

East Cleveland Public Library  
Regular Board of Library Trustees Meeting  
January 23, 2020  
14101 Euclid Ave. East Cleveland, Ohio 44112  
Flewellen Room 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Turner called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

MP3 1291

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

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

A quorum exists. Present – 7

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

**II. LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

Everyone is invited to sing.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Ms. McClarin: Yeah, I make the motion to push the Executive Session down and we do the swearing in of the officers and the Fiscal officer.

Mr. Mays: I second.

Ms. McClarin: Right the election is included and that list.

Ms. Turner: Yeah.

Ms. Turner: We had a motion and a second. This What I was saying as far as the executive session is concerned, it would be cool I think to have this

conversation prior to going into moving because there may be some things that need to be added to the agenda and the staff will need time to do that. So that gets...

Mr. Mays: Madame chairman, you are out of order because there's a motion and there's a second.

Ms. Turner: Yes. And we're having a discussion...

Mr. Mays: ...And you ask for discussion.

Ms. Turner: I just need it.

Mr. Mays: But you're discussing...

Ms. Turner: ...I know. And I'm saying these are the reasons that are my thoughts. I'm putting it out on the table. That is my thought, that we should do it sooner rather than later because it could be required, depending on what we decide on the backside of it, that somethings could be added to this agenda.

Mr. Mays: Madame Chair, nothing else can be added to this agenda except what's already on the agenda. It could...

Ms. Turner: ...We can take a vote to add some things to the agenda.

Mr. Silvera: So, the question now is if we move or table the executive session to push it down the agenda to do these other things.

Ms. Turner: So, we had a discussion and I added to the discussion that I am available to anybody else... I am a board member I get to have a discussion. Anybody else have anything they would like to ask to this before we take the vote?

Judge Keenon: To the matter of discussion I just like to add unless they have some... Because I don't know what these legal matters are and in the interest of the people who have come here tonight to participate in this meeting along with us, I think that we as a body, can move forward, we can vote to move this agenda item, and have our executive session later.

Ms. Turner: So, you want to say you want...

Mr. Mays: ...There is a motion on the floor.

Ms. Turner: ...Excuse me I am chairing the meeting

Mr. Mays: But you are chairing it wrong.

Ms. Turner: That is your opinion.

Ms. Turner: So, we have had discussion, I have put to put it out, anybody else have anything they'd like to add to this? Just like Rashid and anyone else?

Mr. Mays: Yes, Madam Chairman. I feel number one. We have an agenda here. Secondly, on a way that you can deviate from this agenda, you have to, in order to add anything to it. You have to waive the 24-hour rule. And that has not been discussed among the body, and we don't know what you want to add to the agenda.

Ms. Turner: What I am saying is, we're going to move things around.

Mr. Mays: The only thing I'm saying is, there's a motion on the floor to move the Executive Session.

Ms. Turner: Yes, there is.

Mr. Mays: I am adhering to that motion, because that's the motion on the floor. And now if there is any other discussion, I motion that we call for the vote.

Mr. Silvera: I do have a question?

Ms. Turner: Yes.

Mr. Silvera: To vote in the affirmative means we move these items to later on the agenda?

Ms. Turner: The motion is to move...

Mr. Silvera: Alright.

Ms. Turner: The motion is if you say "yes", it is to move.

Ms. Turner: Okay, is there anyone else would like to add?

Mr. Silvera: All that's left is to call for the vote.

Ms. Turner: Okay. Mr. Turner.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (no), Mr. Rashid (yes), Dr. Harris (yes), Ms. McClarin (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes),

Yes – 6; No -1

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moved and Ms. McClarin second moving executive session to #9 on the agenda.

Motion approved.

**IV. APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 16, 2019.**

Ms. Turner: Okay. So, the next thing on the agenda is the approval of the minutes for the December 16th.

Mr. Silvera: The Madam chair, I move for the approval of the meeting minutes from December 16th.

Mr. Rashid: I'll second.

Mr. Latimer: There's a motion in a second Any discussion?

Dr. Harris: In terms of the minutes under the roll call, I think they has absent "1". I think the name of the individual should be listed.

Ms. Turner: So that it should be added.

Dr. Harris: Yes.

Ms. Turner: So, you need a second, given that a motion.

Mr. Silvera: I move that the minutes be approved with the corrections.

Ms. Turner: Anyone want to second?

Ms. McClarin: I'll second.

Ms. Turner: Alright, we got motion in a second. Is there is any further discussion? Any further discussion? Mr. Turner...

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 6; Abstain -1

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Ms. McClarin seconds adopting the minutes from 12/16/2019.

Minutes from 12/16/2019 are approved.

## **V. SELECTION AND SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS**

Ms. Turner: All right, motion passes. Okay, so now we need to take a vote for the new officers. We have a ballot that's been set up.

Mr. Mays: Excuse me. there's a question here. What is the blacked-out names? Now does that mean...

Mr. Latimer: ...What that means is, they're not one of the top two candidates from the previous election.

Ms. Turner: Okay.

Ms. Turner: Has everybody turned in their ballot? Alright, if you can tally them up Mr. Turner.

Mr. Latimer: As Mr. Turner hands the ballots to me, I'll read the votes. Mr. Rashid has one vote for president, O. Mays has one vote for vice president, Ms. McClarin has one vote for secretary. Next Ballot, Mr. Silvera has one vote for president. Ms. Turner has one vote for vice president,

Ms. McClarin has one vote for secretary. The third ballot, Mr. Rashid has one vote President, Ms. Turner has one vote for Vice President, Ms. McClarin has one vote for secretary, Mr. Rashid one vote for president. Ms. Turner one vote for vice president, Ms. McClarin one vote for secretary. Mr. Rashid has one vote for president, Mr. Mays has one vote for vice president and Dr. Harris has one vote for secretary. Mr., Rashid has one vote for president. Ms. Turner has one vote for vice president. Ms. McClarin has one vote for Secretary. Mr. Rashid has one vote for president, Mr. Mays has one vote for vice president. Dr. Harris has one vote for Secretary. And the last ballot Mr. Rashid has one vote president. Mr. Mays has one vote for Vice President, Dr. Harris has one vote for Secretary.

Mr. Latimer: I'll read the results. Mr. Rashid has six votes for President, Mr. Silvera has one vote. So, congratulations Mr. Rashid.

Mr. Silvera: Thank you very much.

Mr. Latimer: Vice president, Ms. Turner 3 votes, Mr. Mays has 4 votes, congratulations.

Mr. Latimer: For secretary, Dr. Harris has 3 votes, Ms. McClarin has 4 votes congratulations.

Ms. Turner: So, the next thing that needs to happen is that we take a vote to reappoint the fiscal officer.

Dr. Harris: I move for the appointment of Mr. Cockfield

Mr. Mays: I'll second the motion

Ms. Turner: Alright, we have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

Mr. Silvera: Are they going to swear everyone in together?

Ms. Turner: Yeah, we'll do all the swearing in at one time.

Mr. Mays: The only thing I have to say is to continue to do well.

Mr. Cockfield: I'll do my best.

Ms. Turner: Mr. Turner

Mr. Turner: Yes

Ms. Turner: You can you call the vote.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

**(Judge Keenon swears in Mr. Rashid as Board President, Mr. Mays as Board Vice President, Ms. McClarin as Board Secretary and Mr. Cockfield as Fiscal Officer.)**

Mr. Rashid: I want to call the meeting back to order... It was just suggested that there are two other reports from the director as well as the fiscal officer and maybe move the Executive Session down a little more, so that audience gets a chance to participate. Because what we did is only move it down to two places, which means that we should be doing it now. But what would happen if we do it now, as you all know, we have to dismiss our audience.

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman I move that we move the Executive Session down to the end of the agenda.

Mr. Rashid: Okay, can we get a second.

Ms. McClarin: I'll second that.

Mr. Rashid: Is there any more discussion.

Ms. Turner: I would say that still there could be some implications in terms of things that need to add to the agenda.

Dr. Harris moved and Mr. Mays seconds the reappointment of the Fiscal Officer.

The Fiscal Officer is approved for reappointment.

Ms. McClarin: There shouldn't be...  
Ms. Turner: Okay, am not the president.  
Mr. Rashid: Sir please call the roll.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moved and Ms. McClarin seconds moving executive session to the end of the agenda.

Minutes from 12/16/2019 are approved.

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Latimer: Actually, there are two communications. one just came. I don't believe it's appropriate to share. So, I'll just make copies, we'll share it with the board. Outside of this meeting. The next communication is our passport program. This is a letter of the United States Department state national passport center. "Dear Ms. Flood, This letters is to inform you that your facilities audit period is over. Congratulations and thanks to all of you for your participation as Acceptance Agents!" Right, so our audit period is over we did well so before we'll be moving forward promoting it a little more. I don't think we had as many last year maybe we have two or three more, which is good

Mr. Rashid: Actually, I brought mine today to get it renewed.

Mr. Latimer: So, anyone who know anyone that needs to get a passport please share out to the community that the East Cleveland Public Library does offer this service.

Ms. McClarin: All right

Mr. Mays: And how are you... excuse me for interrupting you, are we promoting it and how are we promoting it. I know we said we were getting a marquee to put outside so that would be one of the best ways, but I'll listen to how you plan to promote it.

Mr. Latimer: Right as part of the service that we do provide. We initially have fliers, which we ran out, we're going to do a reprint now that we got re-appointed to do this. We also run it through our social media messaging. If you all friend East Cleveland Public Library, Facebook, Instagram, all the other social media platforms, you will see a promotion around some of the services we offer including passport.

Mr. Rashid: May I give a special acknowledgement to Ms. McClarin, who brought this idea us, and at the time it was a lot of discussion, but this letter proves not only that we can do it, but that we've actually done it.

Ms. McClarin: I want to thank the board and the community for backing me up. It's our tax dollars working to send us out as leaders to represent our community when we go to these conferences it's our job to come back and bring something and I'm always looking for revenue. So, I'm very proud and happy to be a part of this project. Thank you.

Mr. Silvera: Thank you.

Mr. Latimer: Thank you.

Ms. McClarin: You are welcome.

Mr. Latimer: That's all I have for communication unless there are questions

**I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (C. LATIMER)**

Mr. Latimer: As you all know, you see on the media, specifically the news the East Cleveland public library is in partnership with, Ohio Means Jobs

Mr. Latimer: Ohio means jobs, this is an organization and I want to read this statement from the state of Ohio. Ohio was the first state in the nation in which our local employment centers that work with our partnership with local libraries. This means that if you like to, in person one on

one, help in finding a job, you can get it either at Ohio Means Job centers at your local library. Ohio has nearly 500 public libraries and towns cities neighborhoods across the state, the specific services offered each will vary but that could include many of the following access to Ohiomeans.com, trained librarians available to help Ohio means jobs, participants workshops or interviewing another job skills, job fairs, brochures. And what they do is we provide our soft skills we already help our community, job searching your resumes and cover letters, but they work specifically with developing those hard skills, interview skills, and they have access to the jobs where they connect our residents to those particular positions. The person that was thinking around some employment specialist, her name is Ebony Johnson. She works four days a week. She fits perfectly right in with our staff. She's very sensitive and is aware of our community. She's already done some outreach things with us. So, this is great moving forward. And if you have not seen this two-minute production commercial. That was our News 5, we're going to show that as part of the directors' report.

Mr. Mays: Before you show that, let me ask you a question.

Mr. Latimer: Sure.

Mr. Mays: How did the city administration get involved? If I heard you say that, 50 some odd libraries have this Ohio means job, so could you articulate that?

Mr. Latimer: The reason I provided this document to show that there is already an established partnership with State Library of Ohio from the government for Workforce Development, Ohio means jobs is the designated partner to go to, for us to partner with for whatever reason, Ohio means jobs did reach out to the city of East Cleveland, they came and did a tour of the community they went Salvation Army, and I don't know where in the city they have been taken too but they also brought them to East Cleveland public library. However, there was already a partnership in place which made it an easier fit for us to move the initiative forward.

Mr. Mays: And this Evelyn Johnson,

Mr. Latimer: ...Ebony.

Mr. Mays: Anyway Mrs. Johnson, was she already on board or she came in through the city?

Mr. Latimer: She came in through Ohio means jobs. She's an employee of Ohio means jobs.

Mr. Mays: Okay. So, what role does city play in this?

Mr. Latimer: None.

Mr. Mays: Yes, they are. Because it was...

Mr. Latimer: They can say what they want to say.

Mr. Mays: It was broadcast out over the air, as if they brought it in. That's why I'm asking These questions because some of you may not be cognizant of this, the mayor articulated at the meeting on the last council meeting that they are housing, the Ohio means jobs here in the library is if it's all under the umbrella of the city, and he and I had some discussion, but I just want to get it on the record for others to be cognizant of this. So, it's our job. So, it's housed here, and as you've articulated, 50 other libraries have it. So, when he, when he articulates this over the air, then he is in error, is that correct?

Mr. Latimer: You can share this document.

Mr. Mays: That is what I was saying.

Mr. Rashid: So, in essence, your concern is that the city is trying to take credit.

Mr. Mays: Yes, credit.

Mr. Rashid: ...And are running the program out of the library?

Mr. Mays: Yes.

Mr. Rashid: If final analysis is that our citizens are served by the work we are doing, we'll address that later at the appropriate time. But I'm glad that you did bring that up because I was not aware of how these things just fell in place. Any other discussion before we move on?

Mr. Latimer: We did want to show short video.

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Latimer: Okay.

Dr. Harris: Maybe we should watch the video.

Mr. Latimer: Okay.

Dr. Harris: And It will clear it up.

Mr. Latimer: It doesn't help the situation because the Mayor is in this video, so...

Video voice: (Video Plays)

Mr. Rashid: Great job.

Audience: (Applause)

Mr. Latimer: So, however they got here at the end of the day, the outcomes is what important.

Mr. Rashid: Yeah, That's right.

Mr. Latimer: That concludes the directors report.

Mr. Rashid: Excellent, we'll move forward with the agenda.

Mr. Mays: I move that we accept the report coming from the director.

Ms. McClarin: I second.

Mr. Rashid: We have a motion and a second, any discussion?

Mr. Rashid: Hearing none...

Mr. Mays: ...The only discussion I have is to keep doing a good job.

Mr. Latimer: Thank you.

Mr. Rashid: Please call for vote.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moved and Ms. McClarin seconds approving the Director's report.

The Director's report is approved.

## **II. FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT (R. COCKFIELD)**

Mr. Cockfield: Yes, thank you very much. Financial Reports or this report as of 12/31/19. Financial reports as simply first thing we do is make records our cash balances are as follows us bank \$125,698.67. Start one account \$516,749.30 started two accounts \$181,706.66. Total cash fund balances of \$824,154 and 62 cents%. There was a main reason our total cash balance grown year in 2018 over 174,307.65, I attribute this increase to more cost consciousness by administration and an effort to do more with less. Also, equally important is the fact that we received grant receipts in 2019 totaling \$85,546 distributed as follows: United Black Fund, chess program with \$5,250; the Cleveland Foundation for a jazz program with \$25,000; the Cleveland Foundation for hotspots of \$37,000 and the Reinburger Foundation for mobile outreach of \$18,296

Mr. Cockfield: Balances have been reconciled but not posted. The calendar year is remaining open while I attempt to balance our general ledger and submit reports to the State. Problems have surfaced with the accounting system which are preventing me from closing the year. I'm in the process of trying to resolve them as we have until February 28<sup>th</sup> to submit our year-end report to the State. More specifically, while our cash accounts are completely reconciled with the bank, the system is carrying an Accounts Payable balance which I'm trying to reverse out. Given that our accounting is on a cash basis, we're not supposed to be carrying an accounts payable balance and it should be zeroed out. I'm working with our system support to resolve the problem.

Mr. Cockfield: More generally, a review of our use of the system for the past year has brought me to the conclusion that the Blackbaud System is not for us and the overall costs of use — both direct and indirect — far outweigh the anticipated benefits we were expecting to derive from its use. I'm preparing a detailed review which I'll present to the Finance Committee next month with the recommendation that we pay off the lease and return to the UAN system supplied by the State. That was my report.

Mr. Silvera: I have some questions and some comments?

Mr. Silvera: Yes. Please. Over the last several weeks, I had an opportunity to sit down Mr. Latimer for Mr. Cockfield and go over some of the issues that happened with the accounting system. This is one of the technical

issues in terms of like I just said, the system is functioning as an accrual system, not a cash-based system in the ability of Blackbaud to be adjusted to allow for a cash-based system is extremely difficult. If you get one card done then you'll have problems on the back end with reconciliation, and whatnot so and I've dealt with it a number of different times of the past year and in my own observation based upon information that was shared with me is that the accounting system is the heart of the library.

Mr. Silvera: So, we can't mess around trying to fiddle with this throughout the rest of the year, you know, we got to get to one where we have to end where we are and move back to the UAN system. My recommendation is to go back to the UAN system, because there are too many technical issues that I don't think can be resolved in a manner that's going to be cost efficient for us and to allow the library to operate in a manner that will allow for clean audits. Right now, this is causing a serious problem, because we haven't even closed the books for 2019. That's the problem.

Mr. Silvera: I think the shut off date is, we talked we talked about was February 20th. So, if those type of issues can't be resolved in such a manner that it doesn't cost any other problem in the back office then, I think the best choice for us to cut our losses. And I've asked them to give us a detailed report, of all the costs involved in the process, man hours, technical support, everything involved in the home acquisition and development so we can see clearly what the actual costs are into library and helping us to determine where we go from there.

Mr. Mays: Question, in reference to what he just said. What is the county deadline that you have to meet?

Mr. Cockfield: I'm sorry, what is...?

Mr. Mays: What is the county deadline that you have to meet?

Mr. Cockfield: County?

Mr. Mays: Yes

Mr. Cockfield: In terms of what Mr. Mays?

Mr. Mays: The finances.

Mr. Cockfield: No, we have to file our state Report by February 28th. There is no there is no county deadline.

Mr. Mays: You don't have county deadline and State requires it to be closed on the 28th. So, will you meet that deadline?

Mr. Cockfield: Well, the state requires that we close our books and the report filed by the 28th of February.

Mr. Mays: That's what I'm saying.

Mr. Cockfield: Yes.

Mr. Mays: Will you meet that deadline?

Mr. Cockfield: I'm certainly planning on it. Yes.

Mr. Mays: What I'm saying, because what I heard coming from colleague over here that the system that we have in place now is a little too technical or complicated, or whatever. And it's causing some delays...

Mr. Cockfield: let me let me say this Mr. Mays, Last year, this time, I had closed the books. I had closed the books with the old system.

Mr. Mays: Okay.

Mr. Cockfield: This year. I've run into problems that I didn't anticipate. And it's, it's causing me some headaches. So, I do intend to have books close by the 20th of February but in light of what I'm going through in comparison to what I went through last year the short of it is that our headaches are not worth the benefit.

Mr. Mays: So, you were saying?

Mr. Cockfield: What benefits are not worth the headaches. I'll put it that way.

Mr. Mays: Let me put it this way. Let me ask you this way then, the old system that you were operate under and now the new system that we operate under which one would you prefer?

Mr. Rashid: He just said it.

Mr. Mays: The old one? Okay, we need to go back to the old one if that is more comfortable.

Ms. Turner: One of the things, that we discussed and reason that the finance staff was interested in Blackbaud, is in coming up with strategies for fund accounting. So, one thing that I would say is that if this is not for us, I absolutely take your word for it. It does not take us away from the fact

that this year we have \$85,000 that we have to fund account. And it would be helpful to be able to fund account all of our programing.

Ms. Turner: So, however, whichever system you use, that's of less concern that we gather data that is in a way that allows us to know how much money are we spending on children's programs, how much time you're spending on the job shop, how much money you're spending on these things, the way that UAN traditionally accounts for things, it does not show us those things.

Ms. Turner: So, there definitely needs to be a strategy put in place, to do that. So that's the only thing that I would say is that you like in the case of this \$85,000. And hopefully this year we will even more coming in. And so, we definitely have to fund account it and account explicitly for what the contract says, which each contract says every contract that we get from, like we agreed to take a total of money. But what we as board members don't see is that there is a contract that comes with every grant that says exactly how we have to spend it, exactly how we have account for it, then the reports are due and all that.

Ms. Turner: And so, what we have to do is have a strategy in place for keeping track of that.

Mr. Silvera: We do have a grants management program in place.

Mr. Rashid: Dr. Harris wanted to address something.

Dr. Harris: Basically, I wanted to find out what accounting system, the surrounding libraries are using that are our size?

Mr. Cockfield: I couldn't tell you off the top of my head I had talked to them when we began an investigation of using Blackbaud system the kinds of things that I was asking them about, in reference to what basically what Ms. Turner was referring were things that they just didn't deal with. So...

Mr. Rashid: That follows right in line with my thought process because when you approach them, or they approached us to introduce us to this current accounting system, weren't they aware of the needs and the desires that we had as to why we wanted use it during their presentation, they made it seem as if they could accommodate our current needs, as well as the ability to dig down to the level of detail necessary to match our grants and they agreed that this system will do that for us.

Mr. Cockfield: When you say "they", whom are you referring to?

Mr. Rashid: I'm speaking of Blackbaud. Is that the company we're currently using?

Mr. Cockfield: Yeah,

Mr. Rashid: Okay, so, they were fully aware of all of this when we signed this contract with them and they are not able to perform why should we pay them another dime as a matter of fact we should be asking for our money back.

Mr. Mays: I agree.

Mr. Cockfield: What happens is that in getting into the use of the system, between myself and Ms. Chambliss, there were just some mistakes made over the course of the year that basically compounded it.

Mr. Rashid: I am not blaming our team, I'm saying that their team as you presented these different challenges to them, and they are the experts that introduced us to this system.

Mr. Cockfield: No, we sought them out.

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Latimer: We sought them out. I reviewed a number of accounting systems. We sought them out based on the kinds of things that are requirements, if you will,

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Latimer: that were kind of laid out in terms of what we need to do. The Blackbaud system was this system that covered all the requirements. And in doing so, so in evaluating the system, I've I sought them out.

Mr. Rashid: Okay. But I mean, even when you did that you made it clear to him what you needed it to do.

Mr. Cockfield: Yes.

Mr. Rashid: And how you needed it to work.

Mr. Cockfield: Yes.

Mr. Rashid: And, So, they said they could do that.

Mr. Cockfield: No, it does exactly what it's designed to do. It's just that the system is a very complex system. And one of the kinds of things that will say, for example, if we purchase a car, you want a car that takes you from here to the corner, but you specify that you want your seats to adjust 25 different ways. Now, that's going to come with a cost. And what

you find out is that you really don't need 25 different sit adjustments all you might need is two, but you're paying for 25 because that was the initial discussion. You know, we need...

Mr. Rashid: Okay, well rather than get into deep weeds about this, I really would like for us to have some sort of discussion as to how we bow out of this contract. Because if both sides agree that is financially not worth us to keep throwing bad money. I mean, though good money after bad we see it doesn't work. And I don't see why they should keep charging us if they will come to the conclusion that they can't do it in a reasonable way that cost will be good for us and cost will be good for them so before we made a decision was about paying any penalties or waiting out the rest of the contract when we have a discussion about this and come to a detailed plan showing us how we going to get out of it. Okay. Because, if that is what we have to do, that is what we have to do.

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman one other question.

Mr. Rashid: Yes.

Mr. Mays: You did have a sit-down overview of how this facility would work. And I guess you didn't foresee these complications coming up now that you are encountering with the system. So, you think it would be helpful if you would call them back in to try to assist you in these problems that you're encountering?

Mr. Cockfield: Believe me Mr. Mays, I've been on phone quite a lot.

Mr. Mays: On the phone is one thing and coming in to sit down with you...

Mr. Cockfield: ...They don't have a representative in... Well, I'm sure they do, but it wouldn't be cost effective for library for that to happen. The young lady that I work with who, frankly, works out of South Carolina is able to take control of my computer, she's able to see everything that that I see. She can take over the mouse and she knows she has complete access to the system based on whatever problems I'm experiencing. So, Angie has history, which is also important. So anyone coming in cold when that really know exactly how we use new system, how the system is designed for our specific operations and the learning curve with them to get up get up to speed would not be would not be cost effective. In our case,

Mr. Rashid: I like to just have the director give some input. I just want to say before we start. I will support your decision to move forward as quickly as possible because we're coming to a point where we have deadlines that we have to meet, but I also want to make sure that we

have the financial aspects of this transaction in terms of coming out of contract and what our responsibilities will be, and how will they work with us before we write more checks to them.

Mr. Rashid: I'm sorry Mister Director,

Mr. Latimer: I just wanted to share from the beginning, from the management team in the director's office, there was never any buy-in or support to make sure this was the best solution for the library, so during the transition we were already moving forward the decision was made. But based on some of my research, back to Dr. Harris' question, most of libraries our size is using what the state recommends. It's UAN, this is what we moved away from looking at what this company provides is very data, analytical for big institutions. Very expensive, has a hefty price that comes as too hefty for small organizations. There's a steep learning curve. This is for big organizations because it comes with too many options and is absolute. To extent for small nonprofits. It's very expensive for support this complex, not user friendly, difficult to teach new users and it has too many options.

Mr. Latimer: So, it's a very high-powered system for Amazon but for the East Cleveland Public Library, we are one unit one space so, I conquer, I support Mr. Cockfield's recommendation,

Mr. Rashid: I agree as well as, any other input from my colleagues? And what do you need from us?

Ms. McClarin: I just want everyone keep in mind too that this is the first year was a new system. So, things seemed to be working until we get to this end. As we got closer to this end, we begin to see the different things that's really happened and that's when the finance director and executive director have been watching this system talking to the finance committee chairperson also talked about it in finance committee. So, the ball is already rolling for a full report from them to bring back to us because was originally said to go back to some system because this is what we needed, this is what we want. We found a system that works like this, but they're going to have everything including the cost effective on both ends so I just want to let everybody remember. That's how I got here. And once we found out that books weren't balancing then we knew.

Mr. Latimer: I just want to share with something, real quick, based on the data that Ms. Turner feels that we should have. There are two systems that we're testing, which will introduce to the board maybe next month, but Flux is a grants management system it's free. And Monday.com is a system we're using to measure the strategic plan. So we can introduce the show where we are Because this is new to this

organization as well, but she is correct. We do need to do a better job of collecting data but BlackBaud is not it.

Mr. Rashid: So what we'll do is use the current one and we'll use this one specifically to address those issues with handling our grant managing reporting.

Ms. McClarin: And one more thing. It's not a long process to get back to the state system.

Mr. Rashid: Is there any more discussion? Mr. Turner please call the roll.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

The Board comes to a consensus to approve the Fiscal Officer's report.

**III. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (CHAIRPERSON)**

**A. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITY**

Mr. Rashid: Motion carries. Next item on our agenda is the finance committee report major activities and the resolutions that we have here.

Mr. Silvera: I think we basically covered the main gist of the finance report. Mr. Latimer and Mr. Cockfield will submit reports analyzing all the soft cost and hard cost that has been lost in the integration and transfer at the same time with cost issues and transfer issues of going back to the old system...

Mr. Silvera: My concern was that going into the year, the first quarter without having this resolved due to too many technical issues with the payable function in not being able to bypass that and always creating a problem in terms of how we close out the books. So as soon as we get this dealt with, the better because I don't want us going into the year without having this resolved.

Mr. Rashid: I am in total agreement with you. And once again, I want to thank you for the call in the middle of the week. So that we could have a detailed discussion about this, because it was kind of shocking to me at the same time was the information we needed as a board to make decision to move forward.

**B. RESOLUTION 01-01-2020: TO ACCEPT THE GRANT FROM THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION OF \$20,00 FOR MINORITY ARTS AND EDUCATION.**

Mr. Silvera: Okay, first resolution we have is 01-01-2020.

Ms. Turner: No, no, no I don't have the actual resolution

Mr. Silvera: Am going to read the resolution.

Mr. Silvera: Members of the finance committee met and discussed review following the item and recommend approval to the library board trustees resolution 01-01-2020 to accept the grant of the Cleveland Foundation for \$20,000 for minority arts and education, whereas the trustees of the East Cleveland Public Library, hereby accepts recommendation of Director of Finance Committee, be it resolved: Adoption of Resolution No. 01-01-2020 for the acceptance of the grant from The Cleveland Foundation of \$20,000 for the East Cleveland Public Library to use for building community through historical literacy: capturing African American history & culture. Receipt of the grant funds will be recorded to "Restricted Contributions – Foundations" account code 1000-230-4613. I move for its adoption.

Ms. McClarin: I second.

Mr. Rashid: We have a second, is there any discussion?

Dr. Harris: I would like to hear more details in terms of, did you seek this grant out or...

Mr. Latimer: Yes, this is a grant that we sought out. Initially we were trying to find and identify funders to recreate the vision of Ihabod Flewollen. That young man whose pictures on the wall, we do own his collection that was donated to the East Cleveland Public Library, we were turned down for grants to do the hard work as far as archiving, curating and working to make that collection healthy.

Ms. Turner: You checked a few sources?

Mr. Latimer: Right from a few sources or how Arts Council and the Cleveland Foundation. So we decided to send a proposal to the Cleveland Foundation, to see if they would give us money to help us with the Flewollen connection, which they declined us but they redirected us to this new minority arts organization as part of the Cleveland foundation, in discussion with our grant writer and myself, they decided not to fund us as far as dealing with the curating and archiving of the collection. They wanted us to raise awareness. So they asked us to create a proposal to raise awareness around not only Icabod Flewollen and the things that he collected, but create an opportunity to collect history that exists in our community and build some economic development around it and also celebrate arts and culture. So, the proposal that we submitted was a community arts festival. This proposal was very difficult to get approved, a lot of people got turned down, we got approved.

Mr. Latimer: So basically, we have \$20,00 to do a community festival. There are two pieces to this. We can sell tables to community members who want to sell their art. We have money to pay for performers who sings and dance and things around our culture. There's another piece this, community members will be bringing their photos and letters and anything they want us to archive and digitize. We're going to work with other partners as well. So, we're going to coordinate this. We already do our Founders Day and Summer Reading club kick off. This has to take place in the spring. So, it was a perfect partnership for us to do all of this together. So, I have all the details, I can share the entire grant and the budget with the entire board we can get that emailed to everyone next week.

Mr. Rashid: This one thing I want to say, before we get too far into the weeds about this, I know you're going to be developing this program and sharing with us the price as it progresses toward the final date. If there's any other members that want to ask questions, but I just don't want us to get lost into the weeds about details when we know that he's going to prepared details and present it to us at a later date. Mr. Mays you have the floor.

Mr. Mays: We're passing the resolution now. So, I need to ask some questions. I guess you're spelling out how they have directed for the money to be spent. Correct?

Mr. Latimer: Correct.

Mr. Mays: Secondly, these amateur artists or they individualism on the up rise?

Mr. Latimer: it's up to us to determine. We'll put a committee together and we'll make it fabulous or you know, if we decide we don't want to do it we just give the money back.

Mr. Rashid: No, we don't want to do that.

Mr. Rashid: I'm sorry that's kind of why I made the statement earlier because they're going to have to go back to the drawing board and develop a process of how we are going to utilize the grant that we've been given.

Mr. Mays: This will give artist who are trying to hit the big stage giving them an opportunity for exposure.

Mr. Latimer: One thing about the Cleveland Foundation, based on the work we've done this past year. This is something new, they trust the East Cleveland Public Library, that we can create and do something around our culture.

Ms. McClarin: And that's a door opening to what we are trying to go.

Mr. Latimer: Exactly

Mr. Mays: 2020 could lead to a lot of other things once they see that we're improving ourselves. So that's why I think it is important to take the time to do the due diligence to make sure that this comes off in a way that addresses every point and concern that they may have around giving us this money. So, you know, from my point of view, I would like to give you the time to develop that and come back to the board to discuss it.

Ms. Shaheed: I can think of a thousand things that fall in that category.

Mr. Latimer: This is going to take everybody working together to make this successful.

Mr. Mays: We should move the agenda, mister chairman.

Mr. Silvera: All right, I agree. Mr. Turner will you please call the vote.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Ms. McClarin seconds approval of resolution 01-01-2020.

Resolution 01-01-2020 is approved.

**C. RESOLUTION 01-02-2020: TO AMEND THE 2019 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS RETROACTIVELY**

Mr. Silvera: ...Mister Chairman, I have one more resolution to bring forward.

Mr. Silvera: Members of the Finance Committee have, met discussed and reviewed the following items and recommend approval to the Library Board of Trustee Resolution No. 01-02-2020: To Approve Retroactive Appropriation Whereas: The Board of Trustees of the East Cleveland Public Library hereby accepts the recommendation of the Director and the Finance Committee. Be it resolved: Adoption of Resolution No. 01-02-2020 Whereas, as of 12-31-19 there is a need to adjust 2019 appropriations. Resolved, The Board of Trustees of the East Cleveland Public Library authorizes the Fiscal Officer to increase the General Fund appropriations by \$60,000 and Special Revenue Fund by \$10,000 and make the necessary appropriation adjustments retroactive to December 27, 2019. And I would like for Mr. Cockfield to kind of elaborate on what this means.

Mr. Cockfield: Okay, at the end of 2019

Mr. Mays: So, probably he can elaborate a bit better, mister Chairman if it gets before the body.

Mr. Silvera: I move for its adoption.

Ms. McClarin: I second

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Mays: Now you can ask him.

Mr. Rashid: Please Mr. Cockfield.

Mr. Cockfield: Yeah, in attempting to close the books out, we discovered that there was an appropriation shortfall in 2019 that should have been made in December meeting. So, I'm simply asking is that board passed an appropriation change that would go on the books retro actively to 2019 in order to increase our budget now to spend the spending is, is over here. The budget is over here and basically what we're doing and trying to align the budget with the spending.

Mr. Rashid: So, is that saying that we're appropriating another \$70,000 over and above what our line item budget was for 2019?

Mr. Cockfield: What it is saying is yes, what you are saying is that we have overspent our budget by approximately \$60,000.

Mr. Rashid: Okay, I'm kind of confused let me re-read this.

Mr. Cockfield: This is a budget adjustment. We know we're asking to increase the budget by approximately \$60,000 for the general fund and \$10,000 for special revenue fund.

Mr. Rashid: A total of \$70,000 what am I missing here?

Mr. Cockfield: Did I read it wrong?

Mr. Silvera: Was it \$10,000 in addition...

Mr. Cockfield: ...Yeah, \$60,000 for general fund and another \$10,000 goes to special revenue fund in order to bring the budget up to what our spending was.

Mr. Rashid: Okay, and what created the shortfall? Was it something we didn't anticipate or was it a big budget item?

Mr. Cockfield: Actually, it was something that in working with the system, it was something that I overlooked.

Mr. Rashid: Okay, well, thank you for your honesty. I appreciate that.

Mr. Rashid: Yes, any other discussion? Mr. Turner please call the vote.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Ms. McClarin seconds approval of resolution 01-02-2020.

Resolution 01-02-2020 is approved.

**IV. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (CHAIRPERSON)**  
**A. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Rashid: Let's move the agenda to the personnel committee report.

Ms. McClarin: Yes, of course. The personnel committee did not meet.

Mr. Rashid: Okay, In the interest of time, that is a good thing. the next item on the agenda is building and grounds. Mr. Mays.

**V. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (CHAIRPERSON)**  
**A. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Mays: Yes. Chairman and we have a resolution to bring forward. Is that okay?

Mr. Rashid: Yes.

Mr. Mays: The Executive Director is recommending approval to the Library Board of Trustees: Resolution No. 01-04-2020: Approval of Proclamation Honoring Tamia Chappman. Whereas: The Board of Trustees of the East Cleveland Public Library hereby accepts the recommendations of the Executive Director. Be it resolved: Adopting Resolution No. 01-04-2020, the East Cleveland Public Library's Board

and Staff honor Ms. Tamia Chappman by presenting the Chappman family with a proclamation.

- Mr. Rashid: Excuse me sir, I just was about to say that this is outside of building ground at this point we're still on buildings and grounds.
- Ms. McClarin: That's under library services, and...
- Mr. Mays: Buildings and grounds covers, health and safety...
- Mr. Rashid: Our agenda places it under the library services update.
- Mr. Latimer: I believe we placed it in the wrong place because of safety. However, security and safety issues have always been buildings and the grounds.
- Mr. Rashid: Okay.
- Mr. Rashid: One thing I wanted to ask you is regarding the appropriation that we made for the heating system, and I thought that will be part of the building and grounds report. Do we have any update on that?
- Mr. Latimer: I do have an update.
- Mr. Rashid: You know, I'll set that aside and we can finish with what you're doing , we need to move this from the Library Services Committee, because there are other members of that were not aware this is going to be addressed at this particular time. So, should it actually be under buildings and grounds or should it be under services?
- Mr. Mays: It's a safety situation.
- Ms. Turner: No.
- Mr. Mays: ...And that come under building and ground.
- Ms. Turner: But how can...
- Mr. Mays: ...But anyway, we'll go back to where...
- Ms. Turner: ...How is it a health and safety concern?
- Mr. Mays: It is...
- Ms. Turner: No, I'm asking because this proclamation doesn't Say anything about what goes on in the building?

Mr. Mays: Because we had a program going on at that time and the kids were leaving or coming to the library.

Ms. Turner: They were on their way.

Mr. Rashid: I just want to give respect to the people that are on these various committees because they did the work and they may feel that they want to direct this presentation. If we are changing it, we should at least respect them enough by saying that we want to do that. So that's what I'm trying to get to with this.

Mr. Mays: Mr. Chairman, any board member of this board can write resolutions in reference to...

Mr. Rashid: That is not the question, the question that I pose to you is that at this moment we are on buildings and grounds committee update, a summary of major activities. You are addressing something that is under Library services.

Mr. Mays: Yes. It doesn't matter which...

Mr. Silvera: Yes, to the people who did the work in this committee. Maybe it doesn't matter to us, in terms of how important it is that sort of things but being respectful of people who actually did the work in these committees. I think we should allow them to make this presentation instead, after we close out on buildings and, so they have nothing else to do as ground we move on, it will be at that time appropriate to address these issues.

Ms. Shaheed: Well, you know what, he can do that now because I'm library Services okay. So, it's because we didn't have a meeting, we can discuss something else later. so, he can do that Now and we can move on.

Mr. Rashid: So, how do we do it in the agenda?

Ms. McClarin: What I suggest, let's do this, he can still present the proclamation, but close out builds and ground go into library services with that.

Mr. Mays: That's fine.

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Mays: But before we do that, I want to yield the floor to the Director for an update.

Mr. Latimer: In the Greg L. Reese auditorium, we understood that there was an issue with the heat exchanger, they ordered the part it came a little sooner, that'll be replaced on January 23rd.

Mr. Rashid: Excellent.

Mr. Latimer: So, we should have heat in there. the boiler project has been completed; everything is done. So, we are in a maintenance phase of the agreement. We have that two years a two-year warranty. So, we transition the project is complete. we're transitioning to the maintenance where they're still educating our staff or the temperature variations throughout the building.

Mr. Rashid: How is it functioning?

Mr. Latimer: it's no complaints.

Mr. Rashid: Have you guys kind of run a test just one day just see if you can heat one specific area to do it, according to the diagram they gave us just to see if it works and just kind of feedback to us if it did what they said it was going to do.

Mr. Mays: I agree with you because it's still a little chilly in here and I know downstairs it was a little chilly. So, they not either test it or not doing well... I have some problems with it. But anyway, I think they do need to test it again because it's going to get colder than it is now.

Mr. Silvera: And the radiators for this room are right there, I mean it is chilly.

Ms. Turner: The cold air, its coming from up here.

Mr. Silvera: Let's just try to run a test to see if we can heat this room just to see what happens and maybe get your feedback next week.

Mr. Latimer: That concludes my update.

Mr. Rashid: Okay. Is there a motion on the floor to accept this committee update?

Ms. Turner: No motion is needed for this.

**VI. LIBRARY SERVICES COMMITTEE (CHAIRPERSON)**  
**A. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Rashid: Okay, next. Library Services Committee update.

Ms. Shaheed: Okay, we didn't have a meeting, but Ms. Flood shared with me the jobs initiative. And now I will turn the floor over to Mr. Mays.

**B. RESOLUTION 01-04-2020: TO APPROVE TAMIA CHAPPMAN PROCLAMATION**

Mr. Turner: Excuse me, Mr. Mays I just want to share this with the board. This is actually related to that proclamation. This was given to us from the Chappman family.

Mr. Rashid: This is from the family of the girl that lost her life outside here?

Mr. Turner: Yes

Mr. Rashid: This is nice.

Mr. Mays: Whereas, Ms. Tamia Lanay Chappman, was an active patron at the East Cleveland Public Library, a student at Superior Elementary School, a daughter, sister and a friend to all that knew her; and Whereas, Tamia was active in her community and a cheerleader for Glenville; and Whereas, we, as a library, friends, and neighbors were the grateful beneficiaries of her wisdom, wit, and humor, and, most of all, her desire to learn; and Now therefore: Be it resolved by the East Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees and Staff, that we honor and celebrate the impact that Ms. Tamia Chappman made to both this institution and the community at large. We extend our sincere condolences to the Chappman family. Section 1. May we all be encouraged to continue to work toward keeping the East Cleveland Public Library a safe and kind place for the children of East Cleveland. Section 2. A copy of this proclamation will be given to the Chappman family and also be kept in the permanent archives of the East Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees. Submitted this 23rd day of January 2020 attest

Ms. Turner: Nice

Mr. Rashid: Thank you. This is so sad.

Mr. Mays: And Mr. Chairman, I ask that we accept this resolution.

Mr. Rashid: There is a motion to discuss this resolution?

Dr. Harris: Second

Mr. Rashid: Any other discussion?

Mr. Rashid: Okay. Mr. Turner please call the vote.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moved and Dr. Harris seconds approval of resolution 01-04-2020.

Resolution 01-04-2020 is approved.

**C. RESOLUTION 01-03-2020: TO APPROVE JASON REYNOLDS PROCLAMATION**

Mr. Rashid: Okay, there is another resolution here.

Mr. Latimer: Yes, Ms. Turner do you want to do this one?

Ms. Turner: So, one of the things, we had for the last two years we had a writer's conference here that we partnered with another organization, people that are a part of Cleveland book week. So, we are one of the few places in the black community that actually has an event for Cleveland book week. We have brought nationally recognized and internationally recognized people to our library, to talk about the business of books talk about the writing that they do. We've had a combination of both internationally known people and local people.

Ms. Turner: So, in this year, coming up, one of the things that we talked about was having an opportunity for students to engage writers like YA authors. Jason Reynolds was just appointed to be the young people's the Ambassador for Young People's Literature from the Library of Congress. We have sent in a request to the Library of Congress to

pay for him to come as part of his duties to talk about his writing and also provided writer's workshop as a part of Cleveland Book Week. And so, Mr. Reynolds, recommended that we need to acknowledge this when it became public knowledge that he was going to be the young people's ambassador from the Library of Congress that we as a board recognize that because it's significant things if we have not met Jason Reynolds or don't know who he is, he is really an interesting dude, he was the keynote speaker for ALA this past year. I don't know if you guys went to the keynote. He was spectacular he really was. He's an amazing speaker. He's a very nice man. Write amazing books for children.

Ms. Turner: Yeah. Like I've been to a lot of keynotes ALA. But he brought the house down. So, also in terms of full disclosure he's somebody I know personally. I have, you know, years ago when I first became a board member, I talked to him about it and he was like, I'd be willing to come whenever you like but I can't fit it in my schedule and we have not to go place when we're really ready to make happened. But it looks like this year, you know, given the money that we have coming into externally and some of the blocked programming that now we are part of Cleveland Book Week, this would absolutely be a feather in our cap. If we can get Jason to come here and to support with our students, particularly because literacy is such an issue in our community and the books that he writes really inspiring children.

Ms. Turner: So that's the story so I will read for you what it says.

Ms. Turner: Here we go, Whereas: The Board of Trustees of the East Cleveland Public Library hereby accepts the recommendations of the Executive Director. Be it resolved: Adopting Resolution No. 01-03-2020, the East Cleveland Public Library's Board and Staff recognize Jason Reynolds as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by presenting him with a proclamation. , and Whereas, Mr. Jason Reynolds, is a bestselling and award-winning young adult author and poet with credits that include winning the Printz award, the Newberry Honor, the National Book Award (twice), and the Coretta Scott King award; and Whereas, Mr. Reynolds has authored 13 books including "Long Way Down", "Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks", "Ghost"; and Whereas, we are the grateful beneficiaries of his wisdom, vision, work ethic, and, most of all, his award-winning works; and Now therefore: Be it resolved by the East Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees and Staff, that we recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions that have led to the Library of Congress naming Mr. Jason Reynolds as their seventh National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Section 1. May we all be encouraged by the work of Mr. Reynolds to continue to increase literacy through programming and to elevate the library's status as a beacon of

African-American culture and history while creating an environment of pride and respect. Section 2. A copy of the proclamation be given to Mr. Jason Reynolds and also be kept in the permanent archives of the East Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees. Submitted this 23rd day of January 2020 attest.

Ms. Turner: So, that is what it says, one thing that I will say is that it is my understanding that he was nominated for the National Book Awards. He did not in fact win it.

Mr. Mays: You would like to make a motion?

Ms. Turner: Yes. And so, I move that we approve this proclamation with that correction.

Dr. Harris: Second.

Ms. Turner: Dr. Harris, I'm sorry. In terms of discussion, would you like to speak to Mr. Reynolds work because I know you're also someone who's read his work.

Dr. Harris: Well I'm familiar with him. He was here a couple of years ago. Cleveland Heights / University Heights Library brought him in. He was at the Coventry school. I think I had about three students it was in the Evening which is not a good time for students. But they were happy, and we may have some pictures and I need to look to see if I have them. Of course, those students graduated so we'd have to get their permission, but I think he's the right person for this situation and he's an excellent author I do have a couple of books signed by him at a Shaw library.

Mr. Rashid: Is there any further discussion? Call the vote.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Ms. Turner moved and Dr. Harris seconds approval of resolution 01-03-2020.

Resolution 01-03-2020 is approved.

## **VII. AUDIENCE PARTICAPATION**

- Mr. Rashid: Okay, so, all that's left is our audience participation. And if we're going into executive session?
- Ms. Turner: Yes.
- Mr. Rashid: So right now, audience participation. Thank you so much for coming out and working with us. Do any of you have questions or comments?
- Mr. Rashid: Welcome Mr. Fambrough, how are you sir?
- Mrs. Rashid: Congratulations. I want to congratulate my husband Zakee Rashid. I am very proud of you.
- Mr. Rashid: So, at this point...
- Mr. Fambrough: well, I would like to say something if that's okay.
- Mr. Rashid: Yes Sir Mr. Fambrough.
- Mr. Fambrough: Seeing that you are chairing the meeting. Does that mean that you are now the board president?
- Mr. Rashid: Yes, sir. My colleagues voted me president today. Mr. Mays is our vice President, Ms. McClarin is now the secretary for the year 2020.
- Mr. Fambrough: Congratulations to both of you.
- Mr. Rashid: Thank you very much sir.
- Mr. Fambrough: That me up makes me feel pretty good. And I've always had great respect for you, sir.
- Mr. Rashid: Thank you very much sir.
- Mr. Fambrough: So, I know you're do a wonderful job.
- Mr. Fambrough: I just want to remind the board again, that We have considered purchasing the nearby land to the back of the parking lot. It's actually years and years long and I don't want the prize to get lost. So, tonight,

I am asking, has there been any forward motion on that? Because that, That, to me is the first step towards preparing for building here on these grounds and expanding the library.

Mr. Fambrough: The charter for the library includes having a museum, East Cleveland is positioned halfway between Washington DC and a brand-new Smithsonian Black History and Culture facility out there, and the Schomburg Black History and Culture Museum in New York City. So, we're halfway between the two. And if we put a museum here, it would provide an economic engine that would spur East Cleveland. And it would also attract other businesses and entities and even nonprofits. So, this is something that we can do. It's low hanging fruit. Just outside this door. There are many names of foundations, right on the wall, a great starting point for donations, and the raising of funds so that we can go ahead and get this now. I'm here about eight years after I started saying this to this board when I was on the board, and I was the board president at that time. It did not happen then. But it certainly has been efforts on the part of this board. To secure that land as a first step, and that's why I'm here to remind us if we have not done it, and then to push us if we have done it so that we so that we get it, get it done.

Mr. Rashid: Okay.

Mr. Fambrough: Those are my comments. I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Mr. Rashid: You're very welcome. And thank you for expressing yourself. I will say, from my perspective, I share your thoughts about that land, there are other members of this board who we all do and I think we're all committed to do whatever it legally takes for us to end up with that land, because we realize how important it is for our survival and for our future growth. So, we're well committed to that. You got two people on this board now. I can't speak for everybody else, but I can't because for Silvera and I, nobody else will get the land if we don't get it.

Mr. Fambrough: If I may...

Mr. Silvera: Just a point of information, I've already had conversations with a number of Council people, and I've gotten some commitments that they will support a resolution to transfer the property to the city within the next 30 to 45 days.

Mr. Mays: That's not where the problem lies, the problem lies in reference to the person that sits at the head of the helm as far as administration is concerned. Can I just finish please? And there has been movement on this property in reference to and there has been some court action

results of this as well. So it isn't that we have not pursued the property...

Mr. Rashid: I don't think anyone feels that...

Mr. Mays: And the person that has it, which I feel is the conflict, as well, because I think he was that person that owns it, supposedly only whatever trying to buy, was on council at the top and there has been moved in reference to this and then they wanted him to pay for his appraisal, and then they will not do it.. The library did their own appraisal on that particular piece of property. So, I just have to dip in with saying that has nothing been done that is not true.

Mr. Fambrough: If I could just add one more thing...

Mr. Rashid: We had other discussions; we have to move pass that. I'll talk to you offline. But one thing you can feel comfortable about, we are committed getting that property.

Mr. Fambrough: Okay, I appreciate that.

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL MATTERS WITH ATTORNEY**

Mr. Rashid: So, at this point, on our agenda we still have the executive session that we have to address. So, I hope we can do and do rather quickly.

Ms. Turner: I move that we go into Executive Session.

Dr. Harris: Second

Mr. Mays: No, you're going into Executive Session to do what?

Ms. Turner: We will address legal issues?

Dr. Harris: Second

Mr. Silvera: There's a motion and a second, Is there any other discussion? Mr. Turner call the vote.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

**(MEETING GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:27PM)**

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

**(MEETING RESUMES AT 8:57PM)**

Ms. Turner moved and Dr. Harris seconds going into executive session to discuss legal matters.

Executive session is approved.

Dr. Harris moved and Ms. Shaheed seconds coming out of executive session.

Meeting comes out of executive session.

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mays: Chairman, if there is no further business to bring before this board, I move for adjournment.

Ms. McClarin: I second.

Discussion: None

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

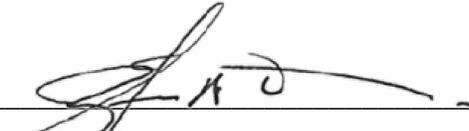
Yes – 7

Motion passes.

**[MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:59PM]**

Mr. Mays moved and Ms. McClarin seconds adjournment.

Meeting is adjourned.



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Mr. Zakee Rashid, President

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Ms. McClarin, Secretary