



Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes

Date: March 7, 2022

Location: Zoom

Trustees Attending:

Mark Orton (President), Caitie Hilverman (Vice President), Michael Grisham (Treasurer), Dani French (Secretary), AnnaMaria Assevero, Elizabeth Dickey, Gary Sheffer, Charlie Whittingham, Julia Black, Bill Stenehjem

Excused: None

Absent: Carol Pledger, Kris Weiss, Miranda Barry, Kimberly Erwin, Kenneth Kraus, Jessica Almeleh-Frazer

Staff Attending: Emily Chameides (Director)

Others Attending:

Meeting was called to order by Caitie Hilverman at 6:00.

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the updated Covid protocols. The update was made to balance CDC guidance with practices that are welcoming and inclusive to a wide range of library patrons.

A line was also added to the original policy text forbidding harassment of library staff over Covid policies.

Discussion

Emily: Staff members want time to meet and go over the changes and asked if we could wait a bit before we put this into action

Gary: Is this policy consistent with other libraries? How does the staff and volunteers feel about masking?

Emily: There's a range among the Mid-Hudson Library System libraries. Sentiment about masking is mixed among our staff and volunteers. The plastic barriers at the checkout desks will stay in place and more cautious employees can continue to mask.

Mark: This is a good middle ground and this policy empowers the staff to protect themselves.

Gary: Would we provide a mask if a staff member requests a patron wear one if they need help on a computer?

Emily: Yes, and if the patron doesn't want to wear them, we can find a different staff member to help them.

Bill: Do you know the vaccination status of the staff and volunteers? Are we confident everyone is vaccinated?

Emily: Not every team member is vaccinated. I haven't seen vaccination cards but I can make a list.

Julia: Do you think we'll see higher numbers of people coming to the library with this policy? Will we need to set limits and capacities?

Emily: We will continue to leave every other computer blocked off. For the community room, we'll have to experiment with different setups. We'll leave capacity for programs up to the discretion of the director and program director.

Charles: This policy will be fluid and it's good that we're following community guidelines (what's being done in schools, etc).

Motion to accept the policy made by Michael and seconded by Charlie. Motion was passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Elizabeth and seconded by William at 6:16 pm. Motion passed unanimously at 6:16 pm.

Dani French

Recording Secretary

March 21, 2022

Date of approval