

- The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library was held on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at the PWRL St Marys Headquarters Library.
- CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Pam Bales called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Peggy Adams was Secretary. Others present were Board Members: Alice Hinck, Paulette Simecka, and Alicia Matson; Pat Weixelman, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; Judith Cremer, Director, and Rain Schultz-Pruner, Assistant Director.
- ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA: Peggy Adams moved to adopt the meeting agenda as presented. Paulette Simecka seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- PUBLIC COMMENT – LIMIT TO 5 MINUTES UNLESS LONGER APPROVED BY BOARD
- PWRL Policy specifies that if a group wishes to make a presentation to the Board, the time allotment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes unless otherwise approved by a majority of the Board. The group will have to identify a spokesman (spokesmen) not to exceed six people, to speak within the thirty minutes.
- Richard Binsfeld, as spokesman for a group of citizens, requested prior to the June Library Board Meeting to speak to the Library Board about their concerns.
- The following members of the public signed in and were present at this meeting. Bill Flannigan, Kathy Brown, Paul Craig, Greg Thibeault, Dennis Miller, Chrissy Rutledge, Stephen Murtha, Richard Binsfeld, Gerard Keiser, John-Paul Rutledge, Genevieve Hagenmaier, Maria Drippe, Serra Melechinsky, Luis Jacas, Carol Fryzelka, David Melechinsky, Eileen Querubin, Greg Slotto, Brian O’Leary, Gail O’Leary.
- Each speaker was given five minutes to speak for a total of 30 minutes, per PWRL policy. The PWRL Board heard the concerns of the group. Stephen Murtha, Kathy Brown, Eileen Querubin, David Melechinsky, Gerard Keiser, and Richard Binsfield addressed the Board. Written statements were submitted by Stephen Murtha, David Melechinsky, and Gerard Keiser. The recommendation of Mr. Binsfeld’s group was that the library should withhold any book containing LGBTQ+ content from patrons under the age of 18.
- Kathy Brown, Paul Craig, Greg Thibeault, Stephen Murtha, John-Paul Rutledge, Genevieve Hagenmaier, Swrra Melechinsky, Luis Jacas, Carol Fryzelka, David Melechinsky, Eileen Querubin, Greg Slotto, Brian O’Leary, and Gail O’Leary left the meeting after the conclusion of the public comments.
- There was a lengthy discussion about the concerns presented to the Board by the citizens group. Members of the St. Marys Advisory Committee who were present also participated in the discussion. The suggestion was made that members of the advisory committee could work with any concerned community members to identify any specific titles that are located on the shelves here at the St. Marys location that contain content that is a cause for concern. PWRL policy and procedure could then be used to address those specific concerns. Pat Weixelman left the meeting at this point.

- APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF May 31, 2023 meeting: Pam Bales moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Paulette Simecka seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION: None.
- REPORT OF TREASURER: Paulette Simecka, Board Treasurer, reported the Library received ad valorem funds from Wabaunsee County in the amount of \$38,533.91. Of that amount, \$34,371.98 was allocated to the General Fund and \$4,161.93 was allocated to the Employee Benefits Fund.
- APPROVAL OF BILLS: Alice Hinck moved that the Board approve and pay the bills as presented. Peggy Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- NCKL REP. REPORT: The next NCKL Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2023. This will be the NCKL Annual Meeting held in person at the Manhattan Public Library. The agenda will include the NCKL 2024 Service Plan, the NCKL 2024 Budget, a request to confirm the division of NCKL from Manhattan Public Library, and a request to confirm the status of Sandy Wilkerson as the new NCKL Director.
- DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
  - Judith reported on Library Staffing. Janet Hulinsky, Onaga Assistant Branch Librarian and Westmoreland Substitute Librarian had to accelerate her departure from the Library. Her last day was Saturday June 17th. She will be greatly missed. The openings at Onaga and Westmoreland have been posted and interviews are being scheduled.
  - Bailey Keenan, who previously served as the PWRL Processing Clerk, left this position at the end of May. She has been rehired to work in June and July in a temporary position. She will assist the St. Marys Branch Librarian with managing the annual Summer Reading Program, and will primarily be working at the St. Marys circulation desk to help fill current gaps in staffing at that location.
  - Destiny Santacroce, who previously worked as an Assistant Branch Librarian at St. Marys, has been hired as the new Processing Clerk at St. Marys. She will begin in this new position on August 1st.
  - The Library was notified that Jody Hiegert, who worked some time ago as a Substitute Librarian at the PWRL Eskridge Branch Library, passed away suddenly. Annie Compton, who is currently the Assistant Branch Librarian at Eskridge is Jody's daughter. A card and memorial money from the library flower fund was given to the family.
  - Per the auditor's recommendations library staff will be adjusting the financial procedures going forward. Preliminary copies of the June financial reports were given to the Board at this meeting. In July these reports will be revised to include transactions for the full month of June, rather than stopping on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The revised

reports will be sent to the Board for review in the July board packet. Previously transactions made after the 15th of the month had to be posted in the next month. This practice caused problems with account reconciliation. This change will resolve this issue and provide the Board a more complete and accurate financial picture.

- Judith reported on the plans for the St. Marys 4th of July celebrations. The St. Marys Literary Club will be hosting a pie sale at the Senior Center on Saturday, July 1st. The Library will work with them to add a book sale to this event. The Library will also participate in the parade scheduled for that Saturday.
- Melanie Smith, the St. Marys Branch Librarian, will be staffing a booth in the St. Marys park on both Saturday and Sunday. She will be offering information about the library, and cotton candy, to the public. Donations to the Library will be gratefully accepted.
- PWRL submitted an application to the Kansas State Library for the Kansas Notable Book Grant. The library will receive a reimbursement for the cost of one copy of each of the books listed on the 2023 Kansas Notable Book List.
- PWRL also submitted an application to the Jere F. Miller Charitable Trust for a grant to support the purchase of the paint and supplies needed to complete the mural that has been planned for the shed adjacent to the pocket park at the St. Marys Headquarters Library. The Trust notified the Library that PWRL has been approved for a grant of \$1,799 to support this project.
- The certified valuation has been received from the Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee County Clerks. Copies of the updated tax data sheet were distributed to the Board. The certified population is scheduled to be released by the Kansas Division of the Budget on July 1st. Once that information is available the final update to the Tax Data Sheet for the 2024 PWRL Library Budget will be completed and sent to each county.
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
- BY-LAWS UPDATE: After discussion Paulette Simecka moved that the Board approve the proposed changes to the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library Board of Trustees By-Laws which have been under discussion for several months. Alice Hinck seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
- ALL TOGETHER NOW – 2023 SUMMER READING/SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM: The first month of the annual Summer Reading / Summer Food Program has been very busy. Staff have been working very hard and a full calendar of programs and events have been prepared and presented at all eight PWRL locations.
- As of Friday, June 23rd, PWRL has served 3,115 meals to children in Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee Counties as part of the annual Summer Food Program. Six locations were able to offer the grab & go Summer Food Program this year. Alta Vista will be allowed to

begin a Summer Food Program starting July 5th. The St. Marys Headquarters location was denied the opportunity to offer Summer Food. The USDA instead approved USD321 to undertake the responsibility for providing this service in that community.

- Calendars and Program flyers for Summer Reading activities at each location have been posted to the Library webpage. Events will also be announced via the Library Facebook page. School visits were scheduled at each school prior to the summer break and Summer Reading materials were distributed directly to children in each of our communities at that time.
- The Library is very thankful for the contributions to the 2023 PWRL Summer Reading Program from the Kansas Corn organization. They provided craft projects and snacks, as well as a complete educational curriculum, for six different learning modules to supplement our annual program. The Kansas Corn educational material is very well organized, and the group generously provided nearly 6,000 items to support the library and our young readers.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
- **ST MARYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Chairman Pam Bales, with the approval of the Board, appointed the following individuals to act as a special committee of the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library Board of Trustees. Bill Flannigan, Paulette Simecka, Claire Pearl, Chrissy Rutledge, Maria Drippe, and Dennis Miller.
- Advisory Committee members were charged by the Board to work in partnership with the Library to improve understanding between the Library and Community while assisting the Library in its mission to provide all residents with the best possible Library service.
- Under PWRL policy a special committee is to serve until the completion of the work for which they were appointed. Committees of the Board shall be subject to the direction of the Board and its constituted officers, and shall have no power to act independently unless for a specifically authorized purpose or function.
- **BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2023:** The July Library Board Meeting is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. at the PWRL Alma Branch Library on Wednesday, July 26, 2023.
- **ADJOURNMENT:** Peggy Adams moved that the meeting be adjourned. Paulette Simecka seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



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Chairman



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Secretary