Franklin Public Library

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2021

**Present**: Charleen Belcher, Sandi Brandfonbrener, Monique Doyle, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Ginette Preto, Amanda Rabbitt, Barbara Steele of the Board, and Library Director Felicia Oti.

**Call to Order**: Sandi called the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December meeting were approved as amended.

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Kathleen:** Kathleen suggested a member of the Teen Advisory Board might be wiling to attend a FPL Board meeting periodically. Amanda suggested that Caleigh might also like to attend a meeting to share the youth services perspective. Ginette suggested others from the library staff might be willing to share their thoughts or ideas with the Board.

**Amanda:** Amanda commented that Caleigh has been connected to Franklin’s Virtual Learning Academy. Caleigh has been very busy with each age group, offering age appropriate activities. Amanda also reported that the virtual art show is underway. A Google document will give parents permission for their child’s artwork to be displayed. Barbara noted that some parents may not want their child’s name posted with their artwork submissions.

**Reopening plans:** Ginette shared that parents have asked her if a book cart could go outside for children to browse when the weather improves. Felicia replied that if all goes well, when the part-timers return to work on February 28th, the Library will reopen. Felicia hopes that in March the Library will be open by reservation only Monday through Friday 1-6 p.m. and Saturdays. Temperatures will be taken before entering. Ginette suggested time slots where children are not present for seniors or adults with health issues. The Board shared ideas about reopening safely. It is likely there will be a soft opening to give an opportunity to fine tune the protocols.

Amanda suggested that when the library reopens, the library staff might offer office hours via Zoom so the community could ask questions without direct contact. People miss being able to ask a librarian for suggestions. The schools offer such office hours. Board members thought this was a great idea.

**Friends of Franklin Library:** The Friends of Franklin Library dropped off a check for $4000 for programming craft supplies. Felicia had requested $5000 [$2000 for youth and $3000 for adults.] The take home crafts have been extremely popular. Historically state aid has paid for these programs. However, the library staff is not sure how much state aid is coming. So the funds from the Friends are very helpful.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on February 22, 2021.

**Agenda for next month:** At the next meeting we will review the strategic plan, consider questions for the May 1st survey, and receive a reopening update.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski