

Bonneville County Library District

Minutes of the Bonneville County Library District Board of Trustees Meeting November 29, 2023

Called to order at 9:05 am by Board Chair Debra Haacke

Present: Karen Harris, Rebecca Blackson, Library Director Michelle Tolman, and District Clerk Myra Judkins. Debra Haacke, Jenni Cragun, and Jennifer Crofts joined by video conference. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Each member of the board was given time to express their perceptions and concerns about Michelle's upcoming speaking engagement. Some board members were concerned about the director presenting at political venues since that can be construed as an endorsement of a particular group or ideal. The board feels it is important for libraries to share accurate information with their patrons while being neutral and inclusive.

Michelle is excited to share the inspiring journey of building a thriving library system. Her goal in speaking is to help the community to see the good that can come when people work together. The board expressed confidence in Michelle's ability to answer questions in a balanced, positive, and professional way.

As many issues are being considered by lawmakers, the board wishes to avoid divisiveness as much as possible. The overall desire is for the library district to continue supporting and benefiting the entire community.

Because this is a complex topic, the board agreed to discuss it further at the next regular meeting.

On a motion duly made and seconded after due deliberation, the following resolution passed:

RESOLVED, that the board supports Michelle presenting tonight because it's at a non-partisan venue and she will make it clear that she is speaking for herself. (Jen motioned, Karen seconded.)

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, December 14th, 2023 at 9:00 am at the Ammon Branch, 3015 S 25th E Ammon, ID 83406.

Karen left the meeting at 10:16.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am by unanimous vote. (Debra motioned, Jenni seconded.)