

SCOTT COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024
NOON

The agenda for this meeting was posted in public in all Scott County Library System Libraries in accordance with Iowa law. President Kristal Koberg Schaefer called to order the March 25, 2024, meeting of the Scott County Library Board of Trustees at noon at the Eldridge branch.

Board of Trustees present: Linda Tuftee, Kevin Cahill, Dan True (zoom), Kristal Koberg Schaefer, Marty O'Boyle, Nicky Wuestenberg, Shelli Engelbrecht, Angie Ehlers, and Director Tricia Kane.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved by Linda Tuftee; seconded by Nicky Wuestenberg. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Kevin Cahill moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Linda Tuftee. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills and Receipts: The Accounts Payable Report for the meeting of Scott County Board of Supervisors for 1/12/24 – 3/15/24 were reviewed and discussed. Nicky Wuestenberg moved to approve the bills and receipts; seconded by Angie Ehlers. Motion carried.

Review of the Circulation and Budget: We had a few weather closures in January so we were down a bit in numbers compared to last January, but up from two years ago. Saw a little dip in programming, also weather related. February is consistent with a year ago. Programming looking strong compared to two years ago. Library card count is up.

Budget – Revenues taken in show more from Enrich Iowa and library fees and donations (memorials, Friends of Eldridge). We overspent on vehicles (which was anticipated), vehicle maintenance (bookmobile), programming and supplies (donations will offset this).

Board of Education: We reviewed the Friends of Eldridge Library Annual Activity Report. They pay for a variety of things, and help us in many aspects. They are an incredibly important group to the library system.

Director's Report:

- The bookmobile has had generator issues this past year and those have resulted in the bookmobile being out of service. In December, Cummings found some issues and did some repair work that they hoped would take care of the problem, but the generator continued to work intermittently. After further diagnostics, Cummings determined that a new generator was needed. It has been replaced and the bookmobile is working great, but it came at a cost of \$13,400.
- Cindi Davis, past employee, passed away in January and the Scott County Library System was named as a memorial – we have received \$3,000. Per her family's wishes, materials for the youth section of the library will be purchased, and we will be hold a special program in her honor in April during National Library Week. Her daughters will

both be able to attend the event, and a column will appear in the North Scott Press about it.

- The Winter Reading Program included 150 patrons taking part, and of those 60 were adult participants and 90 were juvenile. The Friends of the Eldridge Library funded prizes at all branches.
- A Seed Library has been started at the Eldridge Branch. Patrons are welcome to stop in and grab three seed packets per visit as supplies last. It was kicked off with a session from the Master Gardeners, and this program has been well received with 217 seed packets distributed.
- Emily and Kerri are visiting three aftercare sites at the North Scott elementary schools and bringing activities. On the first visit, they took a STEM activity from the maker space cart, and the kids were thrilled.
- We are working to expand our Bookmobile presence out in the community. We will be at Virgil Grissom Literacy Night in April and at the John Glenn STEAM night in May. Also working with the Wapsi Center to expand our partnership, and will be visiting and providing a special story time on a Saturday in April and will be attending a homeschool event in May. We are doing summer kickoff parties with the Bookmobile in all twelve of the towns that we serve. We will bring bookmobile and lawn games, snacks, and information on Summer Reading as a way to increase participation and awareness about our services. Over the summer, we will be continuing our regular routes, adding special story times with the bookmobile and visiting the daycare sites at two of our schools.
- We have been invited to attend the City of Donahue's business open house on Sunday, April 14th and we will be there with information on the library, services, programs and library card applications.
- We received a grant from Moonlight Chase to expand our circulating kits and the Friends of the Eldridge Library gifted us more money to facilitate these additions to our collection. You can check out things like a pickleball set, bocce ball, giant lawn games, a sleep machine, a play time kit, a babysitting kit, and even a ukulele. Our Beyond the Book items have been very popular, and these will be exciting additions to our collections. These will be stored at Eldridge but can be sent to any of our branches for holds by SCLS patrons. We have a new display stand that will hold tags for all of these specialty items, and patrons bring the tag to the desk to check out.
- We have been awarded one of 50 national grants for \$20,000 for small and rural libraries from the American Library Association! This grant was submitted by Emily Haage, youth services coordinator, and Katie Jackson, outreach services coordinator to address our collection gaps when providing services to those students who are experiencing print disabilities. We will use these funds in this year and next year to purchase items like youth large print, Playways, and Wonderbooks, and the bookmobile will play a vital role in making these items accessible to students during their visits.
- Veronica Henderson has been hired to fill one of the clerk openings at the Eldridge Branch, and we are working to fill the other.

Old Business:

Communication has improved with Panorama Park – thanks to our attendance at one of their city council meetings. Great idea to visit the city council meetings in towns in our area.

New Business:

FY25 Wages – Tricia has asked Scott County about estimates for FY25 wages. The county has settled with unions and has planned for a 6% increase for July 1. This 6% increase is a 3% market adjustment and a 3% cost of living increase. The belief is that the increases in the past several years have not kept up with what the comps are at. If this 6% increase is approved, the Library would need to use some of our reserve account in order to cover these increases. This is a special circumstance and is not expected to happen often. It would be an approximate \$23,000 increase in salaries. Linda Tuftee moved to approve a 3% cost of living increase and 3% market adjustment increase in salaries for FY25. Motion seconded by Marty O’Boyle. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be April 22, 2024, at noon, in person at the Scott County Library Eldridge branch.

Nicky Wuestenberg moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Kevin Cahill.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angie Ehlers