

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
6:15 PM – Zoom In lieu of Central Library

Trustees in Attendance	Not in Attendance	Staff in Attendance
Ms. Adams Mr. Boothe Ms. Espenshade Ms. DeKuyper Ms. Dorman Ms. Farmer, Chair Mr. Hillman Mr. Jensen Ms. Jones-Rodwell Mr. Kaufman Mr. Koff Ms. Lasher Ms. Moser Mr. Reid Mr. Rosenberg Mr. Scherr <u>Emeritus Trustees</u> Mr. Ulmer	Mr. Aneckstein Ms. Gohn Mr. Miller	Ms. Bangura Ms. Daniel Mr. Fried Ms. Graham Mr. Jenkins Mr. Krabbe Mr. Lewis Ms. Mange Ms. McCorkell Ms. Monahan Ms. Moran Ms. Raabe Ms. Scheuerman Mr. Wilson

- I. Chair, Dr. Mychelle Farmer called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM
- II. Approval of Minutes of the Wednesday, September 22, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting
*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees approved the minutes from the Wednesday, September 22, 2021 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 22, 2021 meeting.*****
- IV. Chair's Remarks

Dr. Mychelle Farmer began her remarks with thanking the Board for their hard work and perseverance as Board leaders. This is the first in-person meeting the Board has had since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Board worked remotely, it continued its successful efforts to support Ms. Heidi Daniel and her work.

As the Board approaches the end of the calendar year, Dr. Farmer noted that the library is also at the mid-point of this fiscal year. Dr. Farmer is looking forward to a return to key events, such as the annual gala, Mr. Pratt Presents, and key advocacy events such as the Legislative Day in Annapolis in early 2022. Dr. Farmer wants the Board to consider how they might “build back better”, to quote President Joe Biden. How can the Board work together to improve the impact of the Enoch Pratt Free Library? How can this work effectively support Ms. Daniel, while using the role as Board members to provide a positive image of the Pratt Library’s role in Baltimore and throughout the State of Maryland? The Board will be discussing these ideas collectively and individually throughout the remainder of this fiscal year, so that the Board might improve its effectiveness as representatives of this great institution, the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

These are some highlights of the Board’s activities over the last quarter:

1. The Board has successfully activated the Emeriti classification, and it has five members within this category. The Board is beginning to organize some activities with this group, and Dr. Farmer looks forward to sharing updates in the near future.
2. The DEI Committee has been working diligently with a team of consultants, the Mackenzie Mack Group. This new committee will develop a work plan to improve the integration of DEI principles at the Board level. These activities will involve all Board members during the latter half of FY22.
3. The Board held an initial meeting to review the Pratt Library’s strategic plan (2019-2024), two days ago on Monday, December 6, at 3 pm. Dr. Farmer will share the details of the meeting shortly, as she is still reviewing the notes from the meeting. The Board is planning to organize some small group work to review some of the key issues included in the strategic plan. Dr. Farmer asked all Board members to please review the strategic plan, and to familiarize themselves with the key goals, mission statements, and key action steps included in it. Dr. Farmer reminded the Board that all members are accountable to Ms. Daniel and her staff to support the successful accomplishment of these goals. The Board role as advisors, key informants, and advocates requires all members to be familiar with this strategic plan. It is in the Pratt Library files on Govenda, and it was resent to the Board in advance of this meeting.

As Boards members, Dr. Farmer would like each member to think strategically about its work to ensure the Enoch Pratt Free Library gets all the resources that it needs to remain one of Baltimore’s outstanding institutions. The Board is generous with its time, talent, and treasure, but the Board needs to invest more time as advocates for this library. This is especially important when opportunities such as the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds emerge. Since most of the library’s funding is through public systems supported at the state and local levels, the Board needs to be actively advocating for funding for the Pratt Library. Dr. Farmer voiced her support for Ms. Daniel and for the advocacy process which is critical to the Pratt Library’s success. Dr. Farmer encouraged each Board member to invest some time advocating for funding, policies and programs that advance the Pratt Library agenda. Dr. Farmer concluded her remarks with thanking the Board for being such great Board members. Dr. Farmer wished everyone a happy holiday season and Happy New Year to all.

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. Mr. Hart is excited that the library is returning to some normalcy and is excited for future events and programs.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Dr. Mychelle Farmer at 6:39 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9 2022 at 6:15 pm via hybrid or Zoom.