories. There will be an increase in trees and added events this year.
- De Berry thanked the board for volunteering on behalf of the library.
- Three directors were reappointed. There are now 10 Foundation directors.
- The annual gala is September 29 at the Highlands Ranch Mansion.
- The annual library board and Foundation dinner is before the June board business meeting.
- Kendra Scott reached out to the Douglas County Libraries Foundation as a partnership fundraiser for the Foundation.

Exploratory Committee to Memorialize Kendrick Castillo

Silverthorn reported that the Castillo family is stepping back from the Exploratory Committee. The library board will continue to pursue the idea of a book with the Castillo family.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Silverthorn would like to hear more about the internal controls and about PERA, both of which were mentioned in the audit.

Burkholder attended the General Education Development test (GED) ceremony on April 16 and experienced the power of the library partnership with the Douglas County School District allowing students to secure a GED.

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

1. **Board Executive Committee:** May 11, 2023, Castle Pines Library, 8:00 a.m.
2. **Board Succession Committee:** May 11, 2023, Castle Pines Library, 9:30 a.m.
3. **Board Policy Committee Meeting:** May 31, 2023, Roxborough Library, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
4. **Board Study Session:** May 31, 2023, Roxborough Library, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
5. **Board Business Meeting:** May 31, 2023, Roxborough Library, 5:30 p.m.


**OTHER BOARD CALENDAR ITEMS**

1. **Partnership of Douglas County Governments Meeting:** May 17, 2023, Highlands Ranch Mansion, 7:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

Burkholder adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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 Megh Sil erthorn, Board Secretary  
 Minutes prepared by Patti Owen-Delay

