

**LIBRARY MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
16 JANUARY 2024**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Emily Stanley, Jean Coltharp, David Layne, Jim Fleischaker, Jennifer Baldwin and Andrea Cullers, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Diane Reid Adams and Lisa Erickson.

**BOARD EDUCATION:** There was no Board Education.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the November 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Stanley to approve the minutes, with a second by Mr. Layne. Motion passed. **6/0**

**VOUCHERS:** The Board reviewed the revised October voucher, as well as the November and December vouchers.

The revised October non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$113,769.16 were approved.  
**(Coltharp/Fleischaker) 6/0**

November non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$39,758.73 were approved.  
**(Fleischaker/Stanley) 6/0**

December non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$41,326.14 were approved.  
**(Coltharp/Fleischaker) 6/0**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** There were no committee reports.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no Unfinished Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Leave Policy.** The Library Director presented a proposal for the creation of a shared sick leave fund to benefit Library employees who have depleted their leave totals due to a catastrophic illness or injury on their behalf or a close family member's behalf.

There was a motion by Mr. Fleischaker to approve this proposed leave fund, with a second by Ms. Stanley. The motion passed. **6/0**

There was then a motion by Mr. Layne to grant 100 hours of sick leave as seed hours for the fund, with a second by Mr. Fleischaker. Ms. Baldwin proposed a figure of 120

hours instead of 100. Mr. Layne amended his motion to reflect 120 hours. Mr. Fleischaker seconded. The motion passed. **6/0**

## **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:**

### **Media Engagement**

- Adult Winter Reading Challenge
  - On December 4, [KOAM](#) aired a story.
  - On December 14, PR/Marketing Assistant Lori Crockett shared about the challenge on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- Harry Potter Day
  - On December 5, I shared about the Harry Potter Day event on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
  - On December 6, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Harry Potter Day event in the "Five things to do this weekend" section.
- On December 27, [KODE](#) aired a story about researching your family tree at the Library.
- December 30, The Joplin Globe featured a front page sticky note about the cost savings the Library offers.
- On January 2, Lori Crockett shared how to save money with a library card on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- On January 3, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the children's chess club event in the "Five things to do this weekend" section.
- On January 7, [KSN](#) aired a story about using the Library's online resources during winter.
- On January 11, Lori Crockett shared about popular reads from 2023 and most anticipated ones for 2024 on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- On January 13, [KSN](#) aired a story about the Super Saturday Winter Wonder program.
- On January 14, [KSN](#) aired a story about the Library remaining open despite the inclement weather.

### **Programs**

- During December, Makerspace staff helped forty-nine users engrave wooden Santa cookie boards.
- On December 7, the Library hosted an all ages Harry Potter Day. Wand and potion making, themed selfies. Approximately 250 people participated in the half-day event.
- On January 13, the Children's Department hosted a Super Saturday program for families with two to five year olds. One hundred and ten people participated in winter themed activities.

### **Miscellaneous**

- The Missouri Public Library Directors (MPLD) conference was held in Columbia on December 7 and 8. In my role as MPLD President I was responsible for planning and hosting the conference. The slate of programs, which included an AI and library fundraising sessions, were well received and seventy-two library directors from around the state attended.

- The Library launched Library Calendar, a new online calendar and meeting reservation system, on January 2. In addition to booking meeting rooms online, users can now book Makerspace appointments online. Online passport appointments are to be made available soon.

**STATISTICS:** The Board discussed October 2023 statistics. All numbers were up in FY23. There was also discussion of November and December 2023 statistics.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** Jeana promoted the Black History Fair, which will take place on Saturday, February 10. There will be a special guest speaker.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** President Gaarder gave a Friends of the Library report on behalf of Dr. Reid Adams. Mr. Fleischaker shared news of the Kiwanis Pancake Feed on Thursday, Feb. 9.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Written by

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Administrative Assistant

Approved by

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Library Director

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joplin Public Library will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2024.