

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 21, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the Central Library and remotely pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

Kimberly Johnson, Chair
Carima El-Behairy, Vice Chair
Alan J. Bedenko, Esq., Treasurer
Joel Moore, Esq., Secretary
Prof. Christine P. Bartholomew, Esq.
Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS
Lucy Candelario
John D. Craik, Esq.
Theodore K. Johnson
Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.
Elaine M. Panty
Christopher Sasiadek, Esq.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. A call of the roll was taken. A quorum was present.

Trustee Bartholomew arrived at 4:04 p.m.

Agenda Item B - Approval/Changes to the Agenda. There were no changes to the proposed agenda.

Agenda Item C - Minutes of the Meeting of February 15, 2024. Trustee T. Johnson made a motion for approval, Trustee Bedenko seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D - Report of the Chair. Chair Johnson began with a discussion of Board liaisons to member libraries. She stated that if anyone wanted to switch, to let her know. She also offered up one of her member libraries because she currently has four. Chair Johnson stated that she encourages everyone to attend member library board meetings this spring and summer. Chair Johnson also informed the Board of the current committees mandated by the bylaws and instructed them to fill out the volunteer forms in order to fill a couple vacancies on the Policy and Governance Committees.

Chair Johnson also announced that Trustee Craik proposed the idea of a Board retreat to create a mission statement that is representative of the Board. She explained that this idea was established during the process of the evaluating Director John Spears. Trustee Craik shared with the Board the goal of the proposed retreat and the importance of making the vision of the Library exceptionally clear to the public. He also stated that he has participated in retreats with other boards before and it has been beneficial. Trustee Craik reached out to some consultants noncommittally to get an idea of how to proceed. Chair Johnson and Trustee Craik wanted to gauge interest for the retreat. Discussion ensued. Trustee Craik asked how the bid process would work for those interested in working with the Library. Director Spears spoke about the Library's Procurement Policy. Discussion ensued. Trustee Craik asked about moving forward with the three consultants he found. Trustee Kelly stated that she trusts him to make the best decision for the Board. By next meeting Trustee Craik should have a proposal for the Board to review. Discussion ensued. Director Spears stated that during this proposed retreat it would be beneficial for the Board to include an ACT representative.

Next, Chair Johnson mentioned she was honored during Women's History Month as one of the *Trailblazing Women of Western New York*. She stated that there will be a recording of the ceremony on the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women's website. Trustee Bucki congratulated Chair Johnson on this achievement.

Trustee Moore arrived at 4:12 p.m.

Agenda Item E – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 – Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met on March 14, 2024. A copy of the written report was included in the Board packet. Trustee El-Behairy briefly summarized the meeting. Trustee Kelly moved to have the written report entered into the Minutes, Trustee Sasiadek seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Present: Executive Committee Chair Kimberly Johnson, Vice Chair Carima El-Behairy* and members Lucy Candelario, Elaine Panty, and Christopher Sasiadek. Also present were Director John Spears, Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer Jeannine Purtell, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik, and Assistant to the Director Caitlin Goodrich.

*Trustee El-Behairy attended the meeting remotely due to an extraordinary circumstance and was considered a full participant.

The meeting of the Executive Committee began at 4:06 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Chair Johnson commenced the meeting by reviewing the proposed agenda for the B&ECPL Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 21. She then went on to introduce proposed resolution 2024-5 – Holiday Pay for Solar Eclipse – April 8,

2024. She asked the Board and other attendees their perspective on the Solar Eclipse and remarked on the closing of area businesses, schools, etc. Chair Johnson asked about the closing of schools for the Solar Eclipse. Director Spears explained that schools would be dismissing students around 3:00 p.m., and they would be getting out right as the Solar Eclipse is happening. Discussion ensued.

The Library has planned events around the Solar Eclipse. Several member libraries have already planned full or early closures. Further discussion ensued around the Solar Eclipse. Director Spears went on to explain several events happening at the Central Library, including programs indoors for younger children. COO Purtell went on to explain proposed resolution 2024-5 as presented below. This proposed resolution was introduced to the Executive Committee in order for employees and department heads to know in advance of the proposed floating holiday for the Solar Eclipse. Employees and department heads would then be able to schedule their staff accordingly. COO Purtell noted that she shared this proposed resolution with the unions and received some feedback. She also noted that this will be system-wide. Trustee Sasiadek asked if Buffalo Branches will be open regular operating hours. COO Purtell stated that any Buffalo library open on Mondays will operate as normal.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2024-5

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (“B&ECPL”) is responsible for the provision of benefits to its employees, and

WHEREAS, full-time and regular part-time B&ECPL employees (“employees”) receive paid holidays on dates negotiated for union employees through the process of collective bargaining or as set by the B&ECPL Board of Trustees for non-union employees, and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2024, Library Administration became aware that Erie County was providing a paid holiday to its employees who are members of the CSEA and AFSCME bargaining units on April 8, 2024 in recognition of the solar eclipse and the County’s desire to limit the number of people in the downtown area, and

WHEREAS, B&ECPL libraries within the City of Buffalo, including the Central Library, will remain open on April 8, 2024, as many libraries will be viewing destinations, with several large-scale eclipse programs already planned, and

WHEREAS, contract libraries outside of the City of Buffalo have the discretion to determine if they will be open on April 8, 2024, but Library Administration desires to address holiday pay for contract library employees should a contract library choose to be open, and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain regular open hours and public service operations and to facilitate the planned programs, many library employees will be working on April 8, 2024, and

WHEREAS, Library Administration recommends that April 8, 2024 be treated as a floating holiday for all full-time and regular part-time Library employees System-wide, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that April 8, 2024 be treated as a floating holiday for all full-time and regular part-time employees System-wide at the rate established for paid holidays by the bargaining unit or benefits package applicable to each employee, and be it further

RESOLVED, that employees will be notified if they are required to report to work at least 7 days in advance; employees of libraries that are closed on April 8, 2024 will receive the paid holiday for that day; and employees who report to work on April 8, 2024 must use the floating holiday no later than December 13, 2024, the last day of pay period 26 for 2024, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that those employees wishing to take April 8, 2024 as a paid holiday may request time off in accordance with the policies of their library or department for requesting time off, and requests will be considered and either granted or denied based on the needs of their library or department.

Trustee Panty motioned for approval of proposed resolution 2024-5, Trustee Sasiadek seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

ADD-Controller Patronik informed the Executive Committee of the proposed resolution 2024-4 - Amend 2024 Budget: New York State Legislature Grants-in-Aid. The Library received a grant aid payments, therefore, they will need to amend the 2023 budget to include the payments. B&ECPL libraries were awarded approximately \$50,000 from the Senate, with the remainder of the \$185,000 total from the Assembly. Director Spears explained that these were monies that legislators earmarked for specific locations. Discussion ensued regarding the grant aid payments. ADD-Controller Patronik explained that this is a routine resolution.

For the Report of the Chair, Chair Johnson communicated that the Board will be discussing a proposed one-day retreat that Trustee John Craik suggested to her. Chair Johnson went on to comment on the weapons detection system process and the noticeable improvement in teen behavior at the Central Library. She noted the different groups of teens and how the Peacemakers have relationships with the teens and are able to recognize them and have personal interactions with them. Chair Johnson talked about Women's History Month and being recognized as a Trailblazer at one of the programs celebrating Women's History. She stated that on the Commission on the Status of Women's website there will be a video. She encouraged everyone to take advantage of programs lined up for the duration of Women's History Month.

Chair Johnson went on to mention that she was a keynote speaker for an organization called *Away Out, Inc.* and their Queens in Training Mentoring program. She explained the mission of the organization and how impactful it is for young girls.

Finally, Chair Johnson asked for an update on the member library liaisons for the Board. This will be provided at the Board meeting scheduled for March 21.

Director Spears mentioned that a letter was sent to the City of Buffalo's Mayor's Office in regards to reappointments and appointments to the Board. Discussion ensued about reappointments and appointments.

Chair Johnson asked if there will be a Report of the Foundation. Trustee El-Behairy stated that there will be a report. She announced that RFPs went out for a consultant to assist the Foundation with strategic planning. The Foundation will be working with the Library and member libraries to help move it along. Trustee El-Behairy will also speak about the Foundation's mission. They are hoping to have it by the middle of September 2024.

Trustee Panty spoke about the ACT Workshop on Saturday, March 9. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Panty then asked about Board Committees, and Chair Johnson stated that they will be focusing on the five committees mandated by the bylaws. The Committee Volunteer Forms for those five committees will be distributed prior to the Board meeting on March 21. Discussion ensued.

There being no further business, Trustee Panty motioned to adjourn, and Trustee Sasiadek seconded. The meeting ended at 4:40 p.m.

Agenda Item E.1.a – Resolution 2024-5 – Holiday Pay for Solar Eclipse – April 8, 2024. This resolution was presented to the entirety of the Board as an information item. It was approved unanimously at the Executive Committee held on Thursday, March 14. Director Spears gave an update to one of the resolution's clauses. He stated that City Branches will be given the choice to close on Monday, April 8, for the Solar Eclipse. Trustee T. Johnson was provided clarification on provisions of Article VI, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Discussion ensued about the Solar Eclipse.

RESOLUTION 2024-5

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WHEREAS, on March 5, 2024, Library Administration became aware that Erie County was providing a paid holiday to its employees who are members of the CSEA

and AFSCME bargaining units on April 8, 2024 in recognition of the solar eclipse and the County's desire to limit the number of people in the downtown area, and

WHEREAS, B&ECPL libraries within the City of Buffalo, including the Central Library, will remain open on April 8, 2024, as many libraries will be viewing destinations, with several large-scale eclipse programs already planned, and

WHEREAS, contract libraries outside of the City of Buffalo have the discretion to determine if they will be open on April 8, 2024, but Library Administration desires to address holiday pay for contract library employees should a contract library choose to be open, and

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WHEREAS, Library Administration recommends that April 8, 2024 be treated as a floating holiday for all full-time and regular part-time Library employees System-wide, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that April 8, 2024 be treated as a floating holiday for all full-time and regular part-time employees System-wide at the rate established for paid holidays by the bargaining unit or benefits package applicable to each employee, and be it further

RESOLVED, that employees will be notified if they are required to report to work at least 7 days in advance; employees of libraries that are closed on April 8, 2024 will receive the paid holiday for that day; and employees who report to work on April 8, 2024 must use the floating holiday no later than December 13, 2024, the last day of pay period 26 for 2024, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that those employees wishing to take April 8, 2024 as a paid holiday may request time off in accordance with the policies of their library or department for requesting time off, and requests will be considered and either granted or denied based on the needs of their library or department.

Adopted by Unanimous Vote on March 14, 2024
at a Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Resolution 2024-4 – Amend 2023 Budget: New York State Legislature Grants-in-Aid. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik explained Resolution 2024-4 as presented. Trustee Panty asked if there is a stipulation

on how the money received is to be spent. ADD – Controller Patronik stated that there are no stipulations on how the money is spent unless otherwise notified. Trustee Kelly asked why the budget for 2023 is being amended. ADD – Controller Patronik explained that 2023 is not closed and needs to be amended to give an actual representation of the money received.

RESOLUTION 2024-4

WHEREAS, on December 12th, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library received \$185,000 in grants-in-aid approved by the New York State Legislature for designated libraries, and

WHEREAS, this special aid was sponsored by New York State Senator Sean M. Ryan (District 61) and New York State Assembly Members Patrick Burke (District 142), Michael J. Norris (District 144), Karen McMahan (District 146) and David DiPietro (District 147), and

WHEREAS, private and public grants are regularly sought to augment library equipment, materials, programs, and other needs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL gratefully accepts the award of \$185,000 in State Aid, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the B&ECPL will encourage the receiving libraries to promptly utilize these funds for purposes consistent with the sponsor’s designation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL approves amending the 2023 Operating Budget, increasing revenue and expense as follows:

2023 Operating Budget		SAP Commitment Item #	
Revenue and Expense Increase		Revenue #408160	Expense # 516010
District/Library	Cost Center	State Aid – Special Amount	Contractual Payments Amount
Dist. 61, Audubon Branch	4205010	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Dist. 61, Clearfield Branch	4205020	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Dist. 61, Eggertsville-Snyder Branch	4205030	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Dist. 61, Williamsville Branch	4205040	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Dist. 144, Alden Ewell Free Library	4204010	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Dist. 146, Amherst Public Library	4205010	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Dist. 146, Eden Library	4204040	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Dist. 146, Orchard Park Public Library	4204075	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Dist. 147, West Seneca Library	4204085	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Total Contract Libraries:		\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000

District/Library	Cost Center	Revenue #408160	Expense # 530000
		State Aid - Special Amount	Other Expense Amount
Dist. 61, Elaine M. Panty Branch	4203380	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Dist. 142, Dudley Branch	4203320	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Dist. 142, East Clinton Branch	4203325	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Total Buffalo/System:		\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL authorizes the B&ECPL and the above contracting libraries to retain these funds until such time as they can be used for purposes consistent with any sponsor designation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the above libraries are authorized to transfer these funds to other expense accounts within their budget based upon the final determined use, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the above cited contracting libraries.

Trustee Panty motioned for approval of Resolution 2024-4, Trustee Sasiadek seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

ADD - Controller Patronik mentioned she will be resuming the Budget and Finance Committee meetings in May. An email will go out with the scheduled date. Trustee Bartholomew asked about the closing of the budget, and ADD - Controller Patronik briefly explained the process. Director Spears informed the Board that there will be a new Budget Director in Erie County. His name is Mark Cornell, and he has worked with the Library in the past. Trustee Moore asked a question about being the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. ADD - Controller Patronik and Chair Johnson explained the Committee Volunteer Forms and that if he wanted to remain the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee to fill out the form accordingly.

Agenda Item F - Report of the Director. Director Spears began his report by sharing the American Library Association's censorship numbers for 2023. 2023 saw a 65% increase from 2022 in the attempt to censor materials in libraries. There were 4,240 unique attempts at censorship. Trustee Kelly asked if it was just public libraries. Director Spears stated that it included school libraries and public libraries. Public libraries were the bulk of the censorship attempts with a 92% increase, while school libraries saw an 11% increase. Director Spears went on to explain that nearly 50% of the challenged materials represent the voices or experiences of people of color or members of the

LGBTQ+ community. He also said that the ALA announced Monday, April 8, as *Right to Read Day*. Discussion ensued regarding book challenges.

Next, Director Spears explained New York Library Association memberships. He stated that the Library used to receive free trustee memberships, however, this year it will cost extra. The Library can purchase 7 memberships for a flat rate, and then each additional trustee is \$50.00. Director Spears will continue to research this and work with NYLA. Discussion ensued about NYLA memberships. Trustee Sasiadek asked about the benefits of the membership. Director Spears explained the benefits. Further discussion ensued.

Finally, Director Spears informed the Board about his involvement with regional and state level library organizations. Director Spears is on the Board of the Western New York Library Resources Council as the Treasurer and is a member of the Public Library Systems Directors Organization. He also explained in detail the work he has done on the specific committees within these organizations. Director Spears went on to state that he serves on the NYLA Legislative Committee and explained what he does and has done on that specific committee. He informed the Board that library funding is increased in all three of the budgets in New York State, which are the Executive, Senate, and the House. Director Spears concluded by thanking the Library's Administrative Team and the Board for their support. He also acknowledged Assistant Deputy Director Dorinda Darden on her appointment to the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor's Board. Director Spears went on to emphasize how involved the staff is within the community. Discussion ensued regarding the Library's involvement in the community.

Trustee Panty asked about book challenges in member libraries. Discussion ensued about book challenges within the Library and challenges in general. Director Spears mentioned that formal book challenges come to Central Library to be reviewed. Further discussion ensued.

The following report was submitted by the Director and transmitted to Board members prior to the meeting:

B&ECPL Monthly Report February 2024

Cookbook Club – On February 7, Adult Services Librarian **Leslie Carr** hosted a Cookbook Club program in the West Room. Guests were informed of the event through M&T Employee Relations and other downtown businesses, as well as through library networking activities. Guests brought a dish to share, discussed what they made, and talked about cooking. Library cookbooks were displayed for guests to check out.

Trivia Night – On February 29, Adult Services Librarian Trainee **Faith Miller** and Adult Services Librarian **Rosalyn Damico** offered Trivia @the Library! This program was extremely popular, with all attendees indicated that they would be interested in attending this program again and would recommend this program to others. Patrons also indicated that they liked the variety of questions and the fast pace, enjoyed the snacks, and had a fun time.

Black History Month Programs - February was celebrated more extensively than ever as Black History Month throughout the B&ECPL System. As part of its partnership with the “Together As One” cultural collaboration, the Library offered 45 programs in 23 libraries, with over 1,000 attendees. Programs included African drumming workshops, storytelling and folktale programs, movies, lectures about aspects of Black heritage, jazz concerts, and online genealogy workshops. The Buffalo African American Museum (BAAM) exhibit about the Michigan Avenue YMCA and the creation of the Martin Luther King Monument was well attended at Central. Thirty participants of the BAAM Saturday bus tour visited the Central Library and the exhibit on February 17.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leaders are Readers School Award for Literacy - Tapestry Charter School, as the recipient of Project Flight’s *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leaders are Readers School Award for Literacy* presented an Assembly Program on February 16. Dr. Elizabeth Cappella, Co-Director of Project Flight, Assistant Deputy Director **Dorinda Darden**, and Georgina Parsons, Associate Commissioner for Communications & Media for the New York State Office of General Services, provided remarks at the event. Library Director **John Spears** and Library Display Artist **Dawn Stanton** were also in attendance. The Lower School for Grades K-4 was awarded 5,900 books for the students and the school.

Online Winter Reading Contest - *The Online Winter Reading Contest* for kids, teens, and adults, with the theme *Warm up with a Good Book*, ran January 1 through February 29. Young children who participated read books and recorded the minutes read and teen and adult participants submitted reviews for a chance to win prizes, including a grand prize for each group. There were 119 kids who signed up, with 79 of them logging their a combined total of 59,415 minutes; 27 teens signed up, with 11 submitting a total of 76 reviews; and there were 268 adults who signed up, with 136 submitting a total of 1,028 reviews.

Straight Talk Evening Seminar Series – System Adult Outreach Services Librarian III **Carol Kowalik-Happy** and Cheektowaga Public Library Director **Daniel Caufield** assisted SCORE Buffalo Niagara with their *Straight Talk Evening Seminar Series* in the Mason O. Damon Auditorium at the Central Library on February 1, 6, 8, 13, and 15. Throughout the five days of presentations, members of the community learned about various aspects of small business and how the library and SCORE could help them. Many library cards were issued, and there was a marked increase in the number of *Book a Librarian* appointments.

1. Public Services

Central Library:

Blind Date with an International Book - Adult Services Librarian **Kuniko Simon** coordinated "Blind Date with an International Book," a free book giveaway promotion for adults offering books in twenty-six languages. Most international language books have been donated by publishers over the years or sent to the Project Flight Book Bank in the Central Library building. The promotion will continue as long as patrons make requests. In February, nineteen requests were made in thirteen languages.

Doll curator Lisa Jacobs-Watson launched the 2024 Black Doll exhibit *Recognizing Royalty* on February 1. Speakers included local skincare entrepreneur Zandra Cunningham, Erie County Legislature Chairwoman April N.M. Baskin, and Senator Sean Ryan. Library Board Chair Kimberly Johnson provided the opening and welcome remarks. Media attended the opening, and several stations ran interviews with Ms. Jacobs-Watson. The 40 + piece exhibit continues until early April to mark both Black History Month and Women's History Month.

System Services:

The Graphics Department has created designs for eclipse T-shirts that will be given away and sold.

Genealogy Training - Throughout the month of February, Genealogy Specialist **Rhonda Hoffman** posted a short series of videos on YouTube and the Grosvenor Room blog featuring sources to assist genealogists researching their Black ancestors. They included the *Freedman's Bank Records*, the *Buffalo's African-American Funeral Program and Obituary Collection*, and the *Civil War Military Records* presented on February 7, 14, and 28, respectfully. Volunteers from the Western New York Genealogy Society provided information and assistance to patrons researching their collection, which is housed in the Grosvenor Room on February 11 and February 24. Special Collections Manager **Susan Buttaccio** hosted Renate Y. Sanders for an online presentation on February 16, *Using Funeral Programs to Inform Genealogy Research*. Participants also learned about an online collection of funeral programs available at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library. **Rhonda Hoffman** hosted Ari Wilkins for an online presentation on February 24, *Incorporating Oral History into Your Research*.

Health and Wellness - New York State Public Health Corps Graduate Fellow **Sophia Charles** and System Adult Outreach Services Librarian **Jacob Rachwal** coordinated the *Wellness @ Central* tabling event held at the Central Library on February 15. Organizations provided health and wellness resources to patrons that included information on employment, housing, literacy, food assistance, mental health services, and other programs.

Income Tax Assistance -The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance has partnered with the B&ECPL to provide free one-on-one income tax assistance to

patrons on Thursdays from February to April in the TechKnow Lab at the Central Library.

Nature Book Club - Mobiles Services Manager **Andrew Maines**, Collection Development Librarian **Michelle Snyder**, and **Dawn Stanton** facilitated the *Nature Book Club* held virtually on February 12. Participants discussed the book, *Rooted: life at the crossroads of science, nature, and spirit* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt.

OBGYN Women's Health Clinic - **Jacob Rachwal** coordinated with UB Heals to provide the *OBGYN Women's Health Clinic* at the Central Library on February 12. Doctors were on hand to provide referral services and assist with medical questions. They also provided diapers, clothing, and other hygiene products to attendees who were in need.

Special Collections Displays - Rare Book Librarian **Charles Alaimo** set up a case in the Grosvenor Room with African American writers for Black History Month, including two new acquisitions, first editions of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. He also set up a map display outside of the Grosvenor Room featuring two maps recently conserved by students of Buffalo State University's Art Conservation Department.

Tours and Visits:

February 6 & 8 - **Kuniko Simon** provided a tour of the Central Library to groups from the International Institute of Buffalo. Twenty-eight participants, including Arabic, Dari, Kinyarwanda, Pashto, Rohingya, and Spanish interpreters, explored the Central Library, learned how to use their library cards, and were introduced to various services, including Book A Librarian, LaunchPad, and Techknow Lab.



Susan Buttaccio, Rare Book Curator **Heather Gring**, and **Charles Alaimo** presented highlights from the Grosvenor Room to visitors from the Canterbury Woods Gates Circle, a senior living community in Buffalo, on February 8. Materials from the local history and map collection were presented, as well as items from the Rare Book Room, including Shakespeare's third folio, a seventeenth century antiphonary, and an item from the Book Arts collection. One visitor, age 105, was very interested in the history

of the Erie Canal. Special Collections Librarian **Adam Rubin** quickly located maps and other resources for examination, including an Erie Canal songbook, which led to an impromptu singalong!

A group of Kindergarteners from Westminster Charter School came to the Grosvenor room for a short visit. While looking at scrapbooks, **Heather Gring** and **Charles Alaimo** talked with the children about “before the internet,” and they discussed animals while looking at the Audubon folios.

Special Collections Librarian Trainee **Isaac Johnson** hosted a tour of the Special Collections Department on February 24. Interested patrons learned about B&ECPL special collections and exhibits. Participants also received one of four “limited edition” pins featuring images from the Library’s archive.

Buffalo Branches:

Elaine M. Panty Branch Programming Highlights:

- The Elaine M. Panty Branch began a weekly storytime and sing along, held Tuesdays from 10:30am to 11:00am, hosted by Branch Manager **Stefanie Anawald**. There were a total of 50 participants over the first four weeks.
- The Elaine M. Panty Library hosted the African Drums Workshop on Saturday, March 24, as part of Black History Month. An instructor from the African American Cultural Center led a one-hour instructional class with nine participants.
- Branch Manager **Stefanie Anawald** held the monthly No-Pressure Book Club at the Elaine M. Panty Branch on February 26 for six participants.
- In partnership with Mission: Ignite, the library held two Digital Navigation open-houses for tech 1-on-1 assistance. Nine patrons were assisted with computer questions.
- The library welcomed back a long-time volunteers from the Northwest Buffalo Community Center to offer free tax preparation services every Thursday during tax season. Volunteers helped over 100 patrons complete and file their taxes during February.

Dudley Branch Library Programming Highlights:

- Dudley’s youth LEGO Club met on Wednesdays in February.
- Branch Manager **Libby Stengel** hosted Family Game Night on Thursday, February 22. Families played chess and checkers.
- The library hosted Sandra Williams Bush of the Tradition Keepers of WNY for a Storytelling program. Ms. Williams Bush discussed the art of oral storytelling and demonstrated how it was practiced, sharing African-American fables.

- Library Assistant **Ana Sennett** and **Libby Stengel** hosted an all-ages Valentine’s Day Party on Tuesday, February 13. Families painted watercolor cards, colored heart-shaped bags, and ate cookies. SNAP Ed. Nutrition Educator Unique Brown led activities on healthy eating and provided bagel pizzas for participants. A total of 36 people attended.
- **Libby Stengel** held Kids Craft Night on Thursday, February 15. A total of 11 children made paper dragon puppets in celebration of the Lunar New Year.

Outreach:

Kuniko Simon ran an outreach table during Asian Pacific Islanders American Public Affairs’ Lunar New Year Celebration at the Buffalo History Museum, sharing library information such as Central Library’s Black History Month and Adult Services programs, free bags for Blind Date with an International Book, Take & Make: New Year Paper Cutting kits, bags, and Hoopla and Libby flyers on February 4.

Interlibrary Loan Library Associate **Tracy Haynes** and Mobile Services Senior Page **Olivia Adams** participated in the *Saturday Academy* at Buffalo Public School #3 D’Youville Porter Campus School on February 3.

Andrew Maines brought the Library on Wheels Bookmobile to the *Saturday Academy* at Buffalo Public School #99 Stanley M. Makowski IB World School on February 10.

System Youth Outreach Services Manager **Chelsey Lonberger** and System Youth Outreach Services Librarian Trainee **Amealia Brousseau** participated in Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra’s *BPO Little Kids* event held at Kleinhans Music Hall on February 3.

Amealia Brousseau and **Jacob Rachwal** provided tabling at East Community High School in Buffalo on February 15.

2. Collection Development

Physical Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Juvenile Print	2,804	5,164	235	452	523,435
Young Adult Print	506	986	138	204	75,010
Adult Print	3,708	7,144	792	1,506	1,783,951
Media	2,062	5,309	252	604	540,309
Other*	1,841	3,446	14	17	172,007
Subtotal	10,921	22,049	1,431	2,783	3,094,712

*Includes magazines, generic copies, and other.

Electronic Collections*:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
eBooks	3,622	10,926	1,437	3,072	125,011
eAudiobooks	8,426	19,254	402	820	74,471
Digital Magazines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,138
Subtotal	12,048	30,180	1,839	3,892	204,620

*The B&ECPL also provides access to all *hoopla* eBooks, eAudiobooks, videos, and music albums. These titles are not included in the collection size total, as they are not owned by the B&ECPL.

All Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Total	22,969	52,229	3,270	6,675	3,299,332

Rare Book Collections -Heather Gring has made two acquisitions for the Rare Book Collection, *Mountain Dream Tarot* by Bea Nettles (1975. Light Impressions, Rochester, NY). This title is the first to depict the cards using photography and the use of manually manipulated images in the photographic process. Only 800 of this first edition were printed in 1975; the other acquisition was *Timothy McSweeney's Quarterly Concern* (No. 1-50, 1998 - 2017, San Francisco, CA). This title has been celebrated as an American addition to the tradition of Book Arts since its inception in 1998. Issues feature unique bindings and book mechanicals, as well as writings by significant contemporary writers. The Rare Book Room will also be collecting further issues, as McSweeney's is an active publication we will collect moving forward. This collection is complete with all variants, which in and of itself is very rare.

3. Fundraising

Fundraising:

Campaign Name	Campaign Dates	Raised to Date
Annual Appeal Total	January 1 - February 29, 2024	\$20,427.57

Highlights:

Assistant Deputy Director **Joy Testa Cinquino** and Development & Communications Development Manager **Maureen Germaine** met with representatives from Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation to discuss winding down the sports equipment share program. It was determined that the both grants (the pilot program at Gonzalez-Soto Branch that started in 2019 and the expanded program at 18 libraries and the book mobile that started in 2021) will conclude in 2024.

Central's Book Sale is being planned for April. The Development & Communications department will assist with the Early Bird \$5 Presale event on Thursday, April 11 from 3pm to 6pm.

4. Facilities

On February 1, a kickoff meeting was held at Lackawanna Library to begin the assessment of their facility. Attendees included Central Library staff, Lackawanna Library staff and board members, Michael Banks from DiDonato Associates, the architectural firm that will be performing the facility condition assessment, and MEP subcontractors. Physical assessment of the building should begin in several weeks.

On February 7, National Grid conducted the overnight shutdown of the Central switchgear. The shutdown was successful and allowed the technicians to measure, test, and evaluate the current equipment scheduled for replacement this year.

On February 13, the Space Utilization Study Planning Committee met to discuss and consolidate language to include in the RFP for the Space Utilization Study at the Central Library. A majority of the included language centers on the purpose of the study, goals and expectations, requirements for and experience of the architects, and the scope of work. The committee will meet once more to approve the content. Erie County will assume the responsibility of drafting and advertising the RFP.

On February 15, walkthroughs for both the Loading Dock Rehabilitation Project and the Emergency Egress Project were held at the Central Library for potential bidders. The Loading Dock Rehabilitation bids were opened on February 27, and the Emergency Egress bids were opened on February 29.

On February 15, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation announced that the Central Library was the recipient of a \$3 million grant for the installation of a green roof, including solar panels, at the Central Library. The current roof is in need of replacement, and the Library had earlier awarded a bid to Watts Engineering to oversee the design and replacement of the current traditional roof. The design of the new roof will incorporate the green roof features funded through this grant.

The furniture for the new Teen Area was delivered and installed this month. It includes new chairs and work tables, lounge chairs and sofas, independent work stations, computer tables, TikTok walls, and a new service point.

5. Staff Development

ALA Director Crash Course – Four seats were funded for the American Library Association (ALA) webinar series *Public Library Director Crash Course: Getting the Skills You Need*. The series kicked off on February 26 and meets twice more in March. The course content covers key topics necessary to run a library, such as finances, trustees, relationships, personnel, legal issues, facilities, and insurance. After the series concludes, all participants will collaborate on a group presentation to share what they

learned with support from the Staff Development Coordinator. It will be presented at a future Managers/Directors Meeting.

Financial Wellbeing Webinar Series – Throughout February, a *Financial Wellbeing Webinar Series* from Corebridge Financial was offered to all employees. Corebridge is our 457(b) retirement planning partner. The session on *Achieving Financial Wellness* had the most interest from staff.

NYLA Developing Leaders – Staff members currently enrolled in the New York Library Association (NYLA) *Developing Leaders Program* continued their coursework in February. This month’s focus areas included *Advocacy* and *Research, Data and Assessment*.

Webinars - Staff attended a range of webinars in February, with multiple people showing interest in the following topics: *Free and Low-Cost Library Programming* (from Central New York Library Resource Council); *Homeschoolers and the Public Library* (from Empire State Library Network); *Prevention in Action: Hate Crimes, De-Escalation, and Bystander Intervention* (from Rochester Regional Library Council).

6. Communications

Media:

Type of Communication	Topic	Air Date/Publish Date
Media event at Central, Library Board Chair Kimberly Johnson speaks	Launch of the Doll Exhibit	February 1, WGRZ TV Channel 2, Spectrum News, The Buffalo Challenger
Media interview at Central	The Doll Exhibit	February 1 & 2, WKBW TV Channel 7
Media event at Central, Library COO Jeannine Purcell speaks	US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	February 9, several TV stations
Media Event at Central Library, Library Director John Spears Speaks	New York State Governor’s office announces \$3 million for a green roof – replacing the old roof at Central	February 15, Spectrum News, Buffalo News, WGRZ TV Channel 2, WIVB TV Channel 4
Media Invite, Project Flight event, Library Assistant Deputy Director Dorinda Darden speaks	Project Flight’s Leaders are Readings award to Tapestry Charter School	February 16, WGRZ TV Channel 2
Taped TV interview with Library Director John Spears	CPR Kits in libraries	February 26, WGRZ TV 2
Newspaper interview with Library Director John Spears	Unlocked Series	Buffalo Business First, publication date TBD

Listings	Library eclipse programming	February 22, The Buffalo News Gusto and Buffalo Spree
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Social Media:

	Staff Activity		Public Activity		Followers	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month (New)	Total
Facebook	104	232	1,919	4,028	71	13,253
Flickr	-	-	2,761	12,185	1	61
Google Ads ¹	N/A	N/A	2,687	5,494	N/A	N/A
Instagram	17	27	1,188	3,227	69	5,245
Pinterest	39	79	82	171	1	2,057
Twitter	66	118	452	885	10	10,962
YouTube	10	26	2,456	4,451	15	592
TikTok	-	-	152	349	13	587
Total	236	482	11,697	30,790	180	32,757

¹ Google Ads is provided to the Library through a grant. Monthly activity based on public clicks.

7. Partnerships

Backstage Library Works - A representative from Backstage Library Works returned the recently donated index of the Buffalo News. This index, over 176,000 index cards created by the staff of the Buffalo News for its own research purposes, was recently microfilmed for preservation with the generous support of the University at Buffalo’s Preservation Officer Ron Gaczewski. The cards will now reside in the Grosvenor Room for public research and exploration.

Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) - The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library has partnered with BPS to provide the *BPS Teacher Professional Development Course* at the Central Library, **Susan Buttaccio**, accompanied by **Heather Gring**, provided an in-depth tour of the Grosvenor Room and examined some interesting items from the Rare Book collection on February 1. **Susan** presented *B&ECPL Exhibits as Educational* and **Susan** and Community Engagement Manager **Anne Conable** provided participants an in-depth tour of the Mark Twain Room and the Jordan Collection on February 7. The *BPS Teacher Professional Development Course* concluded on February 28, with **Dorinda Darden** presenting on *Services in the Branches* and **Chelsey Lonberger** presenting on *Class Visits and Outreach*.

Community Action Organization (CAO) - Jacob Rachwal met with Regina Hutchins-Winstead, the Small Business Representative of the Community Action Organization (CAO) on February 26. She is hoping to refer her clients to use the B&ECPL’s *Book a Librarian* service on a regular basis as well as partnering with the B&ECPL to present at CAO on library resources.

Read to Succeed Buffalo - Chelsey Lonberger had a conference call on February 28 with Julia Bruecki, Director of Program for Read to Succeed. They discussed the relevance of Decodable Books in Public Libraries.

Rooted Beginnings - Chelsey Lonberger and Children’s Room Manager **Dan Lewandowski** met virtually with Kate Coffman from Rooted Beginnings on February 5 to discuss how the B&ECPL can help celebrate *Autism Awareness Month* in April.

University at Buffalo - Chelsey Lonberger was interviewed on February 28 by Grace McKenzie, Community Engagement Specialist at the University at Buffalo for *Plain Language*, an attempt to understand how to get more community buy-in to studies and programs.

VA Western New York Healthcare System - Jacob Rachwal and **Sophia Charles** met with Christopher Rammnauth from VA Western New York Healthcare System on February 14 to discuss ways to partner with the B&ECPL System and provide resources to the community.

WNY Literacy Initiative - Chelsey Lonberger attended a meeting for the *WNY Literacy Initiative* held virtually on February 14. This meeting highlighted grassroots movement to advance the *Science of Reading* to help improve the literacy rates in Western New York schools. There was a speaker who explained that with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul there has been an increase in interest from other leaders.

8. Director Activities

Meetings/Events Attended by Director

February 2024

Date	Meeting/Event
February 1, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Buffalo Cultural Leaders
February 1, 2024	Meeting - Jeannine Purtell
February 1, 2024	Event - Black Doll Exhibit Grand Opening
February 2, 2024	Virtual Meeting - MetLib Conference Planning Committee
February 2, 2024	Virtual Meeting - B&ECPL Advocacy Meeting w/ Joy Testa Cinquino
February 2, 2024	Interview - Director of Security
February 2, 2024	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
February 2, 2024	Virtual Meeting - IF Manual
February 5, 2024	Virtual Meeting - B&ECPL Advocacy Meeting w/ Joy Testa Cinquino

Minutes of the Board of Trustees

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February 5, 2024	Meeting - Administrative Team
February 5, 2024	Meeting - Advocacy Day in Albany
February 5, 2024	Meeting - Assembly Ways and Means Secretary Philip Fields
February 5, 2024	Meeting - Library Funding Meeting with Senate Finance
February 6, 2024	Event - NYLA Advocacy Days
February 7, 2024	Event - NYLA Advocacy Days
February 8, 2024	Virtual Meeting - May 14th Collecting Initiative
February 8, 2024	Meeting - Dorinda Darden and Samantha Purpora
February 8, 2024	Meeting - Jeannine Purtell
February 8, 2024	Meeting - B&ECPL Executive Committee
February 9, 2024	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
February 9, 2024	Virtual Meeting - IF Manual
February 12, 2024	Meeting - Administrative Team
February 12, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Intellectual Freedom Committee
February 12, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Advocacy Day in Albany Debrief w/ WNYLRC
February 13, 2024	Meeting - Samantha Purpora
February 13, 2024	Meeting - Space Utilization Study Planning Committee
February 14, 2024	Meeting - Managers/Directors
February 14, 2024	Meeting - Dorinda Darden
February 14, 2024	Meeting - B&ECPL Performance Evaluation Committee
February 15, 2024	Virtual Interview - Director of Security
February 15, 2024	Meeting - Jeannine Purtell
February 15, 2024	Meeting - B&ECPL Board of Trustees
February 16, 2024	Event - Project Flight's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leaders are Readers Assembly Program
February 16, 2024	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
February 16, 2024	Virtual Meeting - IF Manual
February 20, 2024	Meeting - Samantha Purpora
February 20, 2024	Meeting - ErieNet Board of Directors
February 21, 2024	Virtual Meeting - WNY Digital Equity Coalition
February 21, 2024	Meeting - Dorinda Darden
February 22, 2024	Virtual Meeting - MetLib Standing Committee
February 22, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Carolyn Anthony
February 22, 2024	Event - Joanne Peters Book Donation @ Merriweather Library
February 23, 2024	Meeting - Mike Cardus and Jeffrey Pietrzak (Organization Development)

February 23, 2024	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
February 23, 2024	Meeting - B&ECPL Member Library Contract Review
February 26, 2024	Meeting - Administrative Team
February 26, 2024	Virtual Meeting - WGRZ Newsroom's - CPR KITS
February 27, 2024	Meeting - Samantha Purpora
February 27, 2024	Publication Interview - Buffalo Business First w/ Tracey Drury
February 27, 2024	Virtual Meeting - Committee on Professional Ethics
February 28, 2024	Meeting - Dorinda Darden
February 29, 2024	Virtual Meeting - MetLib Conference Planning Committee
February 29, 2024	Meeting - Jeannine Purtell

Appendices
A. Monthly Statistics

System Programming Statistics:

Regular/Virtual	Number of Programs		Total Attendance	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Regular*				
Adults	966	1876	3090	5629
Children 5 and under	1401	2141	5453	9126
Children 6-11	1966	2846	3679	5613
Intergenerational/Combined	6195	10174	13146	19560
Teens	221	562	464	973
Regular Total	10749	17599	25832	40901
Regular Total	10749	17599	25832	40901
Virtual				
Live Virtual				
Adults	20	34	443	556
Children 5 and under	1	1	12	12
Children 6-11	2	2	17	17
Intergenerational/Combined	5	10	85	136
Teens	21	27	41	64
Live Virtual Total	49	74	598	785
Recorded Virtual				
Adults	14	20	267	325
Children 5 and under	0	0	0	0
Children 6-11	2	4	415	656
Intergenerational/Combined	7	17	281	690
Teens	0	0	0	0
Recorded Virtual Total	23	41	963	1671
Virtual Total	72	115	1561	2456
Grand Total	10821	17714	27393	43357

*Regular programs include group programs, one-on-one programs, and self-directed programs (including individual take & make crafts).

Other Statistics:

Consolidated statistics on library visits, website visits, circulation, computer sessions, wifi usage, and program attendance and a summary of open hours can be found at www.buffalolib.org/about-becpl/monthly-statistics.

Detailed reports on circulation, computer sessions, wifi usage, and library visits can be found at <https://www.buffalolib.org/monthly-statistics/2024-circulation-public-access-computer-wifi-and-library-visits-detail>.

B. Contracting Library Activity Reports

Concord Public Library – submitted by Jennifer Morris, Director

Kids Programs

- **Take Your Child to the Library Day: Building & Books**

This is an interactive monthly family story and craft program. Lowe's is generously providing our library with their kids craft kits. Each month is a different theme based on the kit. For February we made a toolbox and read stories by Mo Willems and did a pigeon craft. We also had take & make kits for families to bring home and gave away stickers and bookmarks.

Kids February Winter Break Activities

- **Reptiles of the World with Mark Carra**

This was a very popular program for kids during winter break. Mark Carra, a wildlife educator, brought a variety of reptiles to the library and shared his knowledge and enthusiasm to our captive audience who loved learning about these amazing creatures and how important they are to our world.

Adult Programs

- **Silent Book Club** - It's been a year since our first Silent Book Club met at a local café here in Springville. It has grown to a core group of about 10-12 dedicated readers that attend each month. A Silent Book Club is a global community of readers and book lovers with chapters around the world. At a Silent Book Club, there's no assigned reading – that's the silent part of the book club. You bring your own book and everyone reads together silently for an hour and then discuss books read/reading after.
- **Seeds for Thought Book Club** – A new quarterly book club that discusses a variety of topics on the theme of Sustainability. Our first meeting met in February – our February pick was *The Nature of Hope* by Douglas Tallamy.

- **Seed Selection and Garden Planning** - Missy Singer DuMars of Crown Hill Farm in Eden, NY presented a program on companion planting, food diversity, heirloom varieties and the crucial role of timing while creating your personalized guide for future gardening decisions.
- **Beekeeping 101** - A local beekeeper gave a presentation on how to get started, the fundamentals of beekeeping and all the supplies you'll need.
- **Pysanky Egg Decorating** - a local artist presented a class on the Eastern European art of egg decorating. We had a room full of creative and enthusiastic students who all went home with their creations.
- On April 20 and 27 our library will be offering **Mental Health First Aid Training (for adults interacting with other adults)** - presented by the Erie County Office of Health Equity.

Family Programs

- **Africa Drumming Workshop** - Presented by the African American Cultural Center to celebrate Black History Month. We had a full meeting room where participants had the opportunity to get hands on drumming experience and also learn about the rich history and cultural traditions of Africa.
- To help our community prepare for the upcoming solar eclipse, The Buffalo Museum of Science will be at the library on Saturday March 9 for a kids program, *Learn about the Solar Eclipse* and on Saturday March 16 members from the Buffalo Astronomical Association will be at the library for an adult/family program, *Totality! How to Prepare for the Solar Eclipse*.

The Concord Library is now a member of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and is working towards certification. The certification process will guide us in our policies and practices - from purchasing to programming. The mission of Sustainable Libraries Initiative is to empower library leaders to advance environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible practices to intentionally address climate change and co-create thriving communities.

Eden Public Library - submitted by Donna-Jo Webster, Director

Songs in the Stacks - Eden Library proudly hosted violinist/composer/educator Henri Star Muhammad for an evening of beautiful music on Wednesday, February 14 in celebration of Black History Month. Mr. Muhammad, accompanied by several of his

Muhammad School of Music students, performed a number of selections from Beethoven, Thais, and even Billie Eilish, among others!

Freshening Up – We can finally say we have beautiful new carpeting in place! The original carpet held on for 32-plus years, but began showing serious signs of damage due to a long-undetected moisture problem under the building’s foundation in 2022. Removal of all the exterior landscaping and installation of a drainage tile project by the Town of Eden paved the way for the new carpet installation March 4 and 5, funded in part by the B&ECPL Facilities Improvement Initiative.

Up Next – As always, our March and April event calendars are quickly filling up with many good things, including Easter WOW’s petting zoo, magic show and big bunny appearance (March 18), our Friends-sponsored Butter Lamb Make ‘n Take class (Mar, 30), and spring book sale (April 17-20). Beginning in mid-May, Eden will once again partner with Erie County Senior Services to offer University Express classes, free lifelong learning events geared towards “seasoned adults” 55 and up. We can’t wait to see you at our library!

Agenda Item G – Report of the Foundation. Trustee El-Behairy reported that the Foundation met on March 13. She announced that RFPs went out for a consultant to assist the Foundation with strategic planning. The proposals will come back by April 15. The Foundation will be working with the Library and member libraries to help move it along. She spoke with Martha Buyer about having an ACT representative sit on the committee to draft the strategic plan.

Agenda Item H – ACT Report. Martha Buyer summarized the ACT Workshop held at the Central Library on March 9. She stated that people were energized and there was more involvement than before. She informed the Board that their next meeting will be at the Grand Island Memorial Library. Martha went on to thank Assistant Deputy Director Dorinda Darden, Director Spears, Assistant Deputy Director Judy Fachko, and Chief Operating Officer Jeannine Purtell. Trustee Kelly stated that she had a great time at the ACT Workshop and stated that the tour of Technical Services was the highlight of the day. She suggested that library staff come in during Board meetings to present on their departments, etc. She also wanted to thank Technical Services Librarian IV Jennifer Childs and Collection Development Librarian III Kelly Donovan for their assistance and creativity during the tour.

Agenda Item H.1. – Contracting Library Liaison Report. None.

Agenda Item I – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item J – Unfinished Business. None.

Agenda Item K - New Business. Trustee Sasiadek shared an anecdote about his interaction with a man on the train about the Library and how excited the man was that the Library is now Fine Free. Discussion ensued about the community and the benefits of the Library. Trustee Panty asked about the Wilson Grant. Director Spears stated that the grants are winding down. He stated that if the program was successful they will continue to purchase the equipment. Assistant Deputy Director Joy Testa Cinquino stated that the grants went longer due to COVID-19. The grants have been successful at the libraries that have participated. It will be up to the Library to keep the program going. Discussion ensued about the Wilson sports equipment and the end of Play Down Your Fines.

Agenda Item L - Adjournment. There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Johnson with a second by Trustee Bucki, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Moore
Secretary