

PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER 16, 2024 5 p.m.
LIBRARY 21C - VENUE



VIRTUAL MEETING (ZOOM)

Call in: 1-253-215-8782 or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-669-900-6833 or 1-346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 837 1958 5376
Passcode: 940463

Anyone interested in making a public comment at this meeting must sign up before 5 p.m. Please arrive or log in (if attending virtually) early. Meeting room doors will open by 4:30 p.m. The virtual meeting will be open by 4:45 p.m.

President Dora Gonzales, Vice President Scott Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer Erin Bents, Angela Dougan, Debbie English, Aaron Salt, Julie Smyth

Chief Librarian and CEO Teona Shainidze-Krebs, Chief Communications Officer Denise Abbott, Chief Human Resources Officer Timothy Allen, Director of Programming Melody Alvarez, Michael Brantner, Friends of PPLD Volunteer & Sales Operations Coordinator Beth Crumrine, Sr. Library Assistant Sarah Davis, , Senior Director of Development and Foundation Executive Director Courtney Deuser, Director of Regional History and Genealogy Michael Doherty, Executive Assistant Laura Foster, Director of Branches Janina Goodwin, Chief Information Technology Officer Justin Goodwin, Chief Financial Officer Randy Green, Director of Adult Education Sandy Hancock, PPLD Foundation Board of Directors President Nadine Hensler, Controller Kim Hoggatt, Assistant Director of Branches Gigi Holman, Chief Operating Officer Heather Laslie, Library 21c Manager Jennifer Luebbert, Interlibrary Load Manager Amanda Marez-Frutchey, Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District Vice President Birdie Miller, Old Colorado City Library Supervisor Vanessa Nash, Calhan Library Supervisor Liz Phillips, Cheyenne Mountain Library Supervisor Felisha Port, Director of IT Infrastructure Dan Stone, Director of Patron Engagement Abby Simpson, Jeremiah Walter, Tess Warren, Interim Branch Supervisor Geneva West, County Commissioner Carrie Geitner, City Councilmember Nancy Henjum, City Councilmember Dave Donelson, Kristin Alexander, Joy Allison, Betty Andersen, Emily Anerino, Andrew Armstrong, Alleah Baron, Jim Barry, Mary Becchio, Franklin Bernhard, Kim Bernhard, Jolene Bounds (sp), Alan Bridges, David B. Randi B., J. Capito (sp), Gloria Carpenter, Mark Caton, Cathy Chebuhar, Mike Chebuhar, Peter Choi, Jessica Choy, Sandra Collins, Jennaya Colons, Barbara Cuney, Katie Czukas, Sarah Dunmire, Peter Eller, Alicia Elkins-Smith, Amber Erickson, January Fairfield, Julie Fallin, Michelle Farrell, Rhona Fletcher, Tamara Forrest, Anne Francis, Toby Gannett, David Garcia, James Gavato, Kurt Gebreuer, AnnEliz Harford, Brandi Henderson, Ruble Henderson, Pat Herington, David Hewett, Becky Houston, Gabbie H., Meghan Jacks, Michele Jiricka, Enoch Johnson, Charity J. Kate Kersey, Youngmee Kim, Jessica Kloppenborg, Pete Knepell, Thomas Knobeloch, Lisa Langlely, Rosa Le, Jim Lehman, Carl Leivers, Ken Lewis, Eric Lundberg, Quinn Mafaie, Corinna Martin, Delaina Massie, Tom McGuire, Emily McCloskey, Cornelia Mckinney, Kelly Merritt, Diane Millburn, K. Morris, Jean Muller, Norbert Necker, Chris Nelson, Ginger Nichols, Sarah Norris, Carol Odell, Courtney Olson, Donna Park Ranson, Walt Perzcovitz, Ken Pfeil, Frank Rakoczy, Patti Reisinger, Larry Reisinger, Katie Robinson, Katie Ross, Carolyn Sarda, Matt Sarda, Gina Schmidt, Rochelle Shannon (sp), Kimberly Sharples, Kristin Siekmeier, Merrick Sobin, Mary Jo Sohn, Cindy Speaker, Gina Sphingmeyer, Toni Stark, Ronald S. (sp), Hannah Sutton, Jan Tanner, Bill Thomas, Allie Toomey, Regina Topp, Lauren Troiani, Tiffany T., Caleb T., Sandra Uhlih, Bobbi Ullman, Ezra Wade, Kathie Waller, Caroline Werle, Criag Williams (sp), Kevin Wilson, Lynne Wylie, Susanne Wylie, Judy Wach (sp), Jennifer, Michael, Susan, DC, MSelken, Joe, Julie, Chris, Christine, Veronica, Sun, Stephanie, Dale, Georgia, Kevin, Arin, Michael, Corinne John, Andrew, Marcy, Joe, Kevin, Susan, LS, Sherri, mselk, Carl, Emily, Brenna, Dora, Kaye Chris

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CALL TO ORDER

President Dora Gonzales called the October 15, 2024 meeting of the Pikes Peak Library District to order at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROCKRIMMON LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Interim Facilities Project Manager Scott Dunkley shared pictures and details of the repair of the sinkhole that formed behind the Rockrimmon Library, and also provided details on the maintenance issues and associated costs experienced at this location since 2017.

Motion: Aaron Salt made a motion to move Decision 24-10-2 on the Rockrimmon Lease up on the agenda to accommodate those attending this meeting, before the Reports

Second: Angela Dougan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Debbie English stated that the 2025 budget presentation may impact the decision.

Motion: Aaron Salt amended his motion to move Decision 24-10-2 to be item 7a with other Discussion and Decisions.

Second: Debbie English seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Over 40 comments were made by members of the public: Susan Creeder, Audra Talamante, Angela Puente, Hannah Sutton, Mary Taylor, Emily Cohen, Dick Purcell, Mo Gaitor, Peggy Hartman, Judy Algire, Douglas Star, Circa Sabo, MJ Sabo, Maureen Bridges, Pat Webb, Rhonda, Courtney, Scarlet, Jessica, Ken Lewis, Judy Morrill, Justin Morill, Olivia and friend, Case Howard, Ruth, Tamara Forrest, Linda Sobin, and Merrick Sobin, Janet Higley, Bob Rennick, Dottie Harman, Meghan and Elyse Jackson, Christine Hall, Jeanne Marsh, Jacob Ward, Melanie Reynolds, Teresa McMullan, Matt Martin. Landlord Matt Sahin, City Councilmember Dave Donelson. Comments were in support of keeping Rockrimmon Library open and included: the timeline of the decision to not renew the lease, that there are no other community spaces in the area, why was the public not surveyed, suggestion of fundraising to keep Rockrimmon open, the intimacy of a small library, lack of after school space for students, possibility of relocating elsewhere on the northwest side of Colorado Springs, the option of pursuing a mill levy increase, the library is a safe space, the library is used by all ages, the lack of public transportation to other library locations...etc. A five-minute break was taken during Public Comment.

PRESENTATIONS

Capital Outlay – 2023 Actual, 2024 Projected, 2025 Budget Wish List

The Preliminary Balanced Budget Presentation was included in the packet. The 2025 Budget wish list includes \$5.9 million that is not included in the 2025 preliminary budget. Updates to the budget will be provided for the December 4 Board of Trustees meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

New Business

DECISION 24-10-2: Rockrimmon Lease

President Dora Gonzales thanked everyone for attending the Board of Trustees meetings in the past few months. A summary of the statement she provided included that this was not an easy decision for any of the Trustees, and that sustainability over time is the Board's first priority. PPLD is the second largest library district in Colorado but receives 30% less funding than other districts. Rockrimmon Library was considered for closure in 2014 but the departure of the Chief Librarian and resulting search put the topic on hold. All El Paso County communities will be considered when the decision about vacating the Rockrimmon Library location by the end of the year is made.

Motion:: Aaron Salt made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve not renewing the Rockrimmon Library lease.

Second:Angela Dougan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Debbie English stated she would like to negotiate a one-year lease and decide over the coming year how to proceed.

Scott Taylor stated he would like to not rush into a decision, and would prefer to work with the landlord and property management company on a one-year lease to allow time to collaborate with the community and consider all options.

Angela Dougan acknowledged this was a tough situation, thanked the community for coming together and encouraged the community to stay involved. She stated that the entire county and PPLD's financial situation must be considered despite the offer of a discounted lease. The discussion to close Rockrimmon Library began 15 years ago.

Julie Smyth shared that PPLD must be sustainable, and that the budget, staffing shortages and morale, facilities

maintenance and safety issues, and strategic placement of facilities throughout the county will inform her decision. Deferring the decision is a disservice to the community.

Erin Bents stated that although waiting a year sounds good, the data does not support waiting and that will just prolong a difficult decision.

Aaron Salt thanked the community members for attending the meeting as he believes civic engagement is very important.

He stated a concern shared by the owner of a small business in this strip mall that other tenants would be negatively impacted by one tenant being offered a reduced lease.

Debbie English shared that deferring a decision for one year would give PPLD an opportunity to explore all options and potentially identify another solution.

Aaron Salt stated that not renewing the lease does not mean there will not be other options for a library in the neighborhood in the future.

City Councilmember Dave Donelson asked to speak for one minute. He stated that closing the library will alienate support for a mill levy in the future.

Aaron Salt recounted that when the Board planned to vote on a mill levy increase in 2022, the Board was asked by both the city and county to not pursue it at that time. The Board voted to respect that request and not seek an increase.

County Commissioner Carrie Geitner asked to speak briefly. She shared that the community is struggling with property tax increases already and important measures on the ballot may not pass. As approximately 30% of the community uses the library; she feels the likelihood of a successful ballot measure for an increase is slim.

Motion: Aaron Salt made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District does not renew the lease for the Rockrimmon library.

Second: Angela Dougan seconded the motion.

Vote: President Dora Gonzales asked for a vote by roll call:

Angela Dougan – yes

Julie Smyth – yes

Debbie English – no

Erin Bents – yes

Dora Gonzales – yes

Scott-Taylor - no

With five trustees voting yes and two trustees voting no, the motion passes 5-2.

A 5-minute break was taken.

REPORTS

Board Reports

Governance Committee

Governance Committee Chairperson Julie Smyth shared that the Committee discussed candidates for the Board vacancy, and the formation of a policy committee.

Internal Affairs Committee

Internal Affairs Committee Chairperson Aaron Salt stated the meeting was held on Tuesday, October 8 at 8:00 a.m. at East Library to discuss the Facilities Master Plan.

Liaison comments

County Commissioner Carrie Geitner appreciated hearing community input regarding the Rockrimmon Library. Commissioner Geitner represents El Paso District Two where there is a lack of library resources for families. The distribution of libraries across the District is not equitable. She acknowledged that the Board of Trustees is considering the entire county community, and she trusts the Board's judgement in making this difficult decision.

Trustee comments

Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District Report

The Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District report was included in the packet. Friends Vice President Birdie Miller shared the success of the book sale and that there are 16 new volunteers. Honorees for the 2025 Frank Waters and Golden Quill awards have been selected and acceptance is pending. The acceptance ceremony will be held on June 7, 2025.

Pikes Peak Library District Foundation Report

The Pikes Peak Library District Foundation report was included in the Board packet. Senior Director of Development and Foundation Executive Director Courtney Deuser thanked liaisons to the Foundation Board Debbie English and Scott Taylor for their input on the Foundation Strategic Plan. The Foundation Board meeting will be held tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was included in the Board packet. Chief Financial Officer Randy Green shared that most of the property tax revenue has been collected. PPLD is not eligible to receive the \$2 million provided in April as a backfill for 2022-23, This will be paid back to taxpayers through mill levy next year. Fees paid by PPLD for this amount are non-refundable. This discovery does impact the fund balance on the Financial report.

Public Services Report

The Public Services report was included in the Board packet. Chief Operating Officer Heather Laslie spoke about the report in the absence of Chief Public Services Officer and Deputy Chief Librarian Tammy Sayles. Highlights include the Food Industry Training (FIT) graduation on November 1, All Pikes Peak Writes received 93 entries this year, and that 130 candidates attended the PPLD Job Fair hosted by the Human Resources Team and hiring managers.

Support Services Reports: Communications; Facilities; Human Resources; Information Technology; Safety, Social Services, & Security; Strategy & Innovation

The Support Services reports were included in the Board packet.

Chief Librarian and CEO Report

Chief Librarian and CEO Teona Shainidze-Krebs thanked Randy for his leadership and diligence in researching the \$2 million received by the District, which resulted in the discovery that the District is ineligible. The creation of the Strategy and Innovation Department is an effort to streamline data management and analysis. PPLDCon 2024 was a success thanks to all involved in planning. Ms. Shainidze-Krebs thanked the Board of Trustees for setting her goals and holding her accountable.

BUSINESS ITEMS (cont.)

Consent Items

Minutes of the September 18, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting
There were no comments or requested changes.

Unfinished Business

DECISION 24-10-1: URA Bristow-Lowell

The URA Bristow-Lowell documentation was included in the Board packet. Executive Director of the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority (CSURA) Jariah Walker shared that this project will be brought to City Council next week. There were no questions.

Motion: Aaron made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the URA Bristow Lowell as presented.

Second: Erin Bents seconded the motion.

Discussion: Julie Smyth asked if a mill levy increase over the course of the 25 years would impact PPLD's commitment. Executive Director of the CSURA Jariah Walker stated that PPLD would retain revenue from any

Vote: The motion was approved 6 – 1.

New Business (cont.)

DISCUSSION: URA OneVela

THE URA OneVeLa documentation was included in the Board packet. Executive Director of the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority (CSURA) Jariah Walker introduced Kevin O'Neil and Andy Merritt of the project development team of this 400-unit mixed use project.

Scott Taylor left the meeting during the URA OneVeLa discussion.

DECISION 24-10-3: Library 21c Water Main project

The Library 21c Water Main project was included in the Board packet.

Motion: Julie Smyth made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the Library 21c Water Main project as presented.

Second: Aaron Salt seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

DECISION 24-10-4: Penrose Interior Renovation

The Penrose Interior Renovation was included in the Board packet. This project includes upgrades to the Children's area, safety measure implemented in the computer lab, relocating service desks at east and west entrances. These upgrades will allow staff to better monitor the public area of the library.

Motion: Julie Smyth made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the Penrose Interior Renovation as presented.

Second: Angela Dougan seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

DECISION 24-10-5: Resolution for Supplementary Budget - Capital Fund

The Resolution for Supplementary Budget – Capital Fund was included in the Board packet.

Motion: Julie Smyth made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the Resolution for Supplementary Budget – Capital Fund as presented.

Second: Debbie English seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

DECISION 24-10-6: Resolution for Supplementary Budget - Penrose Library and Library 21c Capital Improvement

The Resolution for Supplementary Budget – Penrose Library and Library 21c Capital Improvement was included in the Board packet.

Motion: Erin Bents made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the Resolution for Supplementary Budget – Penrose Library and Library 21c Capital Improvement as presented

Second: Julie Smyth seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The being no further business to discuss, President Dora Gonzales adjourned the regular meeting of the Pikes Peak Board of Trustees at 9:24 p.m.

The full packet of materials for this meeting of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees is available at <https://ppld.org/board-trustees>