

The Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:00 pm with the following:

**PRESENT:** Bennie Smith, President  
Courtney Hubbell, Vice-President  
Tonya Hearn (arrived at 5:14pm)  
Ruby LeBlanc  
Francine Middleton  
Archie Chaisson, Parish President & Library Liaison

**ABSENT:** Lauren Bordelon  
Carolyn Soley

Also present in the meeting: Laura Sanders, Library Director; Sherry Lucas, Finance/HR/Operations Manager; and Dana Clement, Administrative Assistant.

Ms. Smith stated after roll call, "We have a quorum and can move forward with our meeting."

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited together.

A motion to accept the LBC agenda was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously.

Public Wishing to Address the Board:

Mayor Joey Bouziga of Golden Meadow along with the Golden Meadow Council: Laci Latiolais, Mike Billiot, Kip Plaisance, Willis Toups, and Jody Cheramie were in attendance. Mayor Bouziga asked for an update on getting a Golden Meadow Library back. Mrs. Sanders thanked the Mayor and the Golden Meadow Town Council members for coming to the meeting and for facilitating the library's use of the Golden Meadow Senior Center as our Bookmobile site. Mrs. Sanders stated, "Unfortunately we are at a standstill with our Golden Meadow library plans. We have received zero insurance claim money for Golden Meadow. The Parish was forced to file a lawsuit against the insurance companies. FEMA will not pay until the insurance pays. Additionally, the amount of insurance coverage on the building will not enable us to rebuild the same size library due to the new building codes requiring elevated construction." Much discussion followed, with the Mayor suggesting that the Library at least have an architect draw up plans for a new Golden Meadow Library. Parish President Chiasson cautioned against going too far down that road when there are so many FEMA regulations prohibiting what can and cannot be done without jeopardizing the existing FEMA claim. Mrs. Sanders noted, "In the meantime, our Bookmobile visits the Golden Meadow Senior Center every Thursday to help out in the community until we come up with a more permanent plan. We will be expanding to two days a week after Labor Day, Tuesdays and Thursdays and are increasing the hours to 1pm – 5pm." Several Golden Meadow Council members spoke out regarding their frustration that nothing appears to be happening in regards to a new library. They asked that a flyer be sent to all Golden Meadow schools letting kids know what services we offer at the bookmobile with times and location. They also requested that the stat numbers for Bookmobile visits be sent to them. Additionally, they asked that the library look into the vacant Dollar General store as a possible library site. It was also said, "If we don't get a Golden Meadow library, our people will not be voting for your millage renewal", Mrs. Hubbell responded, "If you don't vote for our renewal then there will be no libraries to meet the community's needs. (Side note: all of their requests have been completed.)"

Finance Report:

Mrs. Lucas reported that LPLP currently has about a \$4.4 million fund balance to cover the remainder of the year's expenses and cover the beginning of next year. No additional ad valorem receipts will be transferred until February/March 2024. E-rate approved \$51,062 in internet discounts for the funding year that began July 1. Parish Finance has de-obligated funds leftover from the Thibodaux Addition and Lockport Entryway Modification projects that both came in under budget. Parish Finance has also completed the supplemental appropriations to add storefront lease funding and Thibodaux Emergency Fire Pump funding to the Library budget. Regarding FEMA/insurance, "All we have received to date from Hurricane Ida claims is \$662,410 for partial payment of South Lafourche content losses. All other insurance and FEMA proceeds are pending resolution of the Parish's legal action with those entities." A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, to accept the Finance Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Report:

Mrs. Sanders reported managing the daily operations of the library system and attended quite a few meetings in the last couple of months. The temporary South Lafourche Storefront passed the Fire Marshal inspection and will open Tuesday, Sept 5. There will be 10 public computers with internet, Wi-Fi, copying/faxing/printing, magazines, newspapers, DVD's, books, and a children's play area. This location will not have library programming due to its size. Thibodaux Branch fire pump update: Robert Utley is requesting a mandatory pre-bid conference to go over the specs with vendors for the fire pump. "Summer Experience was a huge success, many thanks to the COYC, Central Market and the Harang Auditorium for allowing us to host our bigger events at their sites. We have an amazing staff who worked hard bringing more library programming to our communities. Many thanks to our communities for another terrific summer." A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded Mrs. Hearn, to accept the Director Report. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

1. Discussion and approval of computer purchase for annual lab upgrades: Mrs. Sanders stated, "We bring computer purchases to the Board every year, except last year due to reduction of funds. The library has a rotation schedule in place to replace some outdated computers every year. The Board approved this in our 2023 budget". We want to purchase 26 all-in-one computers to replace some older models. A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, to accept the computer purchase with CNM Inc. at \$29,725.80 for the annual lab upgrades. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon absent, Mrs. Hearn yes, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mrs. Soley absent. The motion carried 5-0-2.
2. Discussion and approval of monitor purchases for lab upgrades: Mrs. Sanders stated, "We normally don't purchase monitors but most are outdated and need adaptors to work with new computers. Many are over 13 years old and are not fully functioning. The library would like to replace the older ones with larger monitors that are easier for our older population to see. We planned for this and the purchase is in the budget". A motion was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, to accept the monitor purchase with GovConnection at \$17,628.00 to replace old monitors as a part of our lab upgrade. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon absent, Mrs. Hearn yes, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mrs. Soley absent. The motion carried 5-0-2.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded by Mrs. Hearn, and carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control was adjourned at approximately 6:00pm.