

Minutes

South Mississippi Regional Board

October 23, 2024

The South Mississippi Regional Board met at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, in the auditorium at the Columbia Marion County Public Library. Present were Mrs. Jinger Cole, Chair, Mrs. Sharon Dungan, Mrs. Patricia Norris, Ms. Na'Chel Shannon, Library Director, and Mona Swayze to take minutes of the meeting.

Mrs. Cole called the meeting to order with prayer. She then turned the meeting over to Library Director Ms. Shannon.

Ms. Shannon read the minutes of the previous meeting. After discussion, Mrs. Dungan moved to approve the minutes by amending them to indicate the move to executive session was to discuss personnel issues. Mrs. Norris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Board letter of concern to the Library Director sent September 30, 2024, in particular a flexible schedule for staff. Ms. Shannon expressed her concern that a flexible schedule is not good for the library. The Board had a lengthy discussion about this issue with Ms. Shannon. They informed her that she will have to write a policy about flexible time.

New Business: Counseling for staff. Due to a variety of circumstances beyond anyone's control, the SMRL staff have experienced some form of trauma since 2019; Lacey Ellinwood, a library consultant with MLC, will check into counseling for staff. The Library Director may apply for a grant to offset any costs associated with this counseling.

New Board Member: Ms. Shannon informed the Board that Robin Hurst has been appointed by the Marion County Board of Supervisors for a 5-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

Ms. Shannon informed the Board that a formal agreement between the town of Bassfield and the library has been viewed by attorney Carey Varnado and everything appears to be in order. Mrs. Dungan moved to accept the agreement with the town of Bassfield. Mrs. Norris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Staffing: Ms. Shannon would like to hire a part-time program coordinator for both Marion and Jefferson Davis counties. Someone who will bring new insight into the communities. Mrs. Dungan brought up whether bookkeeping should be a part-time position.

Mrs. Dungan moved to consider closed session to discuss staffing. Mrs. Norris seconded.

Mrs. Norris moved to go into executive session. Mrs. Dungan seconded.

Mrs. Dungan moved to come out of executive session. Mrs. Norris seconded.

Mrs. Dungan moved that the Library Director explore the option of out sourcing book keeping responsibilities. Also, that the Library Director explore the possibility of adding a part time program coordinator for the library. Mrs. Norris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dungan moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Norris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.