



# King County Library System Board of Trustees Meeting

Amended 11.20.19

KCLS Service Center  
5pm ♦ October 30, 2019

## PRESENT

### KCLS BOARD

Pamela Grad  
Max Harned  
Ron Higgs  
Robin McClelland  
Anne Repass

### KCLS Staff

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

## MOTIONS APPROVED

1. Board Meeting agenda
2. September 25, 2019 Board meeting minutes
3. Payroll expenditures
4. General Fund #0010 expenditures
5. Capital Project Fund 2005 #3070 expenditures

## CALL TO ORDER

~~President Lalita Upala~~ Secretary Pamela Grad called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Robin McClelland moved approval of the Board Meeting agenda. Max Harned seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

## APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

*Max Harned moved approval of the September 25, 2019 Board Meeting minutes.*

*Robin McClelland seconded.* Robin McClelland asked for an amendment to the minutes to include the KCLS Foundation as the source of funding for the KCLS Reel Fest prize monies.

*Anne Repass moved approval to accept the amendment to the September 25, 2019 as stated. Max Harned seconded. All voted in favor.*

*Max Harned moved approval of the amended September 25, 2019 Board Meeting minutes. Robin McClelland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

## PUBLIC FORUM

Janet Nelson said she would normally describe the library as an appropriate place for people to connect with one another, but those connections should not include programs about sex. She thought library administrators were sensible but they seem to have fallen off a cliff. She believes Drag Queen Story Time is nothing more than a program that grooms children for a lifestyle that falls at the end of the spectrum, and said the Board has a responsibility to taxpayers to take another look at what DQST suggests.

Mark Christie submitted the following statement for the record:

*Please pardon what is going to be a bizarre opening point. But the fact that we are even holding the type of meeting that we are now holding shows that we are living in a bizarre era anyways. So to open: Have you ever heard of the "Walking Corpse Syndrome"?*

*To quote from the medical literature: "Cotard delusion, also known as Walking Corpse Syndrome...is a rare mental disorder in which the affected person holds the delusional belief that they are already dead, do not exist, are putrefying, or have lost their blood or internal organs."*

*So... If a person really believes that something is true does that automatically make it so? If the Cotard delusion victims are correct (just because they think they are) then I guess the modern fad of zombie TV shows and movies must be based on reality after all? Now what*

*about, to use the medical phrase I just mentioned, someone has a "delusional belief" that they are not the gender they appear to be?*

*And, that is, in fact all that we are talking about here. There are only two genders, there is no such thing as a woman trapped in a man's body, there is no such thing as the modern buzz words of LGBTQ+ and the alphabet soup approach to who and what you are. Because, to refer to what I mentioned before, if it is physically possible for someone to sincerely believe that they are a corpse (and have it not be true) then why isn't it physically possible for a man to believe that they are actually a girl - and have it also not be true? Or for that matter, become convinced that they have to have a same-sex relationship-and that actually not be true either?*

*In short, left strictly to nature, there are the rare occasions where a person's brain will simply misfire - and they will become utterly convinced of things that are, in fact, not true. But here is where we come to the problem that we are trying to deal with tonight. I stated, LEFT STRICTLY TO NATURE, there are very rare cases of confusion.*

*So what happens in cases like, say, California, where your type of social experimentation has been going on—and at full throttle—for a long time? The answer: their percent of confusion is no longer rare but rampant. You have a situation where minor children are—literally—staring down at their private organs and are unable figure what it's there for in nearly 25 percent of all cases. That is, am I actually a girl? If I am a guy, do I still do it with other men rather than with women?*

*So what causes a rare confusion to become a rampant one—if it is not people that are seated in the front of the room tonight? It is not nature since, just left to nature, it would be rare rather than rampant. It is not choice since no one would choose to deliberately make themselves become confused by choosing to have other people make them become that way. So what does leave left?*

*Now, I don't claim to know, with a 100 percent certainty, what all the answers are. But I do know, and with an absolute and mathematical certitude, what is not the answer. What is absolutely not the answer is exactly what it is that you do. Where you take a form of confusion that would, normally, affect only a small percentage of the population and you then spread to all of the rest of the population as well.*

*Therefore, I respectfully state that this is not an endeavor that should use my mandatorily paid taxes. If there really are parents who are foolish enough to turn their children over to what is, ultimately, a form of child abuse, then there may not be much that we can do about that. But we should at least not be required to pony up our taxpayers' money for it. And as to the other case, where it is being done behind the parents' backs, I say that all we need the educational establishment to do is to teach Johnny how to read. We do not need you to teach him how to do his sex acts.*

Alex Myrick said he has been a mental health professional for 30 years, loves libraries, has a little free library in front of his house, and supports free speech. But he was appalled when he entered a branch and discovered stories being read to preschoolers by a drag queen who was telling them they may look like a boy but feel like a girl inside, and vice versa. He said he has compassion for people with gender dysphoria, but it is a travesty to recruit more victims. He said as a professional, if a patient with anorexia wants liposuction, he wouldn't refer them to a cosmetic surgeon, he'd refer them for treatment of a mental disorder. Similarly, if a person has Alien Limb Syndrome, they shouldn't be referred to a surgeon to amputate the healthy limb, so when someone expresses gender confusion, why would anyone buy into the delusion in the first place? He said the slogan that "sex is between your legs and gender is between your ears" is not an oversimplification, it's an outright fallacy. There is a difference between male and female human beings encoded in XX or XY chromosomes. He said he occasionally substitutes in public schools and finds it heartbreaking to see a fifth-grade boy who is not made to do any school work because he declares himself to be non-binary and school administrators buy into it. He said it doesn't matter if universities have different boxes to check on their application forms to identify one's sex. Basic psychology prescribes only two sexes and a person doesn't get to choose other ones. And what happens if a parent buys in to the delusion? They may go to a counselor or

pediatrician who will address it by prescribing puberty-blocking hormones that have not been evaluated and have serious side effects for the child, such as not being able to have children of their own someday, or putting them in a category of people who experience a suicide rate 19 times higher than the national average. He said it is sad enough to see mistakes happening in our society but using tax dollars to promote them is an outright disgrace.

Katherine Cassady said she and her husband have used libraries for 25 years and both of them love kids. When she heard about Drag Queen Story Time (DQST), she was in a state of disbelief when she discovered that it was being offered by her own library system. She said children need positive role models, not a path into life of despair. What she heard was being discussed during DQST is harmful and way beyond a child's ability to understand. She said she and her husband read the Bible aloud every day and they are deeply disturbed by the nation's moral nosedive. DQST perfectly illustrates what is causing this downward spiral. She said libraries shouldn't be involved in condoning or promoting alternative lifestyles, especially to young children.

Vitaliy Piekrotin is a member of the Slavic community and father of five who attends a church with over one thousand members. He said their church members were told to accept others so they went along out of love, even though their God told them something was wrong. They showed tolerance, but now watch from the sidelines as children are being victimized by pedophiles at the library. He said they are told this is normal and that they are bigots for listening to their God. He said they should have spoken sooner but five percent of people pushed the other 95 percent into being scared to disagree and those who dared were threatened with physical violence. He said this has never been about love or acceptance. They have been played for fools as they watch what's taking root in our culture from inside the walls of the library. He said remaining silent will allow it to continue to grow. He said DQST is an abomination and the idea of a man representing a woman must not be allowed to spread across the nation.

DeNova Weaver read the following statement:

*Thank you for hearing from us once again. As you know, I have submitted previous requests to the board and Executive Director Lisa Rosenblum at these meetings. I hope tonight KCLS will now:*

- 1. Clarify what if any, parameters or limits apply to its youth programming and literature. This request stems from the apparent alignment of Drag Queen Story Hour and Teen Pride with the ideological commitment to Intellectual Freedom, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as prominently displayed by the sign in the lobby.*
- 2. Commit to regularly publishing how much it spends to underwrite the cost for staff to attend ALA conferences, pay for ALA membership fees and purchase ALA materials or services.*
- 3. Assure taxpayers that no further drag events for minors will be conducted at any KCLS library or facilitated by any staff on- or off-site.*
- 4. Denounce the Renton Teen Pride event as irresponsible programming that offered sexual products and information to children as young as ten, and connected them with drag queens and outside organizations like Planned Parenthood, Lifelong, Lambert House, etc.*
- 5. Put in place language governing all children's programming such as, "Children's programming shall not reflect adult sexuality, sexual orientation, sexual or gender identities and shall not include or promote adult entertainers, sex workers or sex offenders."*
- 6. Dismiss any staff especially those working with minors or in management who have engaged in sexually explicit adult entertainment, sex work, or those or who have posted sexually explicit content.*
- 7. Publish both legal and stage names on all promotional information for any children's event conducted by outside adult readers, speakers, entertainers, etc., for the duration of the event's advertising.*
- 8. Post the results of third-party background checks, including social media, for the above adults on the library's website 30 days prior to the event.*

In response to these questions, Lisa Rosenblum said that KCLS has a children's programming coordinator and programming guidelines. A team is charged with reviewing DQSH and coming up with an alternative program that is less divisive but still adheres to KCLS mission to represent all of the communities KCLS serves.

Lisa said costs associated with ALA expenditures can be obtained through a public records request.

Lisa gave assurance that KCLS is reevaluating DQST. She said she would not denounce the Teen Pride event but said KCLS is taking into consideration what it learned from the situation. She said she would not address the requests to insert specific language into Children's Programming Guidelines, identify grounds for dismissing staff, publish names of performers or publically post information on background checks.

Stefan Sharkansky said he read both the Seattle Times article and press release from Executive Director Rosenblum about the Macmillan eBook embargo. He said he understands that libraries will be limited to one copy of newly released titles from Macmillan for a period of eight weeks before they are allowed to buy more and that, in response, KCLS will discontinue purchasing the title in digital format and only purchase the print version instead. Mr. Sharkansky asked whether that means that KCLS will no longer buy any Macmillan title in eBook format, or if it plans to buy older titles once the eight-week embargo is lifted and, if so, at what point? He said it's unfortunate that patrons will have to wait eight weeks for a newly released title but he thinks it's a bit backwards if they never have any access at all. He encouraged KCLS to purchase eBook titles once the embargo is lifted and asked for clarification on KCLS' position.

Lisa Rosenblum said Macmillan Publishers based their decision on the premise that public libraries are cannibalizing sales, but offered very little data to support it. She said the embargo doesn't work for a large library system like KCLS, which maintains a 5:1 holds-to-copy ratio so that patrons don't have to wait longer than three months for a title. Macmillan's business model forces library patrons to buy eBooks or forces libraries to buy more copies because of the inflation in the number of holds an embargo will generate. By going along with it, libraries are essentially rewarding Macmillan for withholding its product from them. As the sole publisher of certain authors, KCLS will continue to buy newly-released titles from Macmillan in print format, but not the digital version, and will evaluate whether or not to purchase them after 6-12 months if there is a continued demand.

Lynn Meagher said she is sorry that Drag Queen Story Time (DQST) has been so contentious and said it has been similarly stressful for those who oppose it. She said it could have been less stressful if KCLS could have been more transparent as to why they considered it. She said many have asked for information and have not gotten a transparent response. She said one would think KCLS would like to have a better relationship with those who value the library, especially when facing a potential levy, but many are feeling very reluctant to support KCLS if it cannot be more transparent with citizens who are concerned about programming. She feels KCLS owes it to them to clarify the Library System's intentions. First, she would like to know why gender-focused programming is necessary for preschoolers at all. Second, she reiterated the earlier request that KCLS publish both the stage name and actual name of presenters, stating that citizens and parents have the right to know who is presenting to children and teens in the library. Third, she asked to know what KCLS' plans are in the near future for LGBTQ or any kind of drag programming for youth and teens.

Lisa Rosenblum said KCLS celebrates Pride Month in June with programming for the LGBTQ community. There are no other DQST programs scheduled in 2019. A recent LGBTQ program at the Mercer Island Library that was aimed at parents. Whenever KCLS offers a program that features a writer, storyteller, or other performer, KCLS publishes the professional name that is provided by the individual.

Vashon resident Jo Ann Herbert submitted the following letter for the record:

*Thank you for receiving my comment, which addresses materials no longer desired by KCLS.*

*It was not long ago that I found a paperback book in the recycle bin at my library on Vashon. It was *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and a New York Times Bestseller. This copy had a somewhat worn bottom right corner and very slightly worn back edge. Otherwise in perfect condition.*

*This and all the materials we access as KCLS are purchased from all our labor here in King County and we are grateful to have a library system such as KCLS.*

*I would like to know how materials are dismantled, sold off or donated. It seems to me, after communication with staff at the main office, that there is no system to document the titles, where they go, when and why.*

*If I remember correctly some years ago, I searched for a movie I very much enjoyed, an Indian film, starring and produced by a famous actor and social activist in India, Aamir Khan. The movie is "Fanaa." I had obtained it before from the library but this time, I searched and it was no longer in the system. I requested it be purchased again since it was a well-known film with a well-known star and, lucky for me, it was purchased. It was a film made in 2006 and yet today in 2019 the crisis in Kashmir is front and center, still in the news. But at KCLS I do believe that older works are generally not valued as much as newer works no matter how valuable the content.*

*A film I recently searched for, again one KCLS had in the past and also older (2005), is now gone. *The Girl in the Cafe* -- a BBC film bought by HBO. I would ask that you read about the value of this film. <http://moviemezzanine.com/looking-back-the-girl-in-the-cafe/> (2013). It won three Emmys and, in the words of the writer of the above article, "...its message should resonate quite deeply today."*

*With all the political activism in 2019 there, are many who would find this film deeply touching and inspiring. It is one that is dear to my heart. I am very sad it is now gone from the collection. I believe it is indeed a movie for all times.*

*So I ask that KCLS begin to track all materials that are disposed of, where they went, when and why. These assets were purchased from the labor of the peoples of King County. And there have been a number of items that once were in the system that I have searched for and are now gone. So I want to say, let's be less of a consumer culture at KCLS and develop more of a conscious and caring culture that appreciates each purchase.*

*I also want to ask that some materials, if donated, be donated to our local Grannies Attic on Vashon. They began in 1975 in order to supply funds for a startup health clinic on our island. They now give many thousands of dollars each year to multiple nonprofits that serve our islanders: our local DV group, our social service organization, the senior center and others. Grannies gives health insurance to all its paid workers, employs many volunteers and gives a place to share no longer wanted belongings thus keeping so much out of our landfills. People line up an hour ahead awaiting the opening and the cars of the customers fill up a huge parking lot in the area. Grannies is a true blessing to those on a low income though everyone seems to shop there. The savings and the value are fantastic. [grannysattic@grannysattic.org](mailto:grannysattic@grannysattic.org)*

*That book, *The Underground Railroad*, should have gone to Grannies not the recycle bin.*

*(Reduce, Reuse then Recycle)*

*Thank you for your time to think deeply about what I have shared here.*

## **2019 SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Youth and Family Services Manager Rekha Kuver introduced Teen Services Coordinator Rachel McDonald and Children's Services Coordinator Cass Mabbott, who reported on the results of KCLS' 2019 Summer Reading Program (SRP).

Rachel said that many youth and families rely on public libraries to provide free, high-quality activities that are developmentally appropriate and educational, especially in the summer.

This year's theme revolved around outer space in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing and programs focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) topics. Science workshops facilitated by the Museum of Flight, KidsQuest Museum and Pacific Science Center ranged from creating space stations and lunar rovers with Lego® to viewing the night sky in a portable planetarium. The Museum of Flight and Pacific Science Center also offered discounts to their regular programs for students in school districts with high numbers of free-and-reduced-priced lunches.

This is the second year KCLS has offered an all-ages SRP with activities that encourage reading together as a family and a community. Programs were offered both inside and outside libraries to ensure an equitable reach into the community and anecdotal responses from both children and adults alike were positive. While overall registration and finisher numbers went down in 2019, possibly because 2018 prizes were a stronger incentive, the trend shows increased participation when looking back several years.

KCLS provides library programs and services across the county in day cares, community centers, parks, and summer camps. Camp Terry in Preston is one of the larger outdoor summer day camps with about 500 campers attending each year. The KCLS Foundation has made it possible to have a permanent collection of high-interest paperbacks that stays at the camp for the week. Campers can check out books on Library Day (Monday) and return their books on Friday. The last week of camp is Giveaway Week, when instead of returning their book on the last day, campers receive a fiction and nonfiction book to take home with them.

Summer Meals is another important component of SRP. In the Northeast Region, the Carnation and Duvall Libraries have established partnerships with Carnation Farms, Stillwater School Farm, and Snoqualmie Valley Community Network to support summer meals. Librarians provide accompanying activities, stories, and songs. Over 428 meals were served between these two libraries over the summer.

The Summer Reading Program supports KCLS' strategic initiatives to provide responsive, inspirational service and create communities of inclusion and belonging. Nearly 95% of parents and caregivers who were surveyed said they agreed or strongly agreed that they feel more connected to the library because of SRP. Just over 95% of teens and adults said they agreed or strongly agreed that they had fun participating in summer reading.

## **2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Finance Director Nicholas Lee said the Preliminary Budget was reviewed in the Finance Committee meeting earlier in the evening. Public Hearings will be held the first week of November and the Board will engage in further discussion at the November meeting. The Final Budget will be presented for approval by the Board at the December meeting.

Nicholas noted an adjustment to the projected 2019 Ending Fund Balance that impacted charts and graphs that have been updated in the budget booklet.

The Preliminary Budget is framed around Strategic Initiatives that align with KCLS strategic goals: Communities of Inclusion and Belonging; Responsive, Inspirational Service; Organizational Excellence; and Strategic Communication.

General-fund revenue is comprised predominately of property tax (96%), which is relatively stable but is limited to 1% annual growth, plus any increase in revenue derived from new construction. Other Revenue includes, but is not limited to, investment interest and eRate subsidies. Intergovernmental revenue is received from other government entities, for example, state timber tax.

Increases in new construction activity have allowed revenue to exceed the 1% limitation over the last several years, with total growth in forecasted property tax revenue in 2020 anticipated in the range of 2.5% to 3.0%. Over the next five years, the King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis predicts a slow-growth, or negative growth trend in new construction.

General-fund expenditures are budgeted at \$132.4M in 2020. Personnel expenditures account for 63% of the total expenditures budget, and includes salaries and benefits for 1,306 employees or 866 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. Non-personnel expenditures account for 37% of total budgeted expenditures and include a one-time projected \$2.1 million expense to facilitate a potential Levy Lid Lift ballot measure. The expenditures budget also includes \$5.0M in funding for the Facilities and Technology Capital Investment Programs.

KCLS anticipated a projected \$6.0M budget deficit in 2020. Operational efficiencies identified throughout the budget process, including salary savings equivalent to seven FTE positions, revised service contract schedules, and cost savings associated with the Green Initiative, held the forecasted deficit to approximately \$2.7M.

The General Fund Balance Policy approved by the Board in 2018 requires KCLS to maintain a minimum ending-fund balance to cover four months of operating expenditures. Given current projections over the next five years, annual expenditure growth (2.9%) will continue to outpace annual revenue growth (1.7%), with salaries and benefits as the major cost drivers. The impact will cause KCLS to drop below its minimum ending-fund balance in late 2021 or early 2022.

#### **FINANCE REPORT**

September revenues year-to-date were \$72.2M, and reflect 57.6% of the total revenues budget. Year-over-year revenues increased \$2.8M, or 4.1% over the prior year.

September expenditures year-to-date were \$89.5M, representing 69% of the total expenditures budget with 75% of the budget year completed. Year-over-year expenditures increased \$1.2M, or 1.4%.

Expenditures in the Capital Investment Program (CIP) in September were 50.5% of the total CIP budget, and include expenditures in the following categories: Major Maintenance (38.1% category budget expended); New Construction/Remodels (58.3%); and Replacements (73.8%).

As of September 2019, total project budgets expended for the Kent Panther Lake and Boulevard Park Libraries are 86.1% and 99.8%, respectively.

#### **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURES**

*Ron Higgs moved approval of Payroll expenditures for September in the amount of \$2,931,627.95: Sep 1-15 Ck#174519-174582; 370001-371242 and Sep 16-30 Ck#174583-174656; 390001-391233. Robin McClelland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

*Robin McClelland moved approval of General Fund #0010 expenditures for September in the amount of \$5,332,907.56: Travel Advances - Ck#1394-1395; (09/05) Ck#5011415-5011461;1121436-1121506; (09/06) Ck#5011462-5011467; (09/11) Ck#1121507-1121643; (09/13) Ck#5011468-5011470;1121644-1121649;1121650-1121681; (09/17) Ck#1121682-1121737; (09/18) Ck#1121738-1121780; (09/23) Ck#5011471-5011548;1121781-1121843; (09/24) Ck#1121844-1121951; (09/26) Ck#5011549-5011551;1121952-1121956; (09/26) Ck#1121957-1122017;1122018-1122073; (10/01) Ck#5011552-5011567;1122074-1122094;1122095-1122100; (10/03) Ck#5011568;1122101-1122104;1122105-1122215; (10/04) Ck#1122216-1122223; (10/07) Ck#5011569; Voids - Ck#. Max Harned seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

*Max Harned moved approval of Capital Project Fund 2005 #3070 expenditures for September in the amount of \$132,481.02: (09/12) Ck#3074015; (09/24) Ck#3074016; (10/03) Ck#3074017-3074019. Anne Repass seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Lisa Rosenblum acknowledged former Library Director Bill Ptacek, who passed away October 15. Lisa said the buildings that patrons have the pleasure to use and where staff have the privilege to work are in large part due to Bill's immense energy. From trips to Ethiopia to support immunization programs to running marathons while battling cancer, Lisa said Bill would be remembered as a one of a kind individual whose work was recognized on a national stage and whose successes the KCLS community continues to celebrate every day.

Kristin Barsness has been hired as Interim KCLS Foundation Executive Director. Kristin has extensive nonprofit experience and will work part time through January.

Lisa said KCLS has received mostly positive press about its decision to boycott Macmillan Publishers. Currently, Fairfax County Public Library, Nashville Public Library, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, and New Orleans Public Library have joined the Macmillan boycott and more are expected to follow suit. Lisa said her decision was not an easy one to make, and acknowledged Collections Management Services staff for receiving a message that is contrary to the work they do to provide eBooks to patrons. Lisa said KCLS' position is focused on the long-term, potential impacts to patrons and equitable access if other publishers decide to follow suit.

The Tukwila Library received a Citation Award from the American Institute of Architects Washington Council for design excellence and Government Relations Manager John Sheller received the Washington Library Association President's Award for his work to reconstitute WLA's Legislative Committee.

KCLS celebrated Friends' Day on October 26. More than 150 Friends attended and many gave the event overly positive marks. Lisa thanked the KCLS Foundation and Community Relations and Graphics staff for coordinating the celebration.

## TRUSTEES REPORT

Robin McClelland thanked Lisa Rosenblum for mentioning Bill Ptacek. As the only Trustee currently on the Board who worked with him, she said Bill was indeed a powerhouse. While she agrees that he will be remembered for KCLS' buildings, she said his vision to create a countywide Library System was brilliant. It made KCLS the System it is today and what she considers was one of his major accomplishments.

Max Harned said he was invited to meet with King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn in whose Council District he resides. He said Mr. Dunn is supportive of KCLS and wanted Max to extend his appreciation to the Board and Executive Director Rosenblum for presenting KCLS' annual report to the King County Council and keeping them up to date on the state of the Library System.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:25pm, Secretary Pamela Grad announced that the Board would convene in Executive Session for approximately 45 minutes per RCW 42.30.110, Section 1 (g). She noted that there would be no action taken by the Board at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

## RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION


At 7:20pm, Pamela Grad reconvened the regular session.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

---

Lalita Uppala, President



Pamela Grad, Secretary