

## **St. Charles Parish Library**

Board of Control Meeting

March 19, 2024 at 6:00pm

### MINUTES

A regular meeting of the St. Charles Parish Library Board of Control was held at 6:00pm, Tuesday, March 19, 2024 in the Council Chambers at the Courthouse in Hahnville.

Members Present: Beverly DeLaune, Randy Matherne, Tammy Windmann, Sarah Sacra, and Holly Fonseca

Members Absent: Charlene Alexander-Armstrong, Annie Harmon, and Robin Robicheaux

Staff Present: Leann Benedict, Lauren Pitz, and Amy Duke

Others: Justin Aubert and Stephanie Mire

Mrs. DeLaune called the meeting to order and asked all to stand for a moment of silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. DeLaune asked for approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2024 special meeting. Mr. Matherne moved that the minutes be approved as e-mailed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Windmann and passed unanimously.

The attendance report for board members was completed.

The next agenda item was Public Comment. There were no requests for public comment.

The next agenda item was the Librarian's Report. Mrs. Benedict gave the following report:

2024 is off to a great start for our library. On Friday, January 5, we hosted a Taylor Swift Eras Party for 178 Swifties of all ages at the East Regional Library in Destrehan. During the 3-hour after-hours event, kids, teens, and adults took part in Taylor Swift-themed crafts and trivia at 13 stations throughout the library. There was a dance party in the large meeting room, with a lot of singing and dancing throughout the night.

After seeing the success of the Taylor Swift Eras Party, we knew that we wanted to have something similar for our younger friends, so on Friday, April 26, we will host a Bluey Bash at the East Regional Library from 6pm to 8pm where we will take over the library to celebrate all things Bluey!

To meet the needs of our growing homeschool population, we began a trial of STEM programming targeted to homeschool students once a month at the Paradis Branch. This

started in February, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. We hope to expand this type of programming to other branches in the Fall. Our next session is Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

We are excited to share that we are one of 50 U.S. libraries selected to host *Americans and the Holocaust*, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association, which examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. *Americans and the Holocaust* will be on display at the East Regional Library, along with a series of related special events for older teens and adults, from December 2025 to mid-January 2026. In addition to the traveling exhibition on loan, we received a \$3,000 grant to support public programs.

National Library Week is April 7-13, and the diversity of library programming that week will reflect the theme of Ready, Set, Library! Our next Page Meets Stage family program, in partnership with the Lafon Center and sponsored by a Louisiana Project Grant, will be our finale for National Library Week. Inspired by the *Alice...Dreaming of Wonderland* show, we will have a meet and greet with Alice and the Mad Hatter on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the East Regional Library from 11am to noon. To keep the fun going, we invite patrons to explore our library wonderland to find other activities, such as indoor croquet, "Pin the Grin" on the Cheshire Cat, a coloring station, and an Alice in Wonderland-themed scavenger hunt.

In staffing news, Lionel Warren joined our team as a Facilities Assistant in November. In December Lyndsey Matherne was promoted to full-time circulation assistant with an emphasis on teen services at the East Regional Library and Sarah Triche was promoted to Graphic Designer. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, bookmobile assistant Joyce LoCoco retired after 28 years with the library system. We wish Joyce a well-deserved retirement. At the end of January, we welcomed four new part-time circulation assistants to our team. Alvin Mahler and Monica LeBlanc both joined our Paradis team, and Katherine Cannon and Brianna Brown both joined our team at the East Regional Library. Heidi Garcia recently transferred to our Norco Branch as a part-time circulation assistant with an emphasis on teen services. Rachelle Matherne was promoted to full-time circulation assistant with an emphasis in children's services at the East Regional Library and J'mie Seeser was promoted to full-time circulation assistant with an emphasis in adult services at the West Regional Library.

The next agenda item was Communications. There were no communications.

The first item of unfinished business was the Hahnville Branch Library Project Architect Contract. The proposed contract for Grace Hebert Curtis Architects, LLC was presented to the library board for approval. After a brief discussion, Mr. Matherne made a motion to accept the professional services agreement. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Windmann and passed unanimously. The contract will be presented to the parish council for final approval next.

The next item of unfinished business was Hurricane Ida Recovery Update. Mrs. Benedict informed the board that the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room at the West Regional Library is now open for public use. Patrons can reserve the meeting room through the reservation system on the library website. There are still some punch list items outstanding and the library is working with the architect and contractor to try and get those completed. The library is still waiting on insurance reimbursements from Hurricane Ida for building repairs. The parish attorney's office is still awaiting an allocation of how the funds are being settled. To-date, the library has expended a little over 1.3 million dollars and has only received \$108,600 in reimbursements.

The first item of new business was Resolution 24-1, the Legislative Auditor's "Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire." Mrs. Benedict read the resolution. Mrs. Sacra made a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Matherne seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The next item of new business was Resolution 24-2, Proposed Amendment to the 2023 Budget. Mrs. Benedict explained each of the proposed budget amendments. Mr. Matherne made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-2. Mrs. Sacra seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The final agenda item was Public Comment. There was no public comment. Mrs. DeLaune recognized Mrs. Tammy Windmann and thanked her for 10 years of service to the library board. Mrs. Windmann's second term expires on April 1, and this was her last board meeting.

There being no further business, Mrs. DeLaune called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Windmann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Matherne seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

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Beverly DeLaune, President  
St. Charles Parish Library Board

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Leann Benedict, Secretary  
St. Charles Parish Library Board