

**LIBRARY TRUSTEE
NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

DECEMBER 15, 2010

PRESENT: Jen Foley (Chair), Sue Plante, Mike Lawler, Sara Santoro, Lisa Iodice, Carol Whitcher. Also Present: Dianne Hathaway (Director).

NONPUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (a) PERSONNEL

J. Foley moved, seconded by M. Lawler to enter non-public session at 8:48 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting in the affirmative.

S. Plante reported that she had a discussion with the staff about the fact that she was going to talk to the Board in non-public session about certain issues that had been brought to her attention by Sandy, Marsha and Barbara. Sandy Whipple had requested that this discussion be held in non-public session. S. Plante had received a telephone call during the month of September. She had also attended a staff meeting. All minutes of the budget discussions had been available at this time. The staff was very frustrated and felt that the Board of Trustees did not advocate for them or for the library. They were upset. They stated that several of the Trustees do not attend library events. The staff would hear compliments from the public about the success of the library programs, but never any comments from the Trustees. They suggested that more educational materials be distributed to the public through the Trustees. The staff told Sue that they appreciated the fact that she was meeting with them. The staff wanted to ensure that the Trustees realize how much the library means to them. Sue stated that she learned quite a bit by attending this staff meeting.

J. Foley commented that the staff should bring their concerns to the Director, as she is their supervisor. She stated the staff could certainly attend any public meeting, but they should not be encouraged to contact the Trustees directly.

M. Lawler stated that he is frustrated to hear this. When he speaks with the staff, he is not speaking on behalf of the Board. If they spoke with him, they would only get one person's opinion. If they are looking to hear the Board's decisions, they are better off approaching the Board through the Director. He further stated that he has not seen any of the staff members attend any public meetings that he has attended. The School Board meetings are heavily attended by teachers during their budget discussions.

S. Plante stated that she is not aware how often the Trustees attend any library functions. The Board members should make an effort to attend the library events.

D. Hathaway stated that her understanding is that the staff believes the Trustees' greatest ability is to advocate for the library and to attend library events and hear what the public has to say. The staff does not even know all of the Trustees.

M. Lawler suggested the Board hold a meeting with the staff. When he is in the building as a patron, he does not feel it is appropriate to ask the staff if they are happy with what is going on.

D. Hathaway responded that they just want to put a face to a name.

S. Plante advised that she has asked the staff to attend a meeting.

J. Foley responded that she works full-time and is not around during the daytime hours. She attends meetings at night and she doesn't get paid for this. She is a volunteer because she loves the library and is doing the best she can.

S. Plante stated that the discussions that occurred during budget season at meetings had a big impact on the staff. They were scared.

M. Lawler stated that the staff has always been extremely professional. He did speak with Jessica S. about the budget cuts. None of us said that we don't appreciate them and we are looking to cut the staff.

S. Plante responded that she was taken by surprise. She told Sandy that she is very much appreciated.

J. Foley stated that it is a little offensive to be policed and that we don't all show up for every function.

Carol suggested that the Board members report at the monthly meetings on the library events they have attended.

D. Hathaway suggested the Trustees schedule a meeting with the staff for the end of April and also invite the Friends of the Library. M. Lawler suggested this be held sooner than April. Carol agreed with Dianne's suggested of holding a meeting in April after the new Board members take office.

A date for this meeting will be chosen in the future.

J. Foley moved, seconded by C. Whitcher to return to public session. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting in the affirmative.

M. Lawler moved seconded by L. Iodice to seal the minutes for five years. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Duffy

These minutes are subject to Board approval.