

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
6:15 PM – Zoom In lieu of Central Library

Trustees in Attendance	Not in Attendance	Staff in Attendance
Ms. Adams Mr. Boothe Ms. DeKuyper Ms. Dorman Ms. Espenshade Ms. Farmer, Chair Ms. Gohn Mr. Hillman Mr. Jensen Mr. Koff Ms. Lasher Ms. Moser Ms. Rawson Powell Mr. Reid Mr. Rosenberg Mr. Scherr	Mr. Aneckstein Ms. Jones-Rodwell Mr. Kaufman Mr. Miller	Ms. Daniel Ms. Baker Mr. Estremsky Ms. Fisher Ms. Graham Mr. Jenkins Mr. Krabbe Mr. Lewis Mr. Malveaux Ms. Mange Ms. McCorkell Ms. Monahan Ms. Moran Ms. Raabe Ms. Scheuerman Ms. Shimabukuro

- I. **Chair, Dr. Mychelle Farmer called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM**

- II. **Approval of Minutes of the Wednesday, September 16, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting**
*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees approved the minutes from the Wednesday, September 16, 2020 meeting.*****

- III. **Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors**
*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees ratified the actions of the Board of Directors at the Wednesday, September 16, 2020 meeting.*****

- IV. **Chair’s Remarks**
Dr. Mychelle Farmer began her remarks by acknowledging the passing of Senator Paul Sarbanes, a member of the Board of Trustees. Several Board members offered memorial tributes to Senator Sarbanes; the Board continues to be grateful for Senator Sarbanes and his family for their years of service on behalf of the Pratt. Dr. Farmer reminded the Board that it continues to support the Pratt Library in many meaningful ways, so that the Pratt Library might continue to respond to the needs of Baltimore’s residents, and to continue supporting the State of Maryland as the State Library Resource Center. In December, the Pratt often reviews and gives thanks for

its past accomplishments. Dr. Farmer is thankful to all who are working on innovative Board-sponsored events, through the Pratt Society, the Pratt Contemporaries, and through Mr. Pratt Presents. Dr. Farmer remains thankful to the Past Chairs, many of whom attended a great event at Gertrude's Restaurant, to honor them. They provided Dr. Farmer with a generous amount of great ideas for future activities; past Chairs will be talking again in the near future. Dr. Farmer gratitude was further extended to the members of the Governance Committee and the Executive Committee for conducting a survey of Board members. The survey provided some great insights into Board engagement, committee structure, and the important topic of Diversity-Equity-Inclusion. Dr. Farmer appreciated the feedback; it will help her to determine ways to include Board members in future work to support the Pratt Library. Dr. Farmer is grateful to the Community Services Committee and to its Chair, Dr. Allan Jensen, for supporting great linkages between the Board and important groups like Citizens for Maryland Libraries.

Further thanks were given to Ms. Nancy Dorman and Mr. Ted Delaplaine, for their hard work with the Pratt Advisory Council. Dr. Farmer continues to soak up new knowledge every time she speaks with them, and sees bright days ahead for the PAC. Thanks were given to the Legislative Committee and to the Pratt's lobbyists, Bellamy Genn Group, for keeping the Pratt informed about important developments in Annapolis. Effective advocacy ensures that the Pratt receive funding that will keep the lights on and keep its librarians at each of its 21 branches. Thanks were given to Ms. Verna Jones-Rodwell for her leadership. The Pratt will be calling on many Board members, not just those involved with the Legislative Committee, to assist the Pratt Library with new legislation. Dr. Farmer encouraged and reminded the Board to be active advocates, so that the Pratt's voice continues to be heard.

Dr. Farmer thanked the Baltimore residents who attend Board meetings and who make public comments. Dr. Farmer and the Board appreciate the public feedback; she reminded the public that the Board is listening. Thanks were given to Ms. Heidi Daniel and her staff, Dr. Farmer believes them to be like the central nervous system. They are the brains, they make great programs, and they provide valuable educational and cultural resources for Baltimore and the State of Maryland. The Board is very grateful for all their hard work and dedication.

Dr. Farmer concluded her remarks by thanking all the Board members for their generous contributions to the Pratt Library. Several Board members have significantly increased their giving, and it is greatly appreciated. The Pratt has much work to do, and Board support means a great deal. Dr. Farmer is looking forward to 2021. Some Board members have new children and grandchildren, and some members are expecting new arrivals in 2021. Dr. Farmer welcomes the new children, and she hopes they will be future library lovers; the Enoch Pratt Free Library means it when it says, "all are welcome"!

V. Report on City and State Operating Budgets

The City and State Operating Budgets report was included in the Board Book and stands as is.

VI. Public Comment

Mr. Mark Hart expressed gratitude and appreciation for the extraordinary leadership of Ms. Heidi Daniel and staff throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and wished the Pratt a happy and healthy holiday season.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Dr. Mychelle Farmer at 6:58 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:15 pm via Zoom in lieu of Central Library.