

East Cleveland Public Library  
Emergency Board of Library Trustees Meeting  
:to discuss closing the library due to the Corona virus pandemic  
March 14, 2020  
14101 Euclid Ave. East Cleveland, Ohio 44112  
Flewellen Room 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rashid called the meeting to order at 2:53 p.m.

MP3 1295

**I. CALL TO ORDER**  
**A. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mr. Rashid, Mr. Mays, Ms. Turner, Ms. Shaheed, Mr. Silvera, Dr. Harris

A quorum exists. Present – 6, Absent - 1

Also present at the table were: Mr. Carlos Latimer (Executive Director), Mr. Ross Cockfield (CFO), Mr. E.F. Turner III (Exec. Admin. Assistant).

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Rashid: With the lack of a preplanned agenda because this is an emergency meeting, I think the main issue on the floor right now is the discussion of closing our library due to this pandemic that has struck America. And...

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman, to interrupt you, I would move that we waive the 24-hour rule as much as this meeting was called due to the seriousness of this Corona virus that's going around.

Mr. Silvera: I second it.

Mr. Rashid: Please call the roll, Mr. Turner.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Mr. Mr. Mays moved and Mr. Silvera seconds waiving the 24-hour rule.

24-hour rule has been waived.

**III. DISCUSSION OF CLOSING THE LIBRARY DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC.**

Mr. Rashid: Fantastic. So to kick off our discussion, I just want to give my own personal thoughts about this and then I'd like each board member to chime in their thoughts and we'll come to a conclusion as to what we would like to do. But as I stated a little bit earlier in the previous meeting that my concerns are yes for the public and the spread of disease, but I'm really concerned, more so, here today in this environment is about our team, our staff of people and what has already taken place with the Cleveland Public Library, county libraries, and school systems and everything else. It immediately put demand on our library because people are looking for resources.

Mr. Rashid: I don't know what sort of programs we're running out of here now with children that would be impacted by this in terms of support within the community. I know that there are lunch programs and breakfast programs at the school, but I don't know the programs specifically that we have up here at our own that our people will be relying on and how we would address those things. Those are the kind of stuff I want to put on the table for discussion. Mr. Mays?

Mr. Mays: Just to add to what you're saying there are other... Even the food banks are giving out special foods for people to aid and assist people. I know we provide meals here for our children. I hope that we will continue to do that with a limited staff because some kids need this. As I said, the food banks are giving out food and we'll leave that up to the director to see that those things are in place. I certainly would, while I have the floor, I trust that I know he said some of the staff will be here. I guess...

Mr. Latimer: The essential staff.

Mr. Latimer: Essential staff. How will we get word out to the community as to the closing and that still if we are going to agree to provide food for the children that does come here and whoever else? And what kind of staff will we have? I know it hadn't been mentioned, but I still had the floor I just say this, as well. The employees that are employed here, they did not cause this disease or germ or whatever you want to call it. It's nationwide and there are other institutions that are providing salary for their employees.

Mr. Mays: I hope that we will continue to do the same for our employees that are employed here. Because, as I said, they did not cause this and they would probably be at work but they have a family or their own health, as well. They do not want to be exposed to the germ that others may be coming in that bring it here. So I think they should be compensated for this time. I just want to put that on the floor.

Mr. Rashid: Thank you, Mr. Mays. I think it may be helpful at this point to let the director give his thoughts about the direction that he'd like to go and how it would impact the staff. And what sort of assistance would you need from us during this process because I saw that you had intended to close on Tuesday but what I'm recommending and thinking and want to discuss with the board is closing effectively at the end of today?

Mr. Latimer: Yes, that would be my recommendation. Language for resolution due to the ongoing global situation with COVID-19, effective if we could get today's date, East Cleveland Public Library will be closed until further notice. The closure and decision to reopen will be monitored daily. So we definitely need that language in our resolution. We will have the essential employees. These would be the director, the fiscal officer. The facility/security manager will continue to manage the operations of the East Cleveland Public Library so we have full access to all our resources.

Mr. Latimer: All other employees we want to recommend who are legally obligated, will be paid for their regular scheduled work hours, during this closure. The management team at the next workday, which will be Monday if we decide to close today, we will overview and reinforce emergency calls and procedures, emergency checklists. We will take care of the signage. We will assign social media, etc.

Mr. Latimer: We want to notify all of our partners and stakeholders. Our tenant, Neighborhood Center, outreach to schools which is already out, food banks, city hall. We've already had conversations with the school district. They're picking up the food responsibility to the community so they'll be providing

breakfast at 9 o'clock which they have done before at all the schools. They'll be providing lunch between 12 and 1 o'clock at all the schools which they have done before. The Salvation Army will be picking up food after 3 o'clock. So the community, as far as food-

Mr. Rashid:

That's good.

Mr. Latimer:

That's all in place and as part of our communications we'll notify those locations. On Monday, we'll be working to get the staff update contact information. We'll also need the board update contact information. Administrative assets must have clearance through Mr. Cooper, Safety and Security Manager and all other assessments must be approved by the executive director, Mr. Cooper and myself. We will have re-opening protocol. We are legally obligated, so I'll be working with Ross to make sure the meeting about payroll obligations, and also with staff will make sure that anything that I missed.

Mr. Latimer:

Thus far to date this is a list of closures. The State Library of Ohio, March 16 through April 3. Right now the State Library of Ohio manages all library materials delivery which will probably be shut down. That's the flow of things being dropped off to Cleveland Heights, Cleveland, Willoughby, that whole operation is shut down. That's through the CLEVENET contract. Cleveland Public Library notified, they pulled a quorum together Friday so that other libraries, March 13 until further notice, there's no end date. Cuyahoga County Public Library, March 14th initially until further notice but then they changed it to, April 4th. Euclid Public Library until further notice. Cleveland Heights Public Library, until further notice. Rocky River Public Library, Monday until further notice. Shaker was Friday until further notice. Westlake, until further notice. Mentor, until further notice. Willoughby-Eastlake and many more.

Mr. Latimer:

Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta, all of the big systems and across the country are closed. I've been in constant communication with Ohio Library Council; I spoke with the State Library Director, Michelle, on Friday. She said if you could pull a quorum together, they really want the board to make that decision as soon as possible, but it's not being mandated. However, it is the recommendation from the state that the public library can close immediately. Any questions?

Mr. Mays:

I didn't hear anything about, and maybe you talking down this way, it didn't project, I didn't hear that. What are you saying about the staff now?

Mr. Latimer:

The essential staff will be myself, Theresa Flood, Mr. Cockfield, Ms. Chambliss, Mr. Cooper will be, like always, work 24/7 in and out of the

building. The rest of the staff, along with Mr. Turner, will not be required to work unless directed by a supervisor. We have to make sure that they are compensated beyond what their normal compensation would be. We're legally obligated Mr. Cockfield, that's the practice of other library systems until further notice. Our PLF, the money is there, staff should be paid.

Mr. Rashid: Say that again now. Excuse me, one point that I'm not clear about. If during this period of time that they're off, if you need their help in the library, you have to pay them overtime to come in and work?

Mr. Latimer: No. That would just be something, extra incentive to give them comp because we're shutting down and if we ask them to come in and do something we want to offer that incentive, but we're not legally obligated to. But if you have other staff members out I'd like to offer that as an incentive. Not for essential, not for managers or administrators but for our frontline.

Mr. Rashid: I'd like to hear some feedback from the board members about that because-

Mr. Mays: I don't feel they should be compensated, I mean, should be paid overtime because we're paying them even they are out.

Mr. Latimer: Okay.

Ms. Shaheed: They're being paid that day anyway for work that they don't have to do. So you're actually paying them they're just working toward what they would have had to work anyway.

Mr. Latimer: Okay, I just want to put it out there. I just wanted to offer that option.

Mr. Rashid: But what I would like to see is some sort of a notification process to them. You can't just call up at the last minute and say, come up here today. So the process of letting them know that you expect them to report because there's some things that need to be done, then maybe that should be communicated to them as we let them know that they're going to be on what I consider a furlough.

Mr. Latimer: They'll be on-call.

Mr. Rashid: Yes, some kind of-

Ms. Shaheed: So there's no misunderstanding.

Mr. Rashid: Right. Certainly understand that if they are needed even the day before you could call them and let them know so they could, it's their responsibility to

make sure there is a way for us to contact them. So if we need them to come in, they can come do it. I agree with my colleagues that they are being paid to sit home and we understand why it happened, how it happened but if they are needed to come to the library-

Mr. Mays: Unless they have, God forbid, that they have caught the virus, you stay home.

Mr. Rashid: Which opens up another door, too, because what happens if a person does contract it? Are they, what obligation do they have to alert us, to alert someone at the library to know that they have, in fact, tested positive? Because right now there's so many contingencies, so many different things but I just thought about as you said that. So if we find out that one of our people did test positive, could they just keep it to themselves? Or should they ...I think that they should have an obligation to at least let the director of the team know that I have been tested and I came out positive.

Mr. Silvera: Or if they have symptoms, they should not be allowed to come in.

Mr. Rashid: I agree with you.

Dr. Harris: That's also-

Ms. Turner: So if that's the case, if you have you say you have symptoms, which symptoms are we talking about. Because it gets, so-

Mr. Rashid: Yes, I understand what you're saying but...

Ms. Turner: So, I mean, I think one of the things that maybe while everybody is out we need to take in information to say how do you determine what the cutoff is for people to be able to come to work or not come to work?

Mr. Rashid: Right.

Ms. Turner: Because that's been an issue just-

Mr. Latimer: Everywhere.

Ms. Turner: -Globally it's been an issue. People come to work with colds, with runny noses with all of that all the time. If we're talking about we don't want none of that in the building until this crisis is over, then we need to have that specific. And also we need to pay people because we're saying, "You can't come to work." They're willing to come to work and we're like, "You can't come to work." I'm going to force them to take sick time. I don't think we should do that.

Mr. Latimer: Well, right now we are in unprecedented, there are a lot of unknowns.

Ms. Turner: Yes, absolutely.

Mr. Latimer: So these are great conversations that we can have together as a team. How are we going to communicate out to our staff as far as those communications if you have the virus, the protocol of bringing it to our attention. Or when we reopen.

Ms. Turner: And you get medical clearance to come back to work. And until you get medical clearance to come back to work-

Mr. Rashid: Especially if you've tested positive.

Ms. Turner: If you tested positive until you get medical clearance you cannot come back to work and you will continue to get paid.

Ms. Shaheed: And I think some people because of that they won't share they have it... That's a problem.

Mr. Rashid: That's exactly what we're talking about. There are all these unknown factors that start to surface as you begin to talk through this. Because I mean there's things that we can't even foresee that are going to come up. So I mean, it's also going to be important for all of us to stay in contact with each other or to be accessible to talk to one another. So that if he has issues we can make it as quick as possible to expedite decisions back to the team as to what we think should happen and so we can support what the team is doing.

Ms. Shaheed: Maybe if they use the term like when they're not here and they're home that they're on-call so you know you really are available to the library even though you're not working, if you're on-call.

Mr. Rashid: But not required to report to someone here.

Ms. Shaheed: Right.

Mr. Rashid: That's makes, that's why I thought about the word furlough but that's not really the same thing. I think that's a much better explanation. Because it's how we explain it when they walk out that door is what's going to be. That's going to be the interpretation I think what for. Mr. Mays?

Mr. Mays: Did we arrive at a timeframe whether it's two weeks, three weeks, a month?

Mr. Rashid: I was listening to the governor. He's been on the radio the last three days and I was listening as I was coming here today. He was saying that they don't really know right now. He said it could be a month before things even get to a point where they can reopen some of these institutions or they just don't know. I mean, that's the problem that we all. We don't know. We honestly don't know.

Mr. Rashid: Because if this thing starts to just take off and, I mean, the infection is bad, this country is going to be affected in ways a lot more issues than just our library. All we can do now is just follow suit and pay attention to what's being done on the larger scale. Then we'll try to make it work with our own personal situation here.

Mr. Mays: Well, I think we do need to set some parameters and then if things have gotten worse or better or whatever the case may be then we can-

Mr. Rashid: What you mean by saying we're going to be closed for two weeks and then we'll reassess it or something like that?

Mr. Mays: Yes, yes.

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Latimer: Most of the libraries, the language they use is "until further notice." Things could shift in three days or four days, a week.

Mr. Rashid: That's true.

Mr. Latimer: So it could be before that two-week notice. Or it could extend beyond like you said we just don't know. I believe "until further notice, however, we'll be monitoring the situation daily" which gives us that option-

Mr. Rashid: Right.

Mr. Latimer: To put an end date.

Mr. Rashid: I think that's the best language because it's "until further notice" but-

Ms. Turner: I think the standard that seems most reasonable to me is what Ohio Library Council is saying and what the state is saying. Because that's in terms of the reopening of a public institutions. Because if they say you can open back up next Thursday, you don't have to gather us all up again to meet to open the library back up. So that if that comes we need to, I would put that the director should have if that overall policy in the government exists to say ... Because right now they're saying close it. Even if they give the library board



some latitude, but the rest of nation is closed. If they're saying, okay, the recommendation is to open, then he can open or we can come together and he can open and decide, enough of this, we're opening the library. Those are the two things.

Ms. Turner: I would say if the state comes together before we do, then he should have an option of being able to call a staff on 24-hour notice to say the library will be opened on this date based on what the recommendations are coming from the state. In my mind, that seems to be the thing of having this resolution is that the executive director has given the recommendations from the policy that you can reopen the library from 24 hours of that.

Mr. Rashid: I like that but-

Mr. Mays: That's too-

Mr. Rashid: I think the board should have some input on this because...

Ms. Turner: ...Oh, yes. If we're assuming that we want open sooner we could, but that we wouldn't open it but that in case something happens and we cannot all be pulled together quickly that would be the case. I mean, I think we can reopen the library sooner than what they say in Columbus, absolutely. However, if it happens, if they are saying yes, we're opening public institutions, it doesn't make sense for us to all have to gather together to say yes when Carlos is here. So if the Governor says public institutions will be open again, if you could within 24 hours be open. If this has been going on, going on, we're like okay we need to reopen the library, then we just need to gather up again and vote to do that. That in my mind is what makes sense.

Mr. Rashid: Your feedback, Mr. Mays?

Mr. Mays: I think that's too broad. I think that as you articulated earlier in reference to others, assessing the situation and saying that we do not have it in this particular area as others may have it, contact or whatever, so I think we need to assess it as I said before, either two weeks, or three weeks, or four, a month or whatever. And things are beginning to subside or whatever, I think that we could come back together or either say if well, we opened up. And I just going haphazardly and waiting until Columbus or Cleveland, they have more-

Mr. Rashid: I understand.

Mr. Mays: -People that contact it, whatever. I just feel that we need to assess our own situation here. We not getting a lot of it people, I just put it, I'm trying to be nice about this... Now, let me just finish, sir.

Mr. Rashid: Go ahead.

Mr. Mays: Let me finish my point. We don't have, right now it seems more among white than it is black people that has this germ. I've said that, we just need to assess our own thing. If someone coming in here sneezing and coughing, it's supposed to be a dry cough, not a cough that supposed to be a dry cough. That's what the medical professionals indicated. So dry cough, respiration, and I can't think of the third one.

Mr. Rashid: Temperature.

Mr. Latimer: What is it?

Mr. Rashid: Temperature. I thought it was temperature and dry cough or something like that.

Mr. Mays: Yes. Dry cough.

Mr. Rashid: I like for the Director to give his input.

Mr. Mays: Yes.

Mr. Latimer: I kind of want to feed into what you were saying, Mr. Mays. Just a sample of what our day was because all the other library systems were shut down. Our phones were ringing nonstop from outside of the community asking where we are, if we're open. We counted 13 users we've never seen before come into our building which normally on Saturdays is just small kids. Community members bringing in, who already have connections, to whatever viruses or anything, bringing that into our community. So we can't just say we're isolated to East Cleveland. Just because we're not open, we become open...

Mr. Rashid: That's right.

Mr. Latimer: ...To everybody to bring in, not to the library but to the whole community. We have to take that into consideration.

Mr. Rashid: That was my point in saying that because these other institutions are shut down and we are open-

Mr. Mays: I just said open.

Mr. Rashid: I'm sorry. Mr. Silvera?

Mr. Silvera: Let me say one thing. I think, to piggyback a little bit on what Terra said in terms of meeting. The thing about it is to be in compliance with the law the library has to be open for us to have another meeting.

Mr. Rashid: That's true.

Mr. Silvera: So it behooves us to make whatever decision we're going to make and put the names in so that it gives the director the option to be able to, if the situation arises, where the library can be open he can do that, but otherwise...

Ms. Turner: ...Don't have to be under a certain...

Mr. Silvera: Technically, we have to open the library up to the public to make it a legal meeting. So, we want to be cognizant of that as well.

Mr. Rashid: Right. That's why I think in my thought process I'm thinking that the language that he suggested to us "until further notice,"

Mr. Rashid: Because that gives us the ability to do whatever we need to do because further notice means when he notifies us.

Ms. Shaheed: And more people interact with each other. They're going to the malls and they live in East Cleveland everywhere else. Just because the numbers are low now does not necessarily mean it's going to continue to stay low.

Mr. Rashid: That's exactly right. Another thing, too, is that those tests have only been available in certain areas.

Ms. Shaheed: Right.

Mr. Rashid: We know how that goes. So we don't even know what's going on.

Mr. Silvera: And a lot of those testing kits are faulty as it is.

Mr. Rashid: Exactly. So I mean if we just know, well, we know where we live so those tests are going to be available to... Let me just say that, we just have to protect ourselves.

Ms. Shaheed: And a lot of times they wait to the last minute to go to the hospital and doctor and clinics.

Mr. Rashid: Exactly, exactly.

Ms. Turner: So are we going to include-

Mr. Mays: So is it-

Mr. Rashid: Excuse me, excuse me for one moment. Excuse me for one moment. Terra, you had a question first.

Ms. Turner: Yes, are we going to going to say "until further notice," are we going to give him the opportunity to reopen then to go back? We say "until further notice" and we are have to gather back up or are we giving Carlos based on whatever the opportunity to reopen?

Mr. Rashid: Mr. Mays, I'll call on you next.

Ms. Shaheed: Well, what process is he want?

Mr. Rashid: Because what I'm thinking, I'll give my opinion and then I'll open the floor to you, sir. What I'm thinking is until further notice means that that's what we give to the public. The decision, whether how we get to that for him to give them that notice, it still has to be decided among us.

Mr. Latimer: Right.

Mr. Rashid: I understand exactly what you're saying, so I'm-

Mr. Mays: That was my question in reference to have we come to a conclusion to authorize the director to close the library until further notice to the public as far as I know.

Mr. Rashid: I think the consensus of the voting here would be yes, so I think we should all take the consensus of all of us to reopen. Then Carlos would be the one who would formally deliver the information to the public, but I think that that burden should be on us and not just putting it in his lap to make that decision. If we all decide-

Mr. Mays: No, no, my question-

Mr. Rashid: Upon to say yes.

Mr. Mays: No. My question to you, not to him, to them, the question to the board, have we reached a conclusion of authorizing the director to close the library.?

Mr. Rashid: Yes.

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman, I move that we authorize the director to close the library until further notice.

Mr. Rashid: Effective today.

Mr. Mays: Effective today.

Mr. Silvera: I second this.

Mr. Rashid: It's been moved to second. Mr. Turner, would you please call the role?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moved and Mr. Silvera seconds authorizing the Director to close the Library effective of this date.

The Director is authorized to close the Library on March 14, 2020.

**VII. REOPENING THE LIBRARY AFTER THIS CLOSING**

Mr. Rashid: As of now. The East Cleveland Public Library is going to be closed until further notice.

Mr. Latimer: You want to do it now, right now?

Mr. Rashid: Well, what time do you close today?

Mr. Latimer: 6 o'clock. We still have people in the building.

Mr. Rashid: You still have people inside the building?

Ms. Turner: Yes, and we're still meeting.

Mr. Rashid: As of the end of today, at the end of activities today.

Mr. Mays: As of today, it's as of today.

Mr. Rashid: Yes, as of today. As of the close at close of business today.

Mr. Rashid: So, the official motion should be sort of take effect at the close of business today.

Mr. Mays: And something in reference to if you're going to continue to feed the children... That should be posted, as well.

Mr. Latimer: Right but at different locations because the school took that responsibility.

Mr. Mays: They're going to take them-

Mr. Latimer: The school added two sessions of Monday through Friday and the Salvation Army is picking up after school new times.

Mr. Mays: Could we indicate that they can go to the school or Salvation Army because some of them may not have that information.

Mr. Rashid: I think he did say we're going to use our social media and all of our other contacts to make sure that this message gets out.

Mr. Mays: Well, a lot of people don't have social media or any-

Mr. Rashid: No, he said that they're going to use all the different, all the different communication methods that the library currently uses.

Mr. Latimer: Signage.

Mr. Rashid: Everything that they're going to make sure that the message gets out to the public. Because I understand exactly what you're saying.

Dr. Harris: I have a comment.

Mr. Rashid: Yes.

Dr. Harris: We don't really need to say anything about the feeding of the children because they received a notice about that and they will be in school on,

supposedly, Monday and they will receive an additional notice about where to go. So, they're all aware of it. The children that attend East Cleveland Schools. So, all we need to say is that the library is-

Mr. Rashid: That the library is closed.

Dr. Harris: So we don't confuse them.

Mr. Rashid: Okay. Is there any further discussion here?

Mr. Silvera: On that note, we have the other resolution we need to-

Ms. Turner: But are we going to give-

Mr. Silvera: ...Carlos the authority to reopen?

Ms. Turner: To reopen at what standard? I think that's another vote we have to take.

Mr. Latimer: Polling the board.

Mr. Rashid: I think that would probably be the most effective way to do it. We'll poll the board. The board would make the ultimate decision and then Carlos would take action after that. Because legally, I just know it's the best way for us to be able to stand behind whatever decision we make and that is just not on him. It's on all of us to say, well, yes or no and then he delivers the message.

Ms. Turner: So, the library can't reopen unless we all gather back up?

Mr. Rashid: I don't know if we all have to gather back up necessarily, because he could also do a poll. What do you think is the most effective way?

Mr. Mays: No, I think the most effective way is bring us back up. What? I didn't get a call. I didn't know this. So, we bring us back together, we meet again, what have you, and that's the way to take care of business.

Mr. Rashid: The only problem with that is everybody has different schedules.

Dr. Harris: That's not necessary.

Mr. Mays: It is necessary.

Ms. Turner: If we cannot get...

Mr. Mays: ...We are a public entity, excuse me. Let me just finish. You cannot do things polling behind closed doors. We're doing this in the open. And that we will

meet in the open. We have a responsibility as board members to come back together. It doesn't have to be during the day. It could be in the afternoon or evening or whatever. We come back together and meet and do our on record. That when we open, when we close, etc. it's all on record.

Mr. Rashid: I'll have to agree with that.

Mr. Mays: Not behind no closed doors.

Mr. Rashid: I'll have to agree with that just for the legal process. But we'll face how to do once we get to that point. But, I mean, what's the consensus of the board? Does everybody agree that, Dr. Harris, you were about to make a statement.

Dr. Harris: No, no. I was trying to figure out what was going on. But my thinking is the director is a professional. He's in touch with the professional organizations and the information from the state. We should follow the lead of the other institutions. Remember, I work at the school so I'm kind of-

Mr. Rashid: Well, I agree with that. I think we all agree with that.

Dr. Harris: Thinking along those same lines. I can't think any other way.

Mr. Rashid: No, I agree. What I'm saying is, what is the legal process that we're going to use to communicate that to the director that it's okay to now open it? Or does he just follow what they're doing and just open the library?

Mr. Mays: No. We come back as a board as we met here today. We come back as a board together to have it on the record that we can't do it behind closed doors. That's what I'm saying. What they do elsewhere, that's not our responsibility. What we do here, I'm saying, this is a public institution and it must be opened publicly. We have a right record here. Not calling...

Mr. Rashid: ...So what you're saying is we have to have another meeting to open the library.

Mr. Mays: That is correct.

Mr. Rashid: What is the consensus of the board?

Mr. Mays: When, whatever, just state, we're not talking about the state. When they had said that this thing closed, I'm trying to keep your posteriors out of jail. I'm doing it the right way. That is, we come back here and meet as a board.

Mr. Rashid: Excuse me. the Director?



Mr. Latimer: Yes, I'm working. I'll be making calls and communications with all the board members. I'll recommend Zakee (Rashid), the board president, to call an emergency meeting. I'll work with the administrative team to set up emergency meeting signage, open the library, maybe just this side. We'll have a particular emergency meeting to execute the plan to reopen the library. Anything else, it would have to come through an emergency meeting. I can't think of any other process because it has to be open.

Mr. Rashid: Okay. Terra?

Ms. Turner: I will say what I said before. I think that there's two ways. Either we have to come together or that the current policy says public institutions can reopen. If there has been a public announcement from the governor, because the governor has been setting the standard. From the governor that within 24 hours Carlos ought to be able to reopen the library without pulling us all together, that is a decision we can make today in public that gives a very defined standard as to when it can be reopened. Two ways, either the governor says it's cool, or the board comes back together and reopens the library.

Mr. Rashid: That's as clear as you can make the point. So, what is the consensus of the board because she's right. We can do it either way. Because if the governor does declare that public institutions can be opened and the protocol has been followed by all the other libraries in the county and across the state, should that be enough to allow him to move forward without having to put all of us together in a room?

Ms. Shaheed: I think that's a good idea. Just follow suit with the majority. He knows more what's running nationally across the state. He's more in hands. I think that's a good move.

Mr. Rashid: I do agree with you.

Dr. Harris: I move we adopt the lead of the governor in terms of the opening of this library and following the other public institutions.

Ms. Shaheed: I second.

Mr. Rashid: Mr. Turner, will you please call the roll?

Mr. Turner: Mr. Rashid?

Mr. Mays: Are there any question-

Mr. Rashid: Oh, sorry. Any discussion? Any other additional discussion?

Mr. Mays: I would follow the lead of the professional and not the governor. The governor is going to get his from the professional if they feel that the, the medical professional I'm speaking of, they feel that this virus has subsided, that's fine. Well, I guess the governor, I guess if he's not like the president, being a bit open-minded here, I have no problem with that. But the only problem I have I would say that the professionals. If they give him the okay that this disease is safe, has subsided in the State of Ohio.

Ms. Shaheed: Officially they close things down based on what the governor said anyway.

Mr. Rashid: Yes, pretty much.

Ms. Shaheed: Basically.

Mr. Rashid: Even before they closed the, so I'll say any other discussions?

Mr. Silvera: What roll, if any, is the Ohio Library Council offering in terms of advising or recommendations to the library about opening and closing?

Mr. Latimer: The messages go through the State Library Board. They're closed until April 3rd for the information from the Ohio Library Council, we'll send our emails. They definitely want an open policy with the Sunshine Law. The board to make a decision with the opening and closure. Just having more coming together for the process of closing. But I don't think they got to the process of reopening.

Mr. Silvera: What type of interaction are they having with the governor's office in terms of how they deal with the recommendations of possible reopening based upon the feedback they're getting from Columbus?

Mr. Latimer: I had this conversation with Michelle Francis Friday. Once Mr. Blackberry started rolling out and calling me personally, kind of explained where we were in East Cleveland. She said the governor was waiting to recommend all public entities.

Ms. Shaheed: Wow.

Mr. Latimer: Like the license bureau, and all of these places to close but he has not done that at this point. His expectation was for school library and district libraries to follow suit of the school districts. A recommendation, however, it's up to the board to make that closure decision. So he's leaving it to local control.

Mr. Rashid: So we've already made the decision to close. So the reopening process at this point I think that I'm comfortable with the proposal with the motion

that is on the floor because I think that that's the most effective way of doing that. I mean, it doesn't prohibit us from all coming together...

Ms. Turner: Yes, to have a conversation.

Mr. Rashid: To have a conversation about it and how we feel about it, if we don't really want to do that at that time. But at this point at least it gives an opportunity to know, to have some sort of a start signal to know where that comes from.

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Rashid: Yes, sir.

Mr. Mays: I agree with that, but we also have to add this caveat. This board came together to close it. This board must come back together to reopen it.

Mr. Rashid: We can officially do that. I mean, we can officially do that.

Mr. Mays: I mean, after you heard the governor or whomever saying it's safe again to open these public institutions, then we must come back, as I said, together to reopen it.

Mr. Rashid: Even if the governor does send that signal out, we don't have to just run and have a meeting immediately. I mean, we can do it in a day or two, couple of days as long as we get it officially in the record that we collectively motioned to reopen the library.

Mr. Mays: That's correct.

Mr. Rashid: So the motion on the floor, is there any other discussions? Would you please call the roll, sir?

Mr. Turner: Mr. Rashid?

Mr. Rashid: Yes.

Mr. Turner: Mr. Mays.

Mr. Mays: Question the motion before I vote. Now we only voted for the governor to say that, then it must say that we along with the governor, the board will come back. I would like to add to that motion.

Mr. Rashid: I think he's making some notes about whether, how the motion-

Mr. Latimer: This has come down from the Attorney General. Can I read this?

Mr. Rashid: Yes, please.

Mr. Latimer: The Attorney General stressed that local government which includes libraries should consult with their legal counsel or county prosecutor regarding open meeting of the law interpretation for any flexibility that may exist that will benefit the general public in times of a declared emergency. This may include hosting public meetings via video, teleconference, opposed to mass public attendance. However, local board members still need to be present in order to conduct meetings.

Mr. Mays: Thank you.

Mr. Latimer: If there is-

Mr. Mays: That's what I'm saying. That's what I was going to add to the motion here.

Ms. Turner: So, do we need to set a new motion?

Mr. Mays: Yes, we need that in the motion.

Ms. Turner: No, no. That's what I'm-

Mr. Rashid: No, she's asking.

Ms. Turner: I'm just trying to get a sense of where we are in the process.

Mr. Rashid: We don't have anything drawn out.

Mr. Mays: Oh, she said she would withdraw the motion or whatever. You want to amend the motion?

Dr. Harris: You can do that, amend the motion to add comments.

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman, I amend the motion to not only what the governor stated, but my motion by adding that the board will come back together to reopen the library or close the library.

Mr. Rashid: This is confusing to me. I don't know if it's confusing to everybody. Because the motion in its entirety will be read to say what?

Mr. Mays: All right. Let me make the motion here.

Mr. Rashid: Mr. Turner?

Mr. Turner: I can read it. To adopt the lead of the governor or board approval per actual meeting.

Mr. Rashid: Okay. Is everybody comfortable with that?

Ms. Shaheed: No.

Mr. Latimer: Can you read that again?

Mr. Turner: To adopt the lead of the government to reopen or approval of the board per actual meeting, like physically meeting together.

Mr. Rashid: So, would you read the whole motion written out?

Mr. Turner: I got shorthand.

Mr. Rashid: You got shorthand?

Mr. Turner: Yes.

Mr. Rashid: Can you start from the beginning of it?

Mr. Turner: To authorize the executive director permission to reopen based on the lead of the governor as well as the board, per actual meeting. So you guys would have to come together to meet.

Ms. Shaheed: Something can get lost in the sauce with that to me.

Mr. Mays: I said the board to come...

Ms. Shaheed: It just needs to be restated. I don't know what the approval is at the state level?

Mr. Turner: Well, if the governor came in and said that he wanted to-

Ms. Shaheed: Right. Okay, with the approval of the...

Mr. Turner: And then the board would also have to approve, as well.

Ms. Shaheed: And with the library, there would be a later meeting with...

Mr. Turner: Emergency meeting.

Ms. Shaheed: To substantiate the opening of the library, or something like that. It's more clear to me.

Mr. Rashid: Mr. Turner, do you have a synopsis of...

Mr. Mays: She made the motion.

Mr. Rashid: Say that again?

Mr. Latimer: She made the motion. She just needed to add the fact that the board will meet-

Ms. Shaheed: First we started with the approval of the governor of the State of Ohio. After that we fall in place meeting, right?

Ms. Turner: Right. What that does is we're saying that we want...

Mr. Mays: ...But we don't want to discuss all that. We just want to get the...

Ms. Turner: ...No, I'm just, she was asking me.

Ms. Shaheed: Yes, go ahead.

Ms. Turner: What I'm hearing from that is that unless the governor says that, we will not reopen, that's not what I was saying. But if that's where you guys are, okay. What I'm saying is we have two ways we can open. Either we can say we reopen, or Carlos can reopen based on the recommendations of the governor saying that public institutions can reopen.

Ms. Shaheed: But that's the approval, right?

Ms. Turner: Yes, those are the two. Those are the two ways. That's what I was saying. But what Mr. Mays was saying is that the governor has to approve it and then we still have to come back together.

Ms. Shaheed: Right.

Ms. Turner: I don't necessarily know that, I mean, you're setting a standard. We can set the standard, we've always set the standard for how the library opens and generally the library opens without any of us being here.

Mr. Rashid: So, the motion on the floor, has it been withdrawn or is it still sitting?

Mr. Silvera: It's being amended.

Mr. Mays: The only thing said here and I respectfully differ. I said from the beginning, this is how it came up. The board came together as a public body, as we are mandated to do to close the library.

Mr. Rashid: But why are we doing that?

Mr. Mays: Now just let me finish with the point. We're closing the library because of the virus.

Mr. Rashid: Because the governor has closed all the institutions like ours. That's why we're closing. We're not just closing it on our own. We're closing it because the governor has taken a position.

Mr. Mays: Okay. I'm not interested in that. Just-

Mr. Rashid: But that's the facts.

Mr. Mays: No, no. I understand that. We know what the facts are. But I was just stating then what came about that the board must come back together to reopen the library, even though the library may be open, but we have to be back on record as he just read to you-

Mr. Rashid: We're not disagreeing with you. I don't think...

Mr. Mays: ...Excuse me, that's why we're getting confused here. The only thing, the motion to add to the motion, that's what was put before us. All you got to say at the end of that motion, the board will return to ... The governor has said to open the public institution that's open and we will come back as a body on record and just say we are opening.

Mr. Rashid: Everybody agrees with that.

Mr. Mays: That's all we're talking about right now. I asked Doctor Harris to make her motion again and withdraw the motion that she made and put a motion that whoever second it and withdraw the second and go back and make the motion that the motion in reference to the governor closing public institutions and we will wait until the governor said the public institution are reopened and the board will come back together to meet again to reopen the library.

Mr. Rashid: Doctor Harris, are you-

Ms. Shaheed: What I have down it said the approval of the governor of Ohio to open all libraries, East Cleveland will reconvene-

Mr. Mays: Yes, reconvene.

Ms. Shaheed: To decide whether or not they should open the library.

Mr. Rashid: Can we use that as a motion? Is that, because, I mean, that's pretty concise.

Ms. Shaheed: Yes, it's to the point, it's clear. We don't want to be up in the air trying to figure out, "What you are talking about?"

Mr. Rashid: Right.

Ms. Shaheed: With the approval of the governor of Ohio to open all libraries, the East Cleveland Public Library Board will reconvene to decide to open the library.

Mr. Mays: Reopen is on there, yes.

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Silvera: Second.

Ms. Shaheed: That's very simple, to the point.

Mr. Mays: Second.

Mr. Rashid: Is there any other discussion? No.

Mr. Turner: So we're going to go with Ms. Shaheed's?

Mr. Mays: Yes.

Mr. Rashid: Doctor Harris, did you withdraw your other motion?

Dr. Harris: Whatever you decide because you all are just taken this and ran away with it.

Mr. Mays: No, we didn't we just discussed it. We...

Dr. Harris: No, your line of thinking is not straightforward. You're trying to take the process, but I'll leave that alone because-

Mr. Mays: We're not taking anything because we just taken what we have to do legally, Dr. Harris, and that's all we added to the motion was to come back together to...

Dr. Harris: I will kindly withdraw so that you can rewrite it because I'm not thinking along ... My thinking is-

Mr. Rashid: Well, share with us.



Dr. Harris: No, I withdraw. So, I mean, second it. So rewrite, redo it so that it can be clear, clear for everyone.

Ms. Shaheed: Okay.

Mr. Mays: You have to withdraw the second.

Mr. Silvera: All right. I withdraw the second from Dr. Harris' motion.

Mr. Mays: And now-

Mr. Rashid: Mr. Turner let the record reflect...

Mr. Mays: Now, new motion on the floor.

Ms. Shaheed: Okay, I'll make a motion to with the approval of the Governor of Ohio to open all libraries; East Cleveland Board of Trustees will reconvene to decide to open the library.

Mr. Mays: Second.

Mr. Rashid: (jokingly) I'm not going to ask for any discussion. Is there any discussion?

Mr. Silvera: No.

Mr. Rashid: Mr. Turner, will you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Ms. Shaheed moved and Mr. Mays seconds the Board reconvening to discuss opening the Library with the Governor of Ohio 's approval to open public libraries.

The Board has agreed to discuss opening the Library with the Ohio Governor's approval to open public libraries.

**VII. RESOLUTION 03-01-2020: APPROVAL OF THE TAX BUDGET**

- Mr. Rashid: Thank you. Mr. Mays for that point of order.
- Mr. Silvera: I'll restate the motion, request to pass the motion on the 03-01-2020 the tax budget. I move for its adoption.
- Mr. Rashid: Can I hear a second?
- Mr. Mays: Can you read the resolution?
- Ms. Turner: You got it in your hand. No, you got it in your hand. We don't have it, we gave you our copy, and this is why I'm saying that. So if you would like to read it out loud Mr. Mays we would be glad.
- Mr. Latimer: I didn't.
- Mr. Rashid: You want me to read it? I don't care.
- Dr. Harris: Give me the middle sheet. I'll read it over there.
- Mr. Latimer: It doesn't.
- Mr. Silvera: Mr. Cockfield, will you go ahead and read the resolution?
- Mr. Rashid: Yes, that'd be fine.
- Mr. Cockfield: Yes, I'd be happy to. Just to note a minor correction in the be it resolved, it's for the year 2021.
- Mr. Rashid: 2021.
- Mr. Cockfield: Right. But I'll go ahead and read the resolution. Whereas Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.28 requires the East Cleveland Public Library Board of Library

Trustees to submit its tax budget to the board of the East Cleveland School District on or before May 31, 2020, be it resolved that the following tax budget indicating the income needed by the East Cleveland Public Library for the year 2021 is \$2,248,903 of which approximately \$1,476,952 would be received from the public library fund of the State of Ohio be submitted to the East Cleveland School Board for submission to the County of County of Cuyahoga on or before July 20, 2020. See accompanying schedules. And these are the schedules.

Mr. Rashid: Okay. The motion is, who made the motion?

Mr. Silvera: I made the motion and-

Mr. Rashid: Who seconded it?

Mr. Mays: I Seconded it.

Mr. Rashid: Mr. Turner, will you please call the roll?

Mr. Turner: Discussion?

Mr. Rashid: Oh, I thought we just had some? Is there any more discussion? Any other discussion?

Ms. Turner: No.

Mr. Rashid: Mr. Turner, would you call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Mr. Mays seconds Resolution 03-01-2020.

Resolution 03-01-2020 is approved.

**VII. RESOLUTION 03-02-2020 APPROVAL OF THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE LIBRARY.**

- Mr. Silvera: The chairman now moves for adoption of 03-02-2020 the permanent appropriation for the library. Mr. Cockfield could you read the resolution, please?
- Mr. Cockfield: Yes. Whereas the East Cleveland Public Library or East Cleveland Library Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed appropriations, be it resolved the board of trustees of the East Cleveland Public Library resolves to approve the 2020 permanent appropriations for general fund totaling \$2,325,419.22. Building fund appropriations totaling \$20,000. Flewellen and Fund appropriations totaling \$5,000. And Performing Arts Center fund totaling \$13,500 and seeing attached.
- Mr. Rashid: Chairman, I move for its adoption?
- Ms. Turner: I second.
- Mr. Mays: Discussion?
- Mr. Rashid: Any discussion?
- Mr. Mays: Is this an increase or decrease or this is just the normal standard you received it?
- Mr. Cockfield: Actually, Mr. Mays, the appropriations that we're approving are less than the temporary appropriations that were approved in December. These will be a decrease to answer your question.
- Mr. Rashid: Any further discussion?
- Dr. Harris: I have a question. The grant that was received for the, what was it, the festival grant or something, how does that fit? Will it be in addition or how would that be handled in relationship to those appropriations? Or is it just on the side?

Mr. Cockfield: Well, actually, those are on revenue side. Those are on the revenue side and we have not factored in those costs into this permanent appropriation budget.

Dr. Harris: Oh, you're talking about the permanent appropriation budget. got it.

Mr. Mays: Another question Mr. Cockfield, the permanent appropriation for general fund I saw something else, never mind, never mind. I don't have a question. Thinking I saw that.

Mr. Silvera: Call the vote?

Mr. Rashid: I'm sorry. Mr. Turner would you please call the vote?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Ms. Turner seconds Resolution 03-02-2020.

Resolution 03-02-2020 is approved.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Rashid: The only other business I want to bring up-

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman, further matters before this forum?

Mr. Rashid: There is. There is one I want to bring before this group, the cancellation of Monday's board meeting.

Mr. Mays: I'm sorry?

Mr. Rashid: The cancellation of Monday's board meeting since the library is going to be closed. We have our regular scheduled meeting is Monday.

Ms. Turner: All scheduled library things are being canceled, so it is automatically canceled.

Mr. Rashid: Okay, so there's no specific action that we have to take in that regard?

Ms. Turner: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mr. Mays: No.

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman, if there are no further matters to come before this forum, I move to adjourn.

Dr. Harris: Who's supposed to say that?

Mr. Mays: I did.

Dr. Harris: Are you chairing the meeting?

Mr. Mays: I don't have to chair to meeting. I can make the motion.

Mr. Rashid: If there's no further discussion... Do you second that?

Mr. Silvera: Second.

Mr. Rashid: Any discussion about that?

Ms. Turner: Mm-mm (negative).

Mr. Rashid: Please call the vote, Sir.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

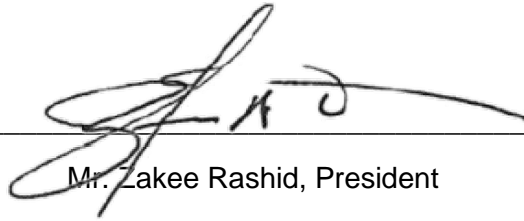
Yes – 6

Motion passes.

**(Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm)**

Mr. Mays  
moved and  
Mr. Silvera  
seconds  
adjournment.

Meeting is  
adjourned.



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Mr. Zakee Rashid, President

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Pamela McClarin, Secretary