

ORILLIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2024 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board was held in the Library commencing at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD – Deborah Watson, Chair; Meghan Edwards, Vice-Chair; Catherine Allman; Elaine Bremer; Helen Mallon; Don McIsaac; Wanda Minnings

STAFF – Bessie Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer
Kelli Absalom, Director of Information Services
Melissa Robertson, Director of Corporate & Operational Services
Meagan Wilkinson, Director of Children’s & Youth Services
Amy Lambertsen, Co-Ordinator of Circulation Services
Tina Chatten, Recorder

ABSENT – John Bard; Gail McCorkell; Whitney Smith; Mike Stahls

ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

CEO B. Sullivan asked for nominations for Board Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024.

C. Allman nominated D. Watson for Board Chair and M. Edwards for Vice-Chair, to which both accepted the positions.

MOTION #2024:01

Moved by C. Allman, seconded by D. McIsaac that the Orillia Public Library Board approve the election of Deb Watson for the position of Board Chair for 2024;

And,

Moved by C. Allman, seconded by W. Minnings that the Orillia Public Library Board approve the election of Meghan Edwards for the position of Board Vice-Chair for 2024.

CARRIED

CONVENING OF THE MEETING – D. Watson welcomed those in attendance and via Zoom.

Land Acknowledgement Statement – D. Watson read the Library Board’s statement.

Call to Order – D. Watson called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION #2024:02

Moved by D. McIsaac, seconded by H. Mallon that the Orillia Public Library Board approve the Agenda of the January 17, 2024 meeting.

CARRIED

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof – none

CONSENT AGENDA

B. Sullivan commented on the AMPLO (Administrators of Medium Public Libraries of Ontario) meeting recently attended which highlighted HR trends from 2023 and the

instability of the current labour market which reiterated the fact that we are in a different working climate and must maintain salaries and benefits as best we can. Also of note was a training session conducted by OLS about the revamped tool Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT) which is designed to help Ontario public libraries measure and demonstrate their economic value and impact within the community.

M. Wilkinson highlighted the recent Diwali program with a comment from an attendee who shared that they experienced an event culturally not seen outside the home and was great to see their heritage represented, and there were able to make other community connections. The representation in the Library collection is also appreciated.

M. Wilkinson and A. Lambertsen held a page training/refresher on working in the Library in a public setting and dealing with these issues and about keeping themselves safe, and how to interact with others.

M. Robertson reported that the Library will soon be partnering with Ontario Northland bus service, selling bus tickets at the Circulation Desk. This will generate revenue for the Library for services offered during library hours.

K. Absalom highlighted the very popular Remembrance event held earlier which received great feedback and always brings in many people/students. She also mentioned the heavy use/traffic in the Makerspace.

MOTION #2024:03

Moved by E. Bremer, seconded by W. Minnings that the Consent Agenda of the January 17, 2024 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION AGENDA

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Review Annual Workplan – The Board was given the opportunity to review the workplan with no further additions.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Finance Committee – Preliminary draft statements for December 2023 were presented for Board review and discussion.

MOTION #2024:04

Moved by D. McIsaac, seconded by C. Allman that the Orillia Public Library Board receives the draft December 2023 financial statements as presented.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

OPL Board Meeting Schedule/Proposed Holiday Closures 2024 – A proposed listing of each was presented for review. A question was raised about Sunday closure in the summer months.

MOTION #2024:05

Moved by W. Minnings, seconded by E. Bremer that the Orillia Public Library Board approve the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule and the 2024 list of scheduled holiday closures for the Library. *CARRIED*

Announcements – none

HR clarification regarding male comparators for pay equity as well as consideration for inclusive hiring. All library jobs are posted through the City of Orillia website, with some postings also going to Chippewas of Rama and the YMCA.

Adjournment at 3:55 p.m.

BOARD CHAIR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER