

MINUTES OF
THE PLAINEDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(Via Zoom)
February 15, 2022

Present

Ellen Ryder, President
Laura Oden-Bell, Vice President
Ann Doxsey
Michael Giris
Doreen Oliver

Michele Lipson, Director
Michael Dietz, Systems Integrator

Guest: Kerri M.
Nicole M.
Fiona G.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM, by Ellen Ryder.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss public safety, legal and personnel issues was made by Laura Oden-Bell and seconded by Ann Doxsey at 7:10 PM.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Laura Oden-Bell and seconded by Doreen Oliver at 7:45 PM.

A motion to approve the resignation of night custodian, Edward Rivera was made by Ann Doxsey and seconded by Michael Giris. Motion passed unanimously. The Board and Administration noted that Eddie, a long time employee, will be missed. We are appreciative of the years he spent here and all of the work that he did.

A motion to approve hiring a part-time cleaner at an hourly salary of \$20 was made by Laura Oden-Bell and seconded by Ann Doxsey. Motion passed unanimously.

Opportunity for Guests: There were no public comments made.

The Board and Director heard from a few members of the community, prior to the meeting, requesting that we move from 'masks required' to 'masks optional.' While the Board understands the frustration (particularly for parents of young children), it is necessary to balance the needs of the entire community. At this time, it was decided not to change our current PPE Policy, but to align with the school district, and reevaluate our decision after the winter break, which ends on February 28th.

Pertinent comments:

A LOT of discussion and thought went into the Board decision.

There was an overriding feeling that since we often align with the schools and are a school district library, it makes sense to continue requiring masks at this time.

It was noted that although a few of the Board members personally felt that it was time to retire the masks, they commented that they set their personal feelings aside, as they took the entire community into consideration. They are of course concerned about the children and families in our community. They are also looking out for the elderly, immunocompromised individuals, our library staff, and anyone and everyone who uses our building. The Board felt that in the long run, it was worth being careful for a few more weeks.

We spoke about how the library is just a week past being back to full staff and full hours in our building. Our goal is obviously to keep our staff and community safe and healthy, while also performing all of the functions and services that we've always provided. We (as a community) have been doing this for over two years now and we know that we can do this for a short while longer. We are all looking forward to in person programs, optional mask wearing, outdoor programs... we're looking forward to a better and easier time for all of us.

We ask for the patience, endurance, and cooperation of the entire community as we get through the end of Winter and head into the Spring. This has been an unprecedented time. We're all just doing the best that we can do.

There were no questions about the Annual Report.

The Library operated in accordance with all provisions of Education Law and the Regulations of the Commissioner, and assures that the "Annual Report" was reviewed and accepted by the Library Board on (date – 02/15/2022).

A motion to accept the Annual Report for 2021 was made by Ann Doxsey and seconded by Doreen Oliver. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Doreen Oliver, and seconded by Laura Oden-Bell, at 8:05 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

The date of the next regular Board of Trustees meeting is Wednesday, February 23, 2022, via Zoom.

Secretary's Signature

Date of Approval

Secretary's Initials