

BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2024 September 19 at 19:10h at the Temporary
Cameron branch.

PRESENT: Sara Bartnik (Meeting Chair)
Mandy Yang
Caroline White
Councillor Alison Gu
Sangeeta Subramanian
Anna Lu
Gene Blishen
Raj Hundal (joined online: 19:15, left 20:16pm)

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Heidi Schiller (joined online)
Desiree Baron
Julia Lau
Maja Suzberic
Cristina Freire
Nathaniel Christopher

REGRETS: Hakam Bhaloo

We would like to recognize we are on the ancestral and unceded homelands
of the hə́ŋqəmińəm and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and to extend
appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory.

1. Agenda

MOVED by Sangeeta Subramanian

"That the agenda be received as
presented."

Seconded by Anna Lu

CARRIED

2. Minutes

MOVED by Anna Lu

"That the minutes of the regular meeting
held 2024 July 18 be adopted as
circulated."

Seconded by Mandy Yang

CARRIED

3. Delegation – Nathaniel Christopher

The Board welcomed Nathaniel Christopher, who spoke about their experience

along with feedback about intellectual freedom, and urged the Board not to make any changes to the existing Intellectual Freedom Policy. Trustees thanked the delegate for their feedback and advised that the topic will continue to be under discussion during the meeting.

4. Reports

i) Board Chair

The Board Chair reported that the Board Co-Chairs attended the summer reading celebration at end of the summer, and that it was heartwarming to see the children's smiles when medals were awarded. She also took the opportunity to thank all the committees that support the board's work. The Meeting Chair mentioned that both Finance and Personnel Committees have been meeting and expressed appreciation to trustees who sit on these committees.

ii) Council Liaison

Councillor Gu reported attending the Union of BC Municipalities Convention this weekend noted that two resolutions on library funding were endorsed convention delegates.

iii) InterLINK Representative

InterLINK representative Gene Blishen reported that the Interlink Board received information on a SPARC grant to libraries for physical, digital, HR and attitudinal accessibility audits. BPL is participating in this project. Discussion of the roles of InterLINK directors were also underway.

5. Items for Decision

i) Intellectual Freedom Policy Review:

The Librarian 2, Collections presented the current progress of the Intellectual Freedom Policy review. The presentation touched on research previously shared with Trustees in June, and summarized feedback received from consultation with staff. Trustees thanked the Librarian 2 for her work.

An extensive, robust discussion followed, which included questions about staff comfort in applying the Code of Conduct, comments that there is a distinction between having a book in the collection and allowing a group to use library space, comments that libraries should never claim to be neutral, as the concept of neutrality is always shaped by society's dominant group, questions about intellectual freedom policy changes in libraries outside Canada, Criminal Code prohibitions on hate speech, distinction between intellectual freedom and behaviour, comments about labelling materials that are hateful or based on opinion, and the importance of prioritizing limited resources like meeting rooms in line with library values and the strategic plan.

MOVED by Caroline White

“That further information will be brought forward by staff at the December meeting for further discussion by the

Board.”

Seconded by Sangeeta Subramanian

CARRIED

ii) Board Meeting Dates:

The Chief Librarian spoke to the report. She highlighted the evaluation of meeting frequency, attendance, and location since 2023. The recommendation is that the board adjust the schedule to continue with 8 meetings per year and have all meetings in person.

Trustees asked questions about adding meetings, and if the locations would continue to rotate between all Burnaby Public Library branches. The Chief Librarian confirmed that meetings can be added if needed, and that meetings would continue to be held at all branches.

MOVED by Sangeeta Subramanian

“That meetings move to in person and as scheduled.”

Seconded by Councillor Alison Gu

6. Other Business:

Nothing to report.

7. Next Library Board Meeting:

Next meeting will be held on October 17, 2024 at 19:00h online.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Counsellor Alison Gu

“That the regular meeting adjourn and that the Board resolve itself into an in camera meeting from which the public is excluded to discuss workplace safety policies.”

Seconded by Anna Lu

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 20:36.

Sarah Bartnik (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)