

Library Board of Trustees Special Meeting

March 28, 2025

Location

This meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with remote attendance via Microsoft Teams and in-person attendance at Administrative Services, 5205 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226.

In Attendance

Trustees: Rodney Lofdahl, Chair; Matthew Santos, Vice Chair; Danielle Gaughen, Secretary; and Jes Stugelmayer. Absent: John Miller.

Staff: Christine Perkins, Executive Director; Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and Administration; Thom Barthelmess, Youth Services Manager; Dianne Marrs-Smith, Lynden Library Manager and Friends of the Birch Bay Library (FOBBL) President; Maggie Mae Nase, Learning Coordinator; Rheannan Pfnister, Records Management Specialist & Executive Assistant.

Guests: none

Call to Order

Rod determined quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m., followed by a reading of the WCLS Land Acknowledgement by Christine.

Open Public Comment

No public comment.

Levy Lid Lift Resolution 03/18/25-04 Update

After the March 18 Board of Trustees meeting, Christine shared with our attorney the Levy Lid Lift resolution changes that were made during the meeting prior to its approval. The attorney recommends two additional changes that help clarify the intention of the resolution. The changes are:

Section 1, "...continue to maintain current levels of operation, address development and maintenance of community library facilities, and enhance hours and services to reflect future community needs" is changed to, "continue to maintain current levels of operation, develop and maintain community library facilities, and enhance hours and services to accommodate future community needs."

Section 2, ballot proposition language stating, "...to provide funding for the District to provide library services and facilities" is changed to "to provide stable funding for the continued operation, maintenance, and development of public libraries and library services in Whatcom County."

Jes wondered if the word "stable" implies that our funding isn't currently stable. Christine reported that we borrowed that language from another library district's recent successful levy lid lift measure. Matthew took it to mean that funding becomes instable in the future if the measure doesn't pass.

Rod is comfortable with the changes as presented. Jes agrees.

Matthew moved to approve Resolution 03/18/25-04 as amended. Seconded. Unanimous approval.

Christine previewed a one-page informational handout that Mary Vermillion and the Community Relations team have prepared. We are sending it to the Public Disclosure Commission for approval and confirmation that it is informational and not persuasive. Then it will be shared publicly.

Jes thinks the home value breakdown is valuable and clear.

Announcements and Adjourn

Christine reminded trustees that she will be out of the office but available April 2-4, and both she and Michael will be on vacation the week of April 7. Jackie will be in charge during that time.

Rod adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on April 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. online via Microsoft Teams and at Administrative Services, 5205 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226.

_____/s/
Danielle Gaughen, Board
Secretary

_____/4/15/2025
Date

_____/s/
Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and
Administration