

Minutes-Draft
DIXON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
7:00 PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012

SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING LOCATION:
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, CITY OF DIXON
600 EAST A STREET, DIXON, CA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Herb Cross, Acting President..

2. Roll Call

Trustees

Herb Cross

Gildardo Piñon

Irina Okhremtchouk

Joe DiPaola

Guy Garcia-excused

Staff

Gregg Atkins, District Librarian

Sandy Myers, Recorder

Library Commission President

Susan Ostergard-excused

3. Nomination and Election of New Officers

Joe diPaola moved, Irina Okhremtchouk seconded to nominate the same people to hold offices as were chosen for School Board office, namely, Irina Okhremtchouk, President; Gildardo Piñon, Vice-President; and Herb Cross, Secretary. The motion passed with 4-0.

4. Approval of Agenda

Herb Cross moved, Gildardo Piñon seconded and the motion carried.

5. New Business

A. Recommendation to Initiate Process for Consideration of Dissolution of Library Commission pursuant to Education Code section 18452.

Mr. Atkins reviewed the Education Code and the history of the establishment of the Library District. He noted that the original language did not include provision for a Commission; a new section in the law added in 1970 allows creation of an appointed Commission. The same section also provides for dissolution of a Library Commission with a minimum of one public hearing that must be noticed in newspapers and public places. A dissolution would become effective 6/30 of any year.

Mr. DiPaola wanted the notice scheduled of the intent to dissolve the Commission discussed and a public hearing scheduled. He would like the public hearing to take place on January 26, 2012. He stated his reasons for wanting the Commission to be dissolved: it is a dysfunctional body; does not respond to public citizens; fails in its obligations of checks and balances of the District Librarian. He feels the Commission is not supervised and therefore the Librarian is unsupervised. He feels the Board of Library Trustees has not been able to act because of its limited powers.

Mr. Cross disagrees with Mr. DiPaola. While previous Commissions may have missed things in the past, he feels the current Governing Board needs to address the current Commission in a joint meeting and have a discussion regarding what is expected and how to proceed. He feels the Commission is made of members of the Community who voluntarily give of their time and should be encouraged to contribute.

Ms. Ginger Emerson stated that she is in complete support of opening up the discussion for dissolution of the Commission. She read a letter regarding her previous grievances with the Commission. Her main objection is that the Commission's decisions cannot be appealed to the Board of Trustees. She encourages a public hearing to be held.

Mrs. Shirley Parsons addressed Mr. DiPaola and noted that he has just been elected to the Board and already wants to dissolve the Commission without even trying to work with them. She stated that the Commission has been in effect for 40 years and has operated effectively for most of those years. She wants the Board to know that the Commission is to provide public service not to achieve personal goals. She suggests the Board of Trustees clean up the School District's problems first. She encourages the Board of Trustees to try to work out the issues with the Commission before dissolving it.

Mrs. Mary Lou Batchelor says she hears the Board of Trustees concern that the Commission is dysfunctional but feels it is simply unfair to eliminate the board without trying to fix what is wrong first.

Mr. DiPaola again stated that he feels the Commission is not transparent and items on the agenda are not being addressed. He feels the Board of Trustees has no power therefore must dissolve the Commission.

Mr. David Werrin states that he wants the Commission dissolved. He feels the District Librarian makes policies and the Commission just follows along. He thanks members of the Board for taking up the challenge to create a new and vibrant library.

Ms. Jeanette Clarke noted that when she was on the Commission she was repeatedly attacked by people who did not get their way. She feels the same thing is happening to the current Library Commission. She pointed out the Board of Trustees does not have the time to take on the load of running a Library. She also pointed out personnel issues are the District Librarian's responsibility.

Ms. Shirley Humphries does not feel the Commission answers public concerns. She says Ms. Emerson attended meeting asking for a resolution to her complaints and did not receive one. She also says the Library has spent 2.5 million dollars on a new library and it is now going nowhere. She feels that her suggestion that Solano County Library be contacted regarding Dixon Library becoming a branch of Solano County is not being addressed. Mr. Atkins replied that the request was made to Mr. Ernst while he was president of the Governing Board of Library Trustees, and Mr. Ernst then requested Mr. Atkins send a letter to the Solano County Librarian to inquire on the cost and process of becoming a branch. Mr. Atkins discussed the request by phone, sent a letter and an email and has not received a reply.

Mr. Ian Arnold says he doesn't think dissolving the Commission is the issue. He recognizes that there are problems and would like to have them resolved. He would like to remain a Commission, however is not opposed to a public hearing.

Mr. Ross feels the new members of the Governing Board of Library Trustees need a chance to get their feet on the ground first and give the new Commission a chance to fix what's wrong. He feels the dissolution of the Library Commission is premature.

Mr. Jim Ernst states that under Mr. Atkins watch the Library has grown and finances are better. He feels that the issues that have arisen are a personal attack against the District Librarian by disgruntled employees. He feels the period under Mr. Atkins reign has been an exceptional period of growth.

Ms. Patricia Perfecto stated her concerns for transparency. She thinks it is time to break the current operation down.

Ms. Okhremtchouk disagrees that the complaints are from disgruntled employees.

Mr. Byron Chapman states that he has been attending community meetings and is trying to get transparency. He feels the layer effect is broken. He feels the Library Board should be dealing with the Community and that the Library Commission is not working. He notes that it took five meetings to perform an evaluation of the District Librarian and the final report was that there was nothing to report due to it being a personnel issue.

Mr. Ceremello says that the agenda should focus on whether to move forward with the public hearing and a public hearing should not be being held now. He feels there is an attempt to silence the people who do not agree with the current running of the Library. He wants the public hearing to be held and to move forward.

Mr. Atkins reminded the Board that not more than 9 months ago the Board directed staff and counsel to pursue legislative authority to change the governance structure so as to achieve a directly-elected Library Board and end the current requirement that the school board also serve as the Library Board.

Mr. Cross states that dissolution of the Library Commission is a radical move and would like to see the Governing Board of Library Trustees talk to the Library Commission and ask questions about the procedure process.

Gildardo Piñon moved, Joe DiPaola seconded to move forward with a public hearing. The Board was polled with the following results; Gildardo Piñon, aye; Joe Dipaola, aye; Irina Okhremtchouk, aye; Herb Cross, nay; Guy Garcia, absent. The motion passed with 3 ayes, 1 nay, and 1 absent.

6. Board Comments

Mr. DiPaola requests an item on the agenda to discuss a vacancy on the Library Commission which he feels now exists due to Susan Ostergard having missed 3 consecutive meetings.

7. Announcements

None

8. Adjournment

Irina Okhremtchouk, President adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Irina Okhremtchouk, President

Herb Cross, Secretary