

Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library Commission
Martinsburg Berkeley County Public Library – 3rd Floor
August Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2020

Scott Campbell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Present: Scott Campbell, Chair; Gary Wine, Vice Chair; Billie Grey, Secretary; Karen Greenfield; Gretchen Fry, Librarian. Absent: Sara Douglass, Treasurer.

A quorum being present, the items on the agenda were considered.

The minutes of the July 25, 2020 meeting were approved on a Greenfield/Campbell motion by a unanimous voice vote.

There were no Public Comments.

The Financial Report ending July 31, 2020 presented by Lynn Walker was approved on a Wine/Greenfield motion with a unanimous voice vote.

The Director's Report was presented by Gretchen Fry and will be included in the minutes.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

The changes required by COVID-19 caused a variety of initiatives and needs for schools and students. The MBCPL is working with the Berkeley County School librarians and with state offices to support students. All matters discussed were within the authority of the librarian and did not require Board action.

The Wine/Greenfield motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 5:37PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Billie J. Grey, Secretary

Director's Report August 2020

Kids connect

The governor has announced a program called "Kids Connect" in which all public libraries and schools will serve as hotspots for students who need to connect to the internet. A third party contractor will install access points outside all public libraries and schools to broadcast existing wireless beyond the library's walls so it can be used afterhours or outside the library.

Cabling for outside access is expected to be installed at Hedgesville, North Berkeley, and Martinsburg Libraries on Wed August 26th. Although the library was already providing internet outside our buildings,

we expect that the outside access points at North Berkeley and Hedgesville will provide a much stronger signal. We are hoping to configure the outside access point in Martinsburg so that it can be turned off at night to address the concerns of the Martinsburg Police.

Virtual and socially distant programming

The libraries are coming up with some creative ways to engage patrons, since we are not offering our usual in person programs.

Starting in October patrons of all ages can participate in a “Read Woke” reading challenge using the Beanstack app. Patrons can read recommended titles or chose their own books to read. Participants who complete the challenge will be entered into a drawing for a Barnes and Noble gift card. This program will include the option to pick up weekly “take and make” crafts or projects (different projects for different ages)

Hedgesville has “Surprise Storytime” kits for PreK- 2nd Grade Kids that can be checked out. The kits include a wrapped book and craft that they can do at home. Hedgesville is also offering take and make crafts for adults once a month and a “bookmark book report”, where adults and teens can write book reviews on a bookmark, which will be posted in the library.

Hedgesville friends group is sponsoring a book walk along the sidewalk at Hedgesville Library. This is a fun activity that that promotes literacy while keeping people socially distanced.

Emily Jones, our Teen librarian, is starting a virtual volunteer program. Teens can volunteer for various tasks, including helping Emily create content for the website and creating online programming.

Hedgesville Library

On Thursday, September 10th at 10am there will be a ceremony at the Hedgesville Library in which the WV State Treasurer’s Office will present found unclaimed funds to the Hedgesville branch of the Martinsburg-Berkeley County public library system. Dana worked through quite a bit of paperwork to prove that Naylor Memorial Library was the old name of the Hedgesville Library. They will not tell us the amount, apparently they like it to be a surprise.

Musselman Library

We are planning to open the Musselman- South Berkeley Library to the public on September 8th. We have submitted a reopening plan. On Monday, August 24th, the school requested that the public library and school library adjust the existing schedule so that students and the public are not in the building at the same time. Based on discussions with the school librarian, the solution that would work best for both parties would be to shift the public library’s opening hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00am- 5:00pm to 11:00am- 6:00pm. Saturday and Sunday hours would remain the same.

Building Improvements in Martinsburg

The library moved forward on the project that came out of last year's operating budget- Replacement of the carpeted sections on the top floor of library and the carpeted area in the children's department with commercial grade flooring. The top floor was completed, but the children's department project had to be halted because of asbestos concerns. Asbestos testing was conducted and sections of the children's department underwent abatement, which was concluded on Monday, August 24th.

The abatement process clarified the need to cover the rest of the tile flooring in the children's department with commercial grade flooring, rather than run the risk of tiles breaking up and having to abate the entire floor. This is also an opportunity to bring a united look to the floor, by having the same flooring throughout.

Public Library Support of Berkeley County Students

Karen Greenfield and I are working on a project to provide resources to students virtually and through the public library's no-contact pickup service. Our goal is to create a student card, in which students can use their student IDs to checkout digital materials and up to 3 books, without incurring fines.