

SHAKER HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Attendance

Members Present: Ms. Allen, Mr. Anderson, Dr. Hutt, Mr. Miller, Ms. Shatten, Ms. Williams
(Ms. Williams arrived at 6:15 and left at 6:47 p.m.)

Staff Present: Ms. Aiken, Mr. Dickinson, Ms. Switzer

Others Present: Mayor Earl Leiken and Ms. Braverman from the City of Shaker Heights;
Superintendent Dr. Hutchings, Ms. Herbruck from the Shaker Heights City
School District and Ann Sutherland, Board of Education; Anne Williams,
League of Women Voters Representative

Ms. Shatten called the special meeting of the Shaker Heights Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 5:58 p.m. in the Boardroom.

President's Report

A. "Straight A" Grant Partnership Agreement with the Shaker Heights City School District

Ms. Shatten indicated tonight's meeting was called to discuss the "Straight A" grant being developed by the Shaker Heights City School District with the Shaker Heights Public Library and the City of Shaker Heights.

(Ms. Williams arrived at 6:15)

Dr. Hutchings explained the grant could bring up to \$5 million to the community to open a personalized learning center for all citizens. He said the library's second floor would be an excellent site for the center because of its proximity to the population the center would be serving and because the library is already a learning center for the community. One of his goals for the grant is to create a stronger partnership with the library.

Mr. Dickinson inquired about the space that would be needed. He expressed the Board's concern that large numbers of students might intimidate the library's regular patrons. He explained if the library gave up the second floor, it would need to enlarge the first floor or basement to accommodate the lost service areas. Mr. Dickinson showed a second floor diagram indicating the Friend's sorting room and the quiet study room could be readily available for the schools but the schools had also requested meeting rooms F and G, the CEO and teen center. He said the space would need to be replaced to allow the library to continue its services to the community and it would be two years before the second floor could be completely vacated. He mentioned the schools said they would add a new entrance to accommodate their students.

Superintendent Hutchings noted the money received from the grant needs to be spent by June 2014 so the schools could not wait until the library vacated. He said there was also a need for a server room for their computers but the school would be willing to share the space but could not be limited to two rooms.

Ms. Shatten explained the library would need a revenue stream in order to renovate and expand.

Mayor Leiken said he had met with the library previously and they had expressed a desire to consolidate so was there a need to replace the lost area?

The mayor responded the City is cash strapped and could not help the library with a bond issue or addition revenue.

(Mayor Leiken left at 6:45 p.m.)

Ms. Williams was concerned about the logistics for the project and how the library could continue to offer its programs.

(Ms. Williams left at 6:47 p.m.)

Mr. Dickinson added the second floor has 13,000 square feet of space and would need to replace at least 10,000 square feet somewhere else in the building. This may not be an accurate number because the library needs to complete a facility assessment and feasibility study to know what exactly is needed. He added the library needs funds to do the work.

Dr. Hutchings responded they could not work in just two rooms until the library renovated. He would like the center to be open the same hours as the library.

Mr. Dickinson offered the use of the teen center 60% of the time and Rooms B, E and F 50% of the time but the community would lose meeting room space and the library would lose revenue.

Dr. Hutchings stated students would be better served along with the rest of the community by offering parenting classes and continuing education taught by John Carroll University professors. The schools would save money in the long run because it would no longer send students out of the district.

Mr. Anderson queried what the school could pay for rent.

Dr. Hutchings responded they could pay a percentage of the utilities and maintenance.

Ms. Allen expressed a desire for the library to receive some of the publicity and credit for the center and working together on the project.

Mr. Anderson stated the library needs funds for our modifications.

The Superintendent responded with offers of help to find grants and donations but he made no commitments. He then distributed an Executive Summary for the project.

Ms. Braverman indicated the project would add twenty parking spaces to the shared library lot.

Ms. Shatten called for a motion to sign the partnership agreement with the Shaker Heights City School District for the "Straight A" grant.

2013-79 Mr. Anderson moved and Mr. Miller seconded a motion to sign the partnership agreement with the Shaker City School District for the "Straight A" grant.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ms. Allen, Mr. Anderson, Dr. Hutt, Mr. Miller, Ms. Shatten

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Shatten adjourned the special board meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Jeanne Shatten, President

Dolores Aiken, Fiscal Officer

Carmella Williams, Secretary