

The Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 5:00 pm with the following:

**PRESENT:** Bennie Smith, President  
Courtney Hubbell, Vice-President  
Ruby LeBlanc  
Francine Middleton

**ABSENT:** Archie Chaisson, Library Liaison  
Teddy Collins, Jr.  
Lauren Bordelon  
Tonya Hearn

Also present in the meeting room: Mrs. Laura Sanders; Library Director, Mrs. Sherry Lucas, Finance/HR/Operations Manager, and Mrs. 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. LeBlanc, and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the August 26, 2024 Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously.

Public Wishing to Address the Board: Harriet Autin Sigrist, 168 Griffin Lane, Golden Meadow. Ms. Sigrist asked multiple questions regarding the Golden Meadow Library: where will the new library be located, how large is the building, what is the population of Golden Meadow, how does the library determine the amount of space needed, has a construction firm been hired yet, and has the library received FEMA or insurance monies. Ms. Smith and Mrs. Sanders answered her questions as she took notes. The library will be built in the newly purchased building behind the site of the old library, the building is 8,000 sq feet, the population prior to the storm was 1,408 but has gone down since Ida, State Standards call for 1 sq ft per person, GFP architectural firm has been working on the drawings but are currently waiting on a site survey to be completed, the Parish was notified how much FEMA will be paying for Golden Meadow this month and the library has not seen any insurance money to date but the site was insured. Daniel Lorraine, 134 E 176 St., Golden Meadow stated the library Board and Director have done an okay job but the Director should have pushed more to get the Golden Meadow Library up and running. Mr. Lorraine stated his anger at the sign that was put up at the site which shows Wi-Fi is now available at the location. Mrs. Sanders reminded him we put Wi-Fi there at his request. He stated it wasn't soon enough. Ms. Sanders stated there wasn't electricity at the site prior to the new building purchased. Mr. Lorraine told Mrs. Sanders she should go to the council meetings because people have questions. "But I know you are scared to go, but it wouldn't matter because the people wouldn't get the truth." Ms. Sanders asked if he was calling her a liar to which he replied, "You said that, not me". Mrs. Sanders reminded Mr. Lorraine she doesn't often attend the meetings because he verbally attacks her when she goes. Mr. Lorraine asked Ms. Smith when was our millage up, 2025? He then stated you barely passed it last time and all the money comes from South Lafourche whether you believe it or not, so you might not pass because we haven't had a library in 3 years and people are not going to vote for you. Ms. Smith reminded him that if the millages do not pass there will be no libraries. Ms. Smith thanked the two individuals for coming.

Finance Report: Mrs. Lucas reported that LPPL had a fund balance of \$4.2 million at the end of July and today's balance is \$3.75 million. The Parish Council approved our amended 2024 Budget in August. Project updates: Thibodaux Fire Pump is complete and the parish will payout the remaining balance before the end of the year. Since the South Lafourche Project is the Parish's Restoration project, the library will not be kept up to date with the project's expenditures, this could be the same situation with the Golden Meadow Branch construction project as well. 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. Mrs. Sanders gave an update on Branch Projects: Thibodaux Sprinkler Project has finally been completed; South Lafourche Project received a notice to proceed Monday, Oct. 21, the contract is 365 days; the Golden Meadow Project is waiting on a site survey to be completed before they can continue with the architectural plans. Mrs. Sanders reported, "FEMA has stated they will pay the parish \$2,620,375.20 for the Golden Meadow branch damage but no insurance funds have been reported" she also added, "the extra building has been demolished and the site has been cleaned" Ms. Carolyn Solet was presented with her plaque at her home for her years of dedicated service to the Library Board on Sept 25, 2024. Mrs. Sanders stated our millage amounts were approved by the council at the rates the Board chose with Mr. Lorraine voting no for each. This concluded the Director's report. A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded Mrs. Middleton, to accept the Director Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Order of Business:

1. Election of Officers for 2025; Mrs. Sanders opened the election for 2025 Officers for the Library Board of Control by asking for nominations for President. Courtney Hubbell nominated Bennie Smith for President. Mrs. Sanders asked Ms. Bennie if she accepted, and she agreed. Mrs. Sanders asked three times if there were any more nominees for President and there were none. Mrs. Sanders announced Bennie Smith as the President for 2025. Again, in a repeated effect, Mrs. Sanders opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President. Bennie Smith nominated Courtney Hubbell for Vice President, and she accepted. Mrs. Sanders asked three times if there were any more nominees for Vice-President and there were none. Mrs. Sanders announced Courtney Hubbell as the Vice-President for 2025. Mrs. Sanders, "Congratulations to Bennie Smith and Courtney Hubbell as our newly elected officers for the 2025 calendar year. Thank you for your time and support of our Library System."

New Business:

1. Discussion and approval of the 2025 LPPL Library calendar; Mrs. Sanders explained we followed the previous year's calendar and the *LPPL Holiday Policy 5.02*. Mrs. Sanders stated, there were only 2 additions to the 2025 calendar to discuss. Staff Day was stopped when the present Parish Administration started doing insurance enrollment online. After much deliberation, the Library Administration feels it would be a great resource day for staff to get together and work on Summer Experience since our program has gotten so big over the years. This would occur on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, whereby the library would be closed to the public but staff would work all day. The second addition to the calendar is closing the library on the Saturday after Christmas next year, but it would not be a paid holiday. Staff would still earn their hours prior to the holiday just like they do when we close on the Saturday before Easter and Mardi Gras. "With the way the calendar fell this year it seemed like a great way to give staff an additional day off to spend with family and friends with no cost to us." With no discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, to accept the 2025 LPPL Library calendar. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Discussion and approval of LPPL's cost share for the 2025 Employee Health Insurance Coverage; Mrs. Sanders explained, "Blue Cross health premium cost is staying the same for 2025 with no change to coverage or rates". Mrs. Sanders went through an insurance worksheet displaying two options for the board to review; the current library rates vs the Parish's rates for their employees. Mrs. Sanders also stated dental cost has gone down slightly with a new dental company, Delta Dental, being utilized and recommends the Library continue to pay the low basic dental amount for all employees as they have in the past. The vision care plan is also changing to Community Eye Care but the library doesn't pay any portion of vision care for employees. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, to accept the rates of 97.3% of individual coverage and 91% of dependent coverage for LPPL health care which mimics the Parish's employee's rates for 2025 and to pay \$11.06 per employee for dental coverage. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon absent, Mrs. Hearn absent, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mr. Collins Jr. absent. The motion carried 4-0-3.
3. Discussion and approval of participating in the Parish's Employee Assistance Program; Mrs. Sanders explained EAP from Hidalgo Health Associates is a confidential counseling program that is offered at no cost to all LPPL employees and their dependents to provide almost immediate access to mental health and other counseling services free of charge to the employee. The Library has participated in this parish-offered benefit for several years now, at a cost of \$3.25 per employee per month. Mrs. Sanders suggested, "that we continue to have this benefit for our employees". A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, to continue participation in the EAP program. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon absent, Mrs. Hearn absent, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mr. Collins, Jr. absent. The motion carried 4-0-3.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, and was carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control adjourned at 5:30pm.