

## WEST NEW YORK LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES - February 01, 2022

*Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the West New York Public Library held via ZOOM at 6:00 pm.*

President Clara Brito Herrera called the meeting to order after reading the Open Public Meeting Notice and doing a roll call.

Roll call was as follows:

**PRESENT:** Wei Lai, Director; Richard Pinal, attorney; Clara Brito Herrera, Adriana Rodriguez, Amirza Hernandez, Lidice Solares, Marielka Diaz, Nasrin Alam, Luis Baez, Katiana Hernandez [edited March 1, 2022]

**ABSENT:** Barbara Viu

Other Attendees:

**PRESENT:** Mark Bloomberg (WNY resident), Walter Popiel (WNY library tutor),

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion to approve previous meetings (December and January) minutes was brought to the table by Clara Brito-Herrera. Adriana Rodriguez motioned with Lidice Solares seconding and all in favor.

The tutoring program:

Marielka Diaz advised the board that there as no volunteer student names yet. Clara Brito Herrera asked if the tutors would be assigned or put into a tutoring session on an as-needed basis. Adriana Rodriguez explained the role of the high school students, the West New York Board of Education, and Walter Popiel, the tutoring program coordinator. There is communication between all parties involved to get the program details set up and running. It was also said that Maurice would set up the Gsuite for the library to protect all involved - the adult tutors, student tutors, and the clients.

At this moment, Walter introduced the vision, purpose, and needs of the tutoring program at the library and answered questions from the board.

**DETAILS:** the program will assist students with homework, augmenting what they do in class. The participation has increased from 12 students to 36 students. To match the tutors to the clients, he observes the tutor in some sessions and then matches their skills to the child's needs. Tutoring is available from 3-5, and each session is one hour. The program needs at least two (2) volunteer tutors to serve more clients; the two tutors working were hired from town hall.

Clara Brito Herrera said the call was out there. The West New York Board of Education also extends this opportunity to students who require community service, like the Honor Society. She advised that student volunteer students need parent consent but asked if the library could accommodate the hours of service to accommodate the varying schedules that the student-tutor may have. Amirza Hernandez asked the director if we could extend an hour of service.

Director Wei Lai expressed that with a survey regarding in-person tutoring and remote tutoring, the overwhelming majority of the votes were for in-person tutoring sessions. As a result of the survey and a reevaluation of COVID risks, the library will continue with the program. It will not take its planned hiatus, meaning extending for another hour would be possible to accommodate the schedules of all those

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involved after a conversation with the tutors to ensure the new hours would be feasible. However, the tutoring program needs more material, tutors, and equipment for the program's future.

Clara Brito Herrera said that maybe next year's budget could include a budget for more tech.

The reference librarian:

Adriana Rodriguez wanted to know if there was any update with finding a reference librarian. Director Wei Lai spoke with Commissioner Cirillo, where he was told that Town Hall would do some recruiting. Director Wei Lai has assigned someone as the temporary reference librarian to get everyday tasks done.

The interlibrary loan:

Adriana Rodriguez asked the director to explain the interlibrary loan since there has been some public angst. Director Wei Lai explained that the library is part of an instate library book loan program and has requested books from out-of-state libraries. However, even with those resources, the WNY library may not find the requested book and may purchase the book from online websites or the ebook, making the book available to patrons.

The Bank of America workshop:

Amirza Hernandez communicated that Danielle Cruz has been promoted, and we will set up the program with her replacement and advise the board of the new dates.

Clara Herrera concluded New/Old Business and opened the floor to the public.

Comments from Mark Bloomberg:

- He expressed his appreciation for the work done but requested more transparency.
  - o Meeting minutes should be available to the public
  - o Hard to find the Zoom link
  - o Usage of library resources data (books borrowed, program attendees, new library cards given, and more.)

With no further business or public comments, Clara Herrera requested a motion to adjourn the meeting with Adriana Rodriguez giving the motion. Lidice Solares seconded it with all in favor.

Clara Herrera adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amirza Hernandez