**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**September 20, 2021**

**Present**: Charleen Belcher, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Ginette Preto, Amanda Rabbitt, Barbara Steele of the Board, Library Director Felicia Oti, and Caleigh Keating, Youth Services Librarian.

**Call to Order**: Charleen called the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:** **Caleigh Keating** has been very busy with youth programming. During the month of September alone, there are 73 events scheduled. She has extended after-school offerings. All story hour programming has returned. Before Covid, she had introduced an ‘after nap and before dinner’ story time, which is now back and very popular. A new club, the IDEA Club, which means “Inclusivity, Diversity and Equity are Awesome” is a story time celebration at 4:00 p.m. on Mondays.

Another new program called BLAST, which means “Bringing Libraries and Students Together” partners the library with the middle schools. The Franklin Public Library staff brings library books to school and shows the students how to get a library card, check out books, and use the apps and databases.

Caleigh discussed two new books clubs for teens: a TikTok book review club and a WWII book club. The take and make crafts for kids and teens are very popular. An upcoming event on November 6th will be a Diwali celebration to expand the library’s multicultural offerings. In the new year, there will be a lunar celebration.

Over the summer, Book Bites for teens, was successful. Teens would bring their own snacks, sit outside, and talk about what they’re reading. Caleigh noted that the transition from summer to fall is always tricky. However, this year the group has stayed together. The teens are thriving, including very active summer reading. Also launched is the “1000 books before Kindergarten” initiative.

Besides expanded programming, collection development has been ongoing, including identifying non-fiction titles in need of updating.

**Alan Earls** from the Franklin Observer attended the meeting. He is trying to attend the meetings of all town boards and committees for his website.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Ginette:** Ginette asked Caleigh about homework help. Ginette noted that many students are behind in their learning. Felicia recalled that homework help was provided a few years ago. She will inquire if there are any retired teachers who are interested in bringing this back.

**Barbara:** ‘Andy and Judy’ performed on Sunday. Attendance was only 15 people; but they really enjoyed the show. The Library is now open Sundays until May.

**Amanda:** Amanda suggested that the library feature a database each month to promote the offerings.

**Strategic Plan:** The Board discussed the most recent draft of the strategic plan and sought clarification on a couple of points. Felicia will revise the draft and send it out to the Board again.

**Library Director’s Report:** Felicia asked if the Board had watched the television piece on the Library where Vicki discussed the gift of books from Benjamin Franklin which started the library. Vicki was chosen for the interview because she is the person on the staff most familiar with the materials.

Felicia and the staff are always asking, “How do we market ourselves better?‘ Felicia suggested that we use the tell a friend feature and the sign up online option available on the Franklin Public Library Facebook page. You can also request an email reminder for events.

Felicia noted that the crafts associated with story times are brought home due to Covid safety.

The Franklin Library Association has granted $95,374 in gifts for preservation purposes. Now they may provide funds for restoration based on the report produced by John Canning in 2019 for the reading room paintings. Felicia will follow up with the FLA.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on October 25, 2021.

**Agenda for next month:** At the next meeting we will receive a Franklin Library Association update and a website update.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski