

**Kankakee Public Library March 15 2022  
Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting of the Kankakee Public Library Board of Trustees began at 5:37 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Bonnie Brewer, Mike Gall, Vena Burkes, Bruce Conway, Kent Wade

**Absent:** Robert de Oliveira, Michael Costanza, Geraldine Adams

**Also present were:** Stephen Bertrand, Library Director, Allison Beasley, Assistant Director, Korie Worth, Business Manager

**Review of Minutes:** The February minutes were reviewed. Mr. Wade made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Gall seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes unanimously.

**Public Comments:** There was no public comment.

**Communications:** The February statistics were presented to the board. There are more in person programs starting again and Mr. Bertrand is hopeful they will draw people out. The TikTok hits are very high. Mr. Conway pointed out an error in the statistic formula and the board would like that to be fixed and sent out again.

**Bills and Invoices and Financial Report:** The board reviewed the bills and invoices for the month of March. Ms. Brewer motioned to approve the bills and invoices; Ms. Burkes seconded the motion and the board approved unanimously.

**Director's Report:** Mr. Bertrand reported the following: Clara Hall at Environmental Services informed us they will be putting in our new LED lights and this will be completely comped by ComED. Mr. Conway asked how that will impact our CAM in the future. Mr. Bertrand replied that after some investigating, it was confirmed the library meters have been zeroed out and he needs to double check with Heritage that the only electric fee on our CAM is the HVAC system and elevator. The city now has the Red Alert system in place that can be signed up for on their website. There have been several potential hires decline positions due to our low pay. Mr. Bertrand will be presenting a potential payroll increase to the board. Youth Services have started a teen music program led by our Teen Coordinator, Celia Greer. The staff have also been excited that Kevin Bacon commented on one of the library TikToks. Mr. Bertrand also informed the board Ms. Santoyo-Marín has resigned her position.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** The board was given the law mandated policy, Cards for Kids Act, which provides library cards to children who live outside of city limits. Mr. Gall asked what area this covers and Mr. Bertrand replied the library closest to the child's home is where they would get their card. Discussion was held and Mr. Wade motioned to approve the new policy and Ms. Burkes seconded the motion. The board approved unanimously. The board was presented with a new payroll budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Bertrand and Ms. Beasley explained the difficulties our staff is experiencing with hiring quality employees and retaining our staff. The wages now are extremely low and not competitive. The library used to present a budget to the city and Mr. Bertrand and Ms. Beasley wish to do that again. Mr. Conway expressed concern over the short timeframe from now to the new fiscal year. Discussion was held. There was a consensus among the board that salaries need to be addressed. The board wants Mr. Bertrand and Ms. Beasley to present the desired payroll budget to Mayor Curtis and see if this is realistic. The board was presented with a fine

forgiveness policy for this April. Mr. Wade motioned to approve the policy and Ms. Brewer seconded. The board approved unanimously.

**Executive Session:** There was no executive session. The board tabled the executive session minutes review until next month.

Mr. Gall moved to end the meeting at 7:12 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Korie Worth.