

LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
Minutes of Special Meeting
March 9, 2023

The Lincoln Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chair Amy Miller. Board members Jan Canterbury, Mary Jo Cooper, Diana Humphries, Sandra Dupree, and Bill Jones were present. Absent from the meeting was Richard Durrett, Deborah Gilliam, and Eric McCulloch.

Mr. Jones made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Humphries seconded the motion. All yes, motion carried.

Although two people signed in to speak, they declined making public comments at that time.

Chair Miller turned discussion over to Mr. Jones who presented a detailed analysis of Louisiana House Bill 25, along with the way in which he would like the Board to, not only oppose the bill, but to educate Lincoln Parish representatives on how each bill could be of use with amendments that reflect proper library practices and procedures. He outlined his proposed amendments as follows:

--Section 214(A) and (B): Retain present language, delete proposed "at the pleasure of the governing authority;

--Section 215(A): delete "or ordinances of the governing authority;"

--Section 215(A): delete last sentence beginning "The governing authority has the power to regulate and oversee the board of control . . ."

--add new section: The governing authority may remove a member of the board of control prior to the expiration of his term for just cause arising from the board of control member's performance of his duties as a member of the board of control, pursuant to the following procedure:

--if the governing authority desires to terminate a Board member before his term has expired, the governing authority shall present that Board member with a written statement specifying the governing authority's allegations that just cause for termination exists;

--prior to the governing authority's vote on the issue of whether the board of control member should be terminated, the governing authority shall allow the Board member the opportunity to contest the governing authority's allegations at a hearing called for that purpose, including affording the Board member the opportunity to call witnesses and present evidence contradicting the governing authority's allegations;

--the Board member shall be allowed the right to retain counsel to represent him at the hearing;

--if the governing authority, by majority vote after the conclusion of the hearing, elects to remove the Board member from the Board of Control, the Board member shall have the right to challenge the governing authority's decision in state district court.

Mr. Jones explained the necessity for action before the regular board meeting in regards to the crunch of time before Louisiana's Legislation session begins on April 10, 2023. He hopes that by taking action,

other libraries would follow our lead. Mrs. Miller noted that HB25 is inconsistent with another statute which outlines the duties of the board. She also noted that term limits are a necessity for Board continuity. Mr. Jones made a two-part motion for the Board to make a resolution that states: "The Board opposes House Bill 25 as currently written, but if amended in accordance with amendments the Library Board proposed, the Board would support House Bill 25 AS AMENDED. Additionally, the Board shall appoint a committee consisting of the President, Vice-president, Library Director, Board Member Bill Jones and any other Board member who wants to participate in communicating and working with the public, the Louisiana Library Association, other public libraries, and the legislature to oppose House Bill 25 as currently written, unless amended in accordance with LPL Board recommended amendments, to support the AMENDED BILLS." Ms. Dupree make the motion to second. A rollcall vote was called by Mrs. Miller. All yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Jones then presented of Louisiana Senate Bill 7 in the same method which included a detailed analysis along with the way in which he would like the Board to, not only oppose the bill, but to educate Lincoln Parish representatives on how each bill could be of use with amendments that reflect proper library practices and procedures He outlined his proposed amendments as follows:

--Section 225(A): strike the sentence "Many libraries lack adequate policies . . ."

--Section 225(A): In the last sentence, delete "sexually explicit materials" and replace with "material that is not age appropriate."

--Section 225 (B): delete entirely.

--Section 225(C)(1), delete "sexually explicit material" and replace with "material that is not age appropriate."

--Section 225(C)(2)(a), leave as is.

--Section 225(C)(2)(b)-(c), delete current language entirely and rewrite to address restrictions on minors checking our age-inappropriate materials and a card system that, if the parent requests, requires parental permission for a minor to check out material that is outside the minor's age category. Library Staff (not the Board) are responsible for categorizing material by age category. NOTE: If a parent wanted to challenge the classification of particular material, they can use the reconsideration process below.

--Section 225 (C)(2)(c): delete last sentence beginning "The library shall list . . ."

--Section 225(C)(2)(d): leave as is.

--Section 225(C)(2)(d)(i): Add this sentence at the end: "The library board of control shall determine whether the material should be included in the library collection by majority vote in an open meeting."

--Section 225(C)(3), leave as is.

--Section (D), add "Members of the Board of Control" after "employees."

--Section 225(E), delete entirely.

Mr. Jones made a motion for the Board to make a resolution that states: "The Board opposes Senate Bill 7 as currently written, but if amended in accordance with amendments the Library Board proposed, the Board would support Senate Bill 7 AS AMENDED." Additionally, he referred the work for SB7 to be assigned to the same committee created in the previous motion. Mrs. Humphries make the motion to second. A rollcall vote was called by Mrs. Miller. All yes. Motion carried.

With no further discussions, Ms. Dupree made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.