

WEST NEW YORK LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the West New York Public Library held in person at the WNY Public Library at 6:00pm

Trustee Marielka Diaz called the meeting to order, followed by reading of the Open Public Meeting Notice and roll call.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: Weiland Lai, Director; Amirza Hernandez (via phone), Luis Baez (via phone), Katiana Hernandez, Nasrin Alam, Marielka Diaz, Lidice Solares

ABSENT: President Clara Brito-Herrera, Vice President Adriana Rodriguez, Richard Pinal, attorney

A motion was made to approve the minutes. Nasrin Alam motioned, and Katiana Hernandez seconded.
All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Schedule of board meetings dates for the year 2023 was proposed. Luis Baez suggested waiting for full attendance of the board to approve meeting dates.
2. Reorganization meeting to be held at the next meeting on February 7, 2023. A motion was made by Lidice Solares and seconded by Nasrin Alam with All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS & DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Lidice Solares requested clarification on concrete reasons for Trustee absenteeism. Many meetings have been missed due to a lack of quorum, and a trustee vacancy. We need to enforce the attendance according to the Board by laws to be able to conduct our business successfully in order to better serve our community. It was proposed that an email be sent to the Mayor and Commissioners to appoint someone for the vacancy for our next meeting in February, 2023.
2. There are 60 children who have enrolled for the tutoring program, however some are still on a waiting list. Each child is given an opportunity for tutoring for a time span of 2 months. Thereafter, any child on the waiting list is able to receive services. Volunteers would have been helpful, however the town hired 10 tutors and that seems to be appropriate for the program. According to Director Lai, the ratio of students to tutor is appropriate for the space in the library for the sessions to be fruitful and productive.
3. Amirza Hernandez pointed out that the use of volunteers would have offset the cost of paying tutors, and allow for savings on the library budget. In addition, the volunteers would have

come from the *Tomorrow's Teachers* program at Memorial High School, which would have been an excellent opportunity for those tutor volunteers to earn service hours. Amirza took the time to arrange for tutoring services with the Tomorrow's Teachers program, however these efforts were not successful.

4. A possible option for summer tutoring was suggested. Another suggestion was to make arrangements during the summer to organize a fall tutoring service with the Tomorrow's Teachers program to give ourselves time to be ready once the school year begins in September. Planning should begin in either March or April of 2023 for a successful program in September 2023.
5. All staff members are back to work with the exception of one person who is on disability leave.
6. The need for a reference librarian remains urgent. The town was informed and given the requirements to fill in the position, however there has not been anyone hired. The library will be able to serve the community in a better way if a reference librarian is available. Katiana suggested using Zip Recruiter or any online hiring service to help us find a qualified reference librarian. Luis emphasized we need to be persistent with the Commissioner to hire someone as soon as possible.
7. The Director is hopeful to be able to continue providing the programs we are already offering to the community as we move forward in the year. There is a continued effort to acquire books, videos, magazines, newspapers, and online resources to meet the needs of the community. The only resources that are not available to our patrons are the ones that are requested from countries abroad.
8. Many patrons rely on the library for their technology needs. Director Lai is looking for possible options to have a second wi-fi provider in order to make wi-fi accessible 24/7
9. Plans for the new library are still being worked on.

Marielka Diaz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was motioned by Lidice Solares, and seconded by Nasrin Alam with All in favor.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lidice Solares