

Library Board Trustee Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2025

Trustees

Jeffery Kohler – Chair	Destinie Hart – Vice Chair
Laura Knutson – Treasurer	Josh Cummings – Trustee
	Josi Christensen - Trustee

Meridian Cherry Lane Library
1326 Cherry Lane
Meridian, ID 83642
Conference Room

Regular Session

Trustees present: All present

Staff present:

Nick Grove, Library Director; Dan P., Manager; Holly D., Administrative Assistant; Ema B., Finance & Accounting Manager; Vassil I., AD of Branches; Jenny L, Material Services Manager; Rebekah B., Librarian

AGENDA ITEMS

1) Call to Order: 7:00pm

2) Public Comment

Chair Kohler noted the three minute limit per speaker and asked all speakers to adhere to the District's Code of Conduct and Public Comment policies.

- a. Kirk Van Allen
-Van Allen came before the board to share his comments. Van Allen noted that his family has "been reflected" in the library, including his children who identify as part of the LGBTQ community. He noted that many of the books being challenged featured homosexual characters, and that, in his words, book bans are about control.
- b. Lindsay Van Allen
-Lindsay Van Allen came before the board as a library patron with children who love the library and thanked the board for the chance to check out books that "speak to our family's experience." She said, as a parent, she recognizes that not all books are for all families, but asked that other parents step up and have tough conversations with their children. She also said that book bans are about "demonizing libraries" and iterated the importance of keeping access to the library free.

Meredith Hotchkiss

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- Hotchkiss, a longtime Meridian resident and ER nurse, noted the many children she has taken care of in her career, especially those who had attempted suicide because they didn't feel accepted for their sexual orientation or identity. She admitted her responsibility as a mother and grandmother to the children in her family, and she thanked the library board for its work.
- c. Alyssa Porter
-Porter thanked the board and the library for its work. She encouraged parents to take responsibility for their children and what they're reading. She spoke to an experience at her child's school, where the District's Bookmobile stopped by the school and checked out books that were not age appropriate. She noted her worry for her children and for the librarians on the Bookmobile, and asked that policies be reviewed and tightened, if necessary.
- d. David Bettinger
-David said he was given a book that involved adult men and boys engaged in sexual activity. He voiced his concern at these kinds of books being available to minors. He asked why the library does not ID people who come in to check out pornographic material.
- e. Rachel Ward
-Ward, a Meridian resident, said she hopes for politically neutral libraries, where Republicans and Democrats can both feel comfortable with how their tax dollars are being spent. She said she feels the issue is more about content and not book banning. She gave examples of books with LGBTQ characters with many copies on the shelf at Meridian Library District. She asked that the board either not have those kinds of books or "represent the other side."
- f. Karlie Easley
-Easley, a Boise resident, said she has spent all her life going to Idaho public libraries. Heterosexuality, she said, is well represented. As a mother, she noted she recognizes the need to have difficult conversations with her children. She also voiced her opposition to book bans.

3) Consent Agenda **[ACTION ITEM]**

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2025
- b) Policies
 - i) AI Handbook
 - ii) Internet Access

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iii) Naming Opportunity

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- iv) Unattended Youth & Vulnerable Adult
- c) Job Descriptions
 - i) AD of Operations
 - ii) AD of Branches
 - iii) Library Page
 - iv) Branch Supervisor

Motion passed by unanimous vote

4) Financials [ACTION ITEM]

-Financial Manager Brenneman noted she would be happy to answer any questions from the trustees. Trustee Cummings asked about a \$12,000 expense to the Boise Library. Director Grove said it was a quarterly expense for the Lynx Library Consortium, going to purchase and update software for the consortium independent from BPL's system. This charge is shared across all libraries in the consortium.

- a) Approval of Q1 FY 2025 Financial Reports & Electronic Disbursements
- b) Disbursement Approvals December 2024

Motion to approve: Trustee Cummings

Second: Trustee Knutsen

Vote: All in favor

5) Budget Hearing Date for FY2026 Budget Memorandum [ACTION ITEM]

-As required by Idaho law, the board must approve a date for the public hearing of the FY2026 budget. The proposed date is the same as a regular board meeting. By approving the date, the District will be able to publish it.

Motion to approve: Trustee Knutsen

Second: Trustee Hart

Vote: All in favor

6) Cherry Lane Renovation Service Orders

-Director Grove said this was a formality done for all the projects falling under the master service agreement with MSR. With every project, service orders are required under the language set forth in the master service agreement.

- a) MSR Service Order 9 [ACTION ITEM]

Motion to approve: Trustee Cummings

Second: Trustee Hart

Vote: All in favor

- b) MSR Service Order 10 [ACTION ITEM]

Motion to approve: Trustee Cummings

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Second: Trustee Hart

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Vote: All in favor

7) **Signing Authority for Cherry Lane Renovation Memorandum** [ACTION ITEM]

-With recent changes to Idaho law, new language is required for the MSR master services agreement. This would allow Director Grove to sign the amended services agreement. Chair Kohler asked what would happen if the board did not approve the memorandum. Director Grove noted it would have significant impact on the timeline for the Cherry Lane renovations. The memorandum is not asking for funds, only for the authority to use the funds set aside in the FY2025 budget. Trustee Christensen asked if there would be a follow up report on what is signed between board meetings. Director Grove noted those items are always included in the board packet. Trustee Knutson asked the District involve Trustee Cummings as the board liaison for the renovations in those decisions to sign.

Motion to approve the memorandum authorizing Director Groe to sign: Trustee Cummings

Second: Trustee Christensen

Vote: All in favor

8) **Staff Presentation**

9) **Director Updates**

- a) Director Grove presented his monthly report to the board, including the current plans for the Cherry Lane renovation and two staff members who have recently completed their MLIS degrees. He also noted that the District is working on a MOA between the District and any schools the Bookmobile stops at, making clear the roles and responsibilities of each party involved at those stops.
- b) For the Cherry Lane renovation project, Trustee Knutson asked about the curtain in the classroom space, and what exactly that means. Director Grove said the material is very flexible like a regular curtain, but it is designed to be noise cancelling, providing extra privacy for users and protecting the limited storage space in the classroom space. Trustee Hart thanked Director Grove for the thoroughness of the presentation and noted that it does seem the branch will retain much of its old-school charm. Trustee Christensen asked if the local art featured currently will be preserved in the renovation. Director Grove said it might not be an opening day feature, but it will likely make a return.
- c) Assistant Director Ivanov addressed the questions regarding Cherry Lane staff and where they will go while the building is closed for renovations. The District is not currently hiring for all vacant positions to make it easier to hold onto staff and to ensure every staff member has something to do. The Cherry Lane staff currently makes up about 34% of the entire staff. Plans are in place to rotate teams in and out of the other branches, as well as assigning some teams to special projects such as digitization and digital asset organization.
- d) Trustee Christensen asked what the feedback has been for this plan for staff. Assistant Director Ivanov said it's been mostly positive. Trustee Cummings noted this plan highlights the effectiveness of the reorganization put in place some years ago, and



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encouraged Admin to take advantage of the Meridian Library Foundation

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and the Friends of the Library in the special projects.

- e) Director Grove also highlighted the achievements of the Foundation, with a grant from the First Federal Foundation this month paying for a new interactive “chime wall” at the new Pinnacle branch. In the last five years, the Foundation has raised over \$1 million for the District.

10) Request For Reconsideration Director Memorandum [ACTION ITEM]

- a) Director Grove presented his memorandum to the board regarding a request for reconsideration filed by a patron. The book, *Prince and Knight* by Daniel Haack, lives in the children's section at Orchard Park and Cherry Lane. The request for reconsideration claimed the book was “inappropriate” for children and requested it be moved to the adult section. The director's report advised that the book remain in the collection and remain where it is currently shelved.
- b) Chair Kohler reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the board in this process. The District's Collection Development Policy guides the addition and deletion of items in the District's collection. Both staff and board members adhere to this policy. When HB710 passed last year in the Idaho legislature, it added stipulations for libraries to follow as they review requests for reconsideration. Requests for reconsideration become public record once they are filed with the District. Chair Kohler read from the policy, reminding those in attendance that the burden of proof is on the filer to prove the material is harmful to minors. The written report is also made public after the meeting in which it is presented. HB710 also outlines criteria for what constitutes “harmful to minors.” The board is required to judge the work based on these criteria.
- c) Trustee Hart noted this is the first request that has come before the board since HB710 was passed. She also noted the entirety of the request was not completed, with section two of the form being empty. She encouraged the community to use this form for “legitimate concerns” and not as an outlet to voice political or personal beliefs. Chair Kohler added that while section two was not filled out, it was signed, and the District's legal counsel advised that the form be considered completed as is.

Motion to approve Director Grove's recommendation and keep th book in the Children's section:
Trustee Cummings

Second: Trustee Knutsen

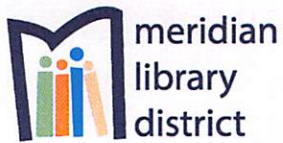
Roll call Vote: Trustee Kohler – yes

Trustee Hart – yes

Trustee Knutsen – yes

Trustee Cummings – yes

Trustee Christensen - yes



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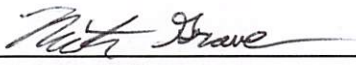
11) Future agenda items **[DISCUSSION ITEM]**

-Director Grove said the usual rotation for policies and job descriptions will continue as usual. Chair Kohler said he would like an update on Cherry Lane as those updates are available. Trustee Hart asked for a presentation from the Friends or the Foundation at a future meeting and voiced her appreciation for the community's interest in library board meetings.

12) Adjournment: 8:54pm

The next regular Library Board Meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm, March 19, 2025

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED AND APPROVED



Nick Grove, Director



Jeffrey Kohler, Board Chair