



# King County Library System Board of Trustees Meeting

KCLS Service Center  
5pm ♦ July 31, 2019

## PRESENT MOTIONS APPROVED

### KCLS BOARD

Angélica Alvarez  
Pamela Grad  
Max Harned  
Ron Higgs  
Robin McClelland  
Anne Repass  
Lalita Uppala

1. Board Meeting agenda
2. June 26, 2019 Board meeting minutes
3. Payroll expenditures
4. General Fund #0010 expenditures
5. Capital Project Fund 2005 #3070 expenditures

### KCLS Staff

Julie Acteson  
Beth Castleberry  
Jenny Engstrom  
Maria Hatcher  
Nicholas Lee  
Tess Mayer  
Cynthia McNabb  
Jed Moffitt  
Lisa Rosenblum  
Bruce Schauer  
Greg Smith

### CALL TO ORDER

President Lalita Uppala called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Pamela Grad moved approval of the Board Meeting agenda. Angélica Alvarez seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

### APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

*Pamela Grad moved approval of the June 26, 2019 Board Meeting minutes. Anne Repass seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

## PUBLIC FORUM

Virginia Story said there was a time when sexual topics were introduced to children gradually. Exposing them to images of full genitalia introduces deviancy and allowing them to touch a drag queen is an abomination. It is also confusing to children when trying to teach them what is appropriate touching when someone is not dressed in drag. Children are malleable and sometimes bad things can be reversed, but sometimes not. She said Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) is programming them to be who knows what and that it is inappropriate for an adult to introduce something they know nothing about. She asked the Board to please stop DQSH and bring back appropriate story time books, such as Classics, and others that puts love in their hearts. She said the Board should stop listening to those who yell the loudest and instead listen to their own hearts because they know exposing children to DQSH is inappropriate and harmful, and it needs to be stopped now.

Anne Streit read the following statement:

*I assume that being trustees of the library, that facts matter to you. Therefore, I would like to share a few facts with you.*

*The gay lifestyle is a dangerous one. I will provide each of you with a sheet that has citations where this information can be found. They come from the CDC and the NY Health Department as well as international research studies.*

*Despite years of research and information, as many as 20% of gay men currently have HIV and 44% don't know it. This number shows an alarming increase to 63% among males aged 18-29. <https://www.webmd.com/hiv-aids/news/20100923/1-in-5-gay-bi-men-have-hiv-nearly-half-dont-know#1>*

- *While gay men are a small part of our population, in 2016 they accounted for 67% cases of HIV. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/msm/index.html>*

- *Gay men are significantly more at risk for the following: smoking, alcoholism, illicit drug use, violence, promiscuity, sexually-transmitted diseases, hepatitis, eating disorders, depression, anxiety and prostate, testicular and colon cancer.*  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/lgbt/gay\\_men\\_health\\_concerns.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/lgbt/gay_men_health_concerns.htm)
- *46% of gay men experience violence at the hands of their partners.*  
<https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/news/20180716/study-nearly-half-of-gay-men-face-domestic-violence>
- *While gay activists claim that it is lack of social acceptance that causes increased levels of depression, anxiety and suicide, an extensive study in the Netherlands, where the gay lifestyle has been accepted and protected, concluded: "psychiatric disease cannot be attributed to social rejection and homophobia."*  
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/physician-says-science-of-medical-consequences-of-homosexual-behaviour-is-b>

*The life expectancy for gay men is as much as 20 years lower than the normal population. A Canadian study reports that is similar to that experienced by all men in the year 1871!*  
<https://academic.oup.com/ije/article/26/3/657/742184>

*Dr. Paul Cameron reports that schools are doing a fine job educating children about dangerous activities such as smoking and the use of illegal drugs, but they are increasingly teaching that homosexuality is the same as heterosexual behavior. "It certainly isn't," he said. "Here we have homosexual activity, which, literally, is much worse than smoking, and yet the schools continue to teach that it is normative and safe behavior."*

*Lawrence Kohlberg has demonstrated that gender stability does not happen until 4 years of age and gender constancy happens between 5 and 7 years of age. These are the very children that the LGBTQ community is targeting with the Drag Queen Story Hours. Coincidence? I think not.* <https://scienceaid.net/psychology/gender/cognitive.html>

*Under the guise of political correctness, schools and now libraries are encouraging a lifestyle that is dangerous. Opposition to this agenda is not about hate - it is about love. We love our friends, family members and neighbors that experience same-sex attraction, but we do not support it as a healthy lifestyle, any more than we support chain-smoking or texting while driving. We are here to protect our innocent children and hope that you are too.*

*As I assume everyone here appreciates books, I would like to close by quoting from the best-selling book of all time: "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a large millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned at the bottom of the sea." Matthew 18:6*

Denova Weaver read excerpts from Joy Pullman's article in *The Federalist* about last month's ALA Library Conference featuring workshops on Drag Queens and Queering elementary schools:

*The world's largest library association's annual conference this year featured more than 100 workshops with an "equity, diversity, and inclusion" theme, workshops with titles like: "Creating Queer-Inclusive Elementary School Library Programming," and "Telling Stories, Expanding Boundaries: Drag Queen Story Times in Libraries."*

*The ALA annual conference's workshop selections also included "A Child's Room to Choose: Encouraging Gender Identity and Expression in School and Public Libraries," and "Are You Going to Tell My Parents? The Minor's Right to Privacy in the Library." Politically charged talks and workshops like these formed at least one-third of the conference offerings.*

*The workshop titled "Telling Stories, Expanding Boundaries: Drag Queen Story Times in Libraries" featured Michelle Tea, a lesbian who started drag queen events at a public library in San Francisco.*

*The conference description states: "The DGS [Drag Queen Story Time] program has been immensely popular with many audiences at libraries across the country, but it has also produced its share of resistance and controversy. Speakers included ALA's Kristin Pekoll, the assistant director of the organization's Office for Intellectual Freedom. Pekoll was active in several workshops dedicated to challenging local communities and patrons' opinions about appropriate taxpayer-provided materials and events.*

*A visual from Pekoll's office says one of the five main kinds of "censorship" is "requiring parental permission to access content."*

*The workshop on "Creating Queer-Inclusive Elementary School Library Programming" discussed "ways to dismantle barriers" to such programs, including "crafting arguments," "reviewing legislation," and "listing talking points." The description makes it clear that the workshop is not about only selecting books on this topic but also creating "services and programs."*

*[It] "explore(d) positive and proactive ways that libraries can protect minors' privacy and confidentiality" and insisted children "have a right to privacy and confidentiality in what they read and view in the library."*

*Taxpayers would like to know exactly how much of our taxes fund public library resistance to parental authority and citizen opposition to so called "equity, diversity and inclusion" programming. To that end we ask KCLS to regularly publish how much it spends to underwrite the cost for staff to attend ALA conferences, pay for ALA membership fees and purchase any ALA materials or services.*

Dawn Land read the following statement:

*Sally Ride was an astronaut. Sally Ride was the first American woman in space. Sally Ride was a lesbian.*

*After earning bachelor's degrees in both English and physics, Sally Ride went on to earn first a master's degree in physics, then a Ph.D., in physics.*

*In 1978, Sally Ride beat out 1,000 other applicants for a spot at NASA.*

*Sally Ride is undoubtedly a celebrated American hero.*

*It is really fortunate that those around Sally Ride as a teen chose to help teens achieve their potential. Dr. Sally Ride's favorite advice was to encourage young people to reach for the stars.*

*And she achieved all of these things without ever learning how to make a dental dam out of a condom in her local public library as a teen.*

*The King County Library System treats youth who identify as LGBT + like they are ignorant, horny, little animals whose only purpose is to have sex. Our queer youth don't deserve to be treated so disrespectfully!*

*KCLS creates programming as if it doesn't believe queer youth can create a robotics team, or create websites, or be artists, composers, or engineers.*

*The King County Library System took grant money from the Why Not You Foundation, which was given to create programs where teens could be empowered through library programs like STEAM education, homework help, coding classes, ESL support, and SAT prep. But instead of utilizing that grant money as it was intended, KCLS created a sex-filled extravaganza for tweens and teens, ages 9 and up.*

*And I'm going to make sure EVERYONE knows that.*

Lorenzo Ortega said he has been inundated with facts and has listened to both sides. He said everyone has a choice to live their own lifestyle but when a public library system takes a side and decides to push an agenda that nurtures a particular view, he asked if the library will also allow other ideas at story times taught by Christians, or Islam, or other extremists. He said he has heard the library described as a safe space but asked whether the library is truly creating a safe space when there is no agreement on what mindset is being promoted. He said he heard that people got arrested at last month's meeting and said when the library takes one side and ignores the other, it creates friction. He said the best result would be to rent a private room and hold the program there, but that the library should not be sponsoring behavior that sexualizes children. He said if the intent of the program is to raise children to not be bigoted, that is a good idea, but not by limiting one group over another. He said within the library's code of conduct, everyone should be treated as one wants to be treated themselves but the library should not be sponsoring a certain lifestyle at Story Time. He said he was also stunned to learn that public schools require presenters to undergo a background check but there is no similar requirement by the Library System. He said he wants to see that people get vetted.

Cybill Ortega said she is against Drag Queen Story Hour. She said drag queens alone are completely inappropriate, and DQSH for young kids who are infants to four or five years old is also inappropriate and she wanted to add her voice to oppose it.

Lynn Meagher said the Board has heard from those opposing DQSH several times and recognizes that the issue has gotten contentious and difficult for everyone, including the Board, as both sides have expressed strong feelings. She said she wants the Trustees to ask themselves what they think she and others hope to accomplish by coming before the Board. She asked why KCLS thinks a program offering sex advice to gay and lesbian kids is more important than offering STEAM or SAT programming. In her opinion, it is demeaning and insulting, and that they should be offered programs that develop them as leaders instead. She asked if the Board is interested in their opinion and wondered how many need to sign a petition before their voices are heard. She said they are not mean or bigoted, just people who want their concerns addressed.

Executive Director Lisa Rosenblum said of the thousands of programs KCLS offers each year, only three Drag Queen Story Hours were scheduled in the month of June to align with Pride Month. She said staff has heard patron concerns and have responded to many inquiries, including one-on-one conversations on the phone with some who have called.

She said that while some are upset with DQSH programming, others want it. The public library has long offered a diversity of programs that might not be to some people's liking. Lisa said there are some in King County who find DQSH particularly upsetting and emotional, and some who don't.

She also said that some have confused DQSH with Teen Pride, which was a different event. The program was supported by a grant from the Why Not You Foundation, which also provided funding for teen programs that focused on STEAM and homework help. Teen Pride was designed by a group that wanted that program. Other teens wanted programs on college preparation. Staff worked collaboratively with the teens who designed Teen Pride, but the youth chose the presenters.

#### **PEER COMPARISON: CIRCULATION STATISTICS**

Collection Development and Analysis Coordinator Zachary Mooney said that statistics gathered by the Public Library Data Service allows KCLS to compare circulation trends with peer libraries across the county. For presentation purposes, Zack compared statistics from Brooklyn Public Library, County of Los Angeles Public Library, Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library, Hennepin County (Minnesota) Public Library, Los Angeles Public Library, New York Public Library, and Seattle Public Library (SPL).

The following represents data from 2011-2017:

- Change in Circulation: KCLS (-5%); Peer Average (-19%)**
- Change in Circulation – Print: KCLS (-12%); Peer Average (-24%)**
- Change in Circulation – CD/DVD: KCLS (-43%); Peer Average (-30%)**
- Change in Circulation – Electronic: KCLS (495%); Peer Average (384%)**

The following represents data for the top three libraries in each category:

**Circulation per Capita (2017):** Cuyahoga (24.5%); SPL (15.1%); KCLS (14.8%)  
**2017 Turnover:** Cuyahoga (5.2%); KCLS (4.6%); SPL (4.5%)  
**Collection Expenditures per Capita 2017:** Cuyahoga (\$13.98); SPL (\$12.46); KCLS (\$10.00)  
**% of Total Budget Allocated to Collections 2017:** Cuyahoga (13.4%); KCLS (12.2%); SPL (11.9%)

The following represents circulation data for KCLS only:

**Change in KCLS Circulation (2011-2018):**

"Book"	2,430,824
Periodicals	(125,243)
Music	(365,559)
Movies	(2,295,535)
Total	355,514

**IMPROVING ACCESS: CIRCULATION POLICIES**

As discussed in the Finance Committee meeting, Circulation Coordinator Cynthia Rivette reported on current and proposed circulation policies that are aimed at improving patrons' access to KCLS' materials and resources when circumstances such as fines and fees can lead to accounts being blocked.

Policies that are currently in place include KCLS' Fresh Start program, electronic access cards, and ADA accommodations. Fresh Start is a one-time waiver of overdue fines up to \$25.00 for cardholders who are 17 years old or younger. Electronic access cards allow patrons to utilize KCLS' electronic resources, such as databases and eBooks, so no overdue fines can be incurred. ADA accommodations that include extended loan periods, hold periods, and no overdue fines are offered to patrons who have permanent or temporary conditions that make it challenging to return materials within the usual loan period.

Other options that KCLS is considering include increasing check-out limits from two to five items for patrons who do not have proof of address; Fresh Start for patrons when they turn 18; Fresh Start for minors with blocked cards; raising the threshold from \$10.00 to \$25.00 for blocking cards; and resuming check-out privileges for patrons who have been reported to a collection agency when their outstanding balance reaches \$10.00 instead of zero dollars.

**FINANCE REPORT**

June revenues year-to-date were \$67.0M, and reflect 53.4% of the total revenues budget. Year-to-date revenues increased \$2.1M, or 3.3% over the prior year.

June expenditures year-to-date were \$58.7M, representing 45.3% of the total expenditures budget with 50% of the budget year completed. Year-over-year expenditures increased \$254K, or 0.4%.

Expenditures in the Capital Investment Program (CIP) in June were 10.3% of the total CIP budget, and include expenditures in the following categories: Major Maintenance (5.4% category budget expended); New Construction/Remodels (21.8%); and Replacements (13.4%).

As of June 2019, total project budgets expended for the Kent Panther Lake and Boulevard Park Libraries is 92.8% and 85.7%, respectively.

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURES**

*Ron Higgs moved approval of Payroll expenditures for June in the amount of \$2,964,026.89: June 1-15 Ck#173997-174075; 230001-231250 and Jun 16-30 Ck#174077-174150; 250001-251254. Angélica Alvarez seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

*Angélica Alvarez moved approval of General Fund #0010 expenditures for June in the amount of \$5,913,815.71: Travel Advances - Ck#1379-1383; (06/05) Ck#1118679-1118761; (06/06) Ck#5011026-5011028;1118762-1118766; (06/10) Ck#5011029-5011114;1118767-1118832; (06/11) Ck#1118833-1118943; (06/14) Ck#1118944-1118998; (06/19) Ck#1118999-1119072; (06/20) Ck#5011115-5011117;1119073-1119079; (06/20) Ck#5011118-5011172;1119080-1119129; (06/24) Ck#1119130-1119169; (06/25) Ck#1119170-1119238;1119239-1119295; (06/26) Ck#1119296-1119323;5011173-5011189; (06/28) Ck#1119324-1119385;1119386-1119388; (07/02) Ck#1119389-1119482; (07/03) Ck#5011190-5011192;1119483-1119487; (07/03) Ck#1119488-1119496;5011193-5011207;1119497-1119534; (07/03) Ck#1119497-1119534;5011208; Voids - Ck#1118854;5011098.*

*Anne Repass seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

*Anne Repass moved approval of Capital Project Fund 2005 #3070 expenditures for June in the amount of \$60,141.33: (06/05) Ck#3073999-3074002; (06/11) Ck#3074003; (06/14) Ck#3074004; (06/19) Ck#3074005; (06/28) Ck#3074006. Pamela Grad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Lisa Rosenblum said the new Welcoming Center at Kent Library is a great example of a staff-initiated, KCLS Foundation-supported program that exemplifies inclusivity, one of KCLS' stated values. A Family Social Time event on June 27 drew over 50 people, many of whom are recent arrivals from Afghanistan. She said that many people who arrive in the United States don't understand public libraries and are delighted to discover them. It is staff's goal to help new arrivals understand all that KCLS offers. Lisa acknowledged KCLS staff members Jose Garcia, Jeong Kim, and Andy Wickens for planning and implementing the program.

The American Library Association annual conference was held in Washington, D.C. at the end of June and it provided an opportunity to visit Capitol Hill and meet with members of Washington State's Congressional Delegation, including Representative Pramila Jayapal and staff from Senator Patty Murray's office. Accompanied by Lois Langer Thompson, Executive Director of Sno-Isle Libraries, Lisa and Lois discussed the importance of funding for LSTA and IMLS grants.

#### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

Robin McClelland called attention to the book "*Before the Ballot: Building Political Support for Library Funding*" by Patrick Sweeney and suggested that the book be ordered for the Board.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

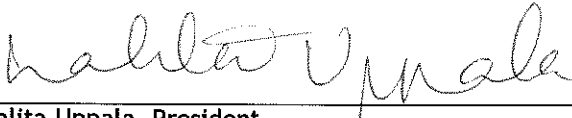
At 6:23pm, President Lalita Uppala announced the Board would convene in Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110, Section 1 (g) for approximately 60 minutes. She said there would be no action taken by the Board at the conclusion of the Executive Session, and the regular session will be immediately adjourned.

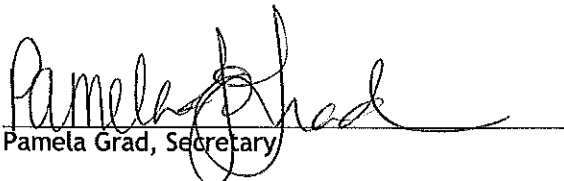
#### **RECONVENE**

At 7:07pm, Lalita Uppala reconvened the regular meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Angélica Alvarez moved to adjourn and Pamela Grad seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

  
Lalita Uppala, President

  
Pamela Grad, Secretary