

West Linn Library Advisory Board Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

West Linn Public Library in person in the Community Room & Zoom a hybrid meeting

Link to video:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/KZq0CiGTJHZ6Ow_cl1jKsZ1i7gmBj2FBDqbN6w7veewcEeOPwOYXBhVCIrNmM9U.wKfVaa08DQppz2vf

Present members: Library Advisory Board (LAB) members: Amy Porter, Martha Swanson, Matt Brown, Rachael Hyde, Jessica Wise

Absent: Councilor Leo Groner, Liaison to the Library Advisory Board (*excused*)
Janet Dalgaard, Library Advisory Board member (*excused*)
Rebecca Mayer, Circulation Supervisor (*excused*)

Staff present: Doug Erickson, Director of Library & Community Services
Sarah Flathman, Youth Services Library Manager

Call to order: Martha Swanson called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Minutes review: 10.17.2023 Amy Porter moved to approve & Rachel Hyde 2nd Minutes approved with no edits or changes. 5:0

Agenda review: No additions or edits to agenda

Public Comment: None

Library Leadership Update:

- Library Staff Introduction
- Library District Advisory Board and Library Master IGA
- Proposal for Quarterly Meeting Schedule
- Public School & Library Partnership

Library Staff Introduction: Sarah Flathman shared that going forward, various library staff members will be invited to join this meeting and share more about their role at the library. Sarah introduced Amy Newman, the Children's and Tween Librarian.

Amy shared that she moved to West Linn from Epping, New Hampshire a little over a year ago where she worked as a school librarian for middle and high school students. This is her first time working at a public library and she oversees the young teen collection as well as chapter books and graphic novels for kids. She focuses primarily on programming for tweens but also leads occasionally events for kids. Her favorite program that she's offered so far was having eggs at the library that hatched into chickens; this involved live

streaming the eggs leading up to hatching and offering programs called “Chill with a Chick.” She will offer this activity for the second time in April.

Library District Advisory Board and Library Master IGA: Doug provided an overview of an issue currently being discussed among the Library District Advisory Board which involves the Library Master Intergovernmental Agreement. The Library Master IGA is between all cities as well as the county and states that funding provided by the Library District is to be used for operational expenses such as materials and supplies. Since that time several libraries have used some of these funds for capital improvements. Doug stated that West Linn is not one of those libraries. The County has decided they want to better define how funding can be used and is discussing this with City Managers.

Proposal for Quarterly Meeting Schedule: Sarah proposed moving from a bi-monthly to a quarterly meeting schedule. It can be difficult to find meeting dates that work for everyone and ensure there are enough in attendance for a quorum. The group voted 5-0 to move to a quarterly schedule and to meet the months of February, May, August, and November and keep to the third Tuesday of the month at 5pm.

Public School & Library Partnership: Ann Marie Colton, Teacher Librarian at Stafford Primary School, asked for the opportunity to share with board members the positive impact our partnership has had on her students as well as how it has directly impacted her. She read the below statement:

Thank you for adding me to your agenda this evening. My name is Ann-Marie Colton, and I am the Teacher Librarian at Stafford Primary School here in West Linn. I wanted to take a moment this evening to express my gratitude to the West Linn Public Library for its connection and collaboration with the West Linn public schools.

I began teaching at Stafford eight years ago as a 4th grade teacher. I was thrilled to meet Kimberly Rhoades my first year at Stafford and quickly jumped at the chance to work with her in finding books and resources to support my teaching and student learning that was happening in my classroom. Sometimes it was finding upwards of 50 books for a unit of study, or maybe it was providing a few copies of a much-needed title for a book club. Being able to utilize books outside of our school library was critical in providing students with enough resources to be able to read, research, and write about the various topics that I was teaching.

Three years ago, I moved to the Teacher Librarian position at Stafford and my connection to the West Linn Public Library and the services provided to students grew even stronger. As a Teacher Librarian, I am able to connect other teachers in our building with Kimberley in order to find resources that they need for teaching various subjects. Teachers Pre-K through 5th grade (literally all our teachers) have utilized this service that the West Linn Library provides.

I have shared the educator book lists and newsletters created by the West Linn children's librarians with the teachers I work with. The newsletters and book lists help

our teachers curate their own classroom libraries, gives them suggestions on read aloud, and also helps me think about new titles I may want to add to our book room or library.

As a teacher librarian, I have taken checked out the ozobot robots from the library and used them with students K-5 during our library class time. These robots teach students coding, problem solving, and teamwork. Without being able to check them out from the library, I would not be able to give students access to this rich experience. I am still trying to figure out how to incorporate your traveling kitchen into a science, technology, or literacy lesson!

Last year I worked to create a new section of our school library to focus on our earliest readers. We just didn't have books at Stafford for ALL our students. I spent time at the West Linn Library asking questions of the staff here, perusing titles in this section of the library, and discussing with the librarians which books they would recommend I add to my library. After months of research, budgeting, and purchasing this new section of our Stafford Library is up and running and a smashing success with ALL our students. Having the opportunity to collaborate on this project really made all the difference to me.

Last year I was also thrilled to be able to participate in a book club between the West Linn Teacher Librarians and other members of the district along with the West Linn librarians and staff. We discussed a couple of books by the author Kwame Alexander over a delicious meal cooked by Director Doug Erickson. Coming together as a community of librarians and those who work with many of the children in our community, and to talk about the important topics illuminated in Kwame Alexander's books was truly transformative. The book club event was in connection with the Community Equity Summit which was another amazing collaboration within the community.

Not only has the West Linn Public Library worked so thoughtfully in supporting teachers, there are amazing services created just for our students. Our kiddos can bring their public library books to our school library to be returned and Kimberley gathers them and brings them back here. Our students are able to attend STEAM activities on early release days. These sessions provide them with hands-on experiences while giving them an opportunity to extend their learning on days when school ends early.

The Summer Reading Program is another example of how the West Linn Library seeks to work with our schools and students. This engaging program encourages students to continue to read over the summer and is done in such an inclusive, fun, engaging, and positive way. Students LOVE it...and I know that all the hard work the librarians put into it isn't always seen but I want you to know that it is truly appreciated.

The truth is that I could go on and on about the many ways that our schools and the public library work together to support one another. I feel truly blessed to work in a community that values the connection between the library and our schools. I am working on attaining my library endorsement and recently had an assignment to read from a book called Library Partnerships: Making Connections Between School and

Public Libraries. As I read, I realized that all the connections that were suggested in the reading were things already happening here in West Linn. In fact, the services, connections, and collaboration between the West Linn Library and our schools go beyond the examples from the reading. In a discussion post for my class, I mentioned this to my classmates, and many were in awe of the collaboration between our schools and the public library. In this reading assignment, I also came across a quote that really resonated with me. It says, "On the road between friends' houses, grass does not grow. And neither should it grow between school and public libraries whether that road is paved or virtual." How thankful I am that our path is well-worn and together, as colleagues and friends, we can make our community a better place.

So, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the West Linn Public Library board for allowing me to speak tonight to Doug Erickson for understanding and supporting the connection between our schools and the library, to all the children's librarians here at the West Linn Library in your outstanding work in collaborating with our schools, and finally to Kimberley for keeping the path between us well-worn!

Foundation Update: Doug reported that the Foundation is planning on another fundraiser for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library tentatively scheduled for April. Details will be shared with the group once this is finalized.

Board Comments: Amy Porter requested more information shared in future meetings regarding the budget and expenditures, buildings, and grounds as well as policies. Rachel Hyde asked for more monthly updates sent out about programming, similar to the circulation statistics that are compiled and shared monthly. Matt Brown inquired about technology and if there were any updates regarding the LINCC mobile app or plans to revamp the library catalog. This feedback will be incorporated into future meetings along with inviting guests who are the point of contact on a particular topic.

Adjourn: Martha Swanson adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Flathman
Assistant Library Director
2.21.2024

Upcoming meetings: May 21, 2024, 5:00pm