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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Petawawa Library Board of Trustees  
Monday, March 24, 2014**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

**Attendance:** E. Chow, B. Almon Felhaber, T. Sabourin, C. Higgins, J. Carmody, N. Chan, R. Murdock

**Regrets:** K. Thompson, J. Gardner

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion # 1:

Moved by T. Sabourin, seconded by J. Carmody that the agenda for the March 24, 2014 Library Trustee Board meeting be accepted as amended.  
Carried.

**Conflict of Interest:** nil

**Minutes:** Motion # 2:

Moved by N. Chan, seconded by C. Higgins that the minutes of the February 26, 2014 Library Trustee Board meeting be accepted as presented.  
Carried.

**Correspondence:** A letter was received from the estate of Barbara Shaw with a donation to the Library of \$20 000.00.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion # 3:

Moved by B. Almon Felhaber, seconded by T. Sabourin that the financial statement for the period ending February 28, 2014 and payment of accounts reflected therein be approved as submitted with expenditures of \$ 51 981.00.  
Carried.

**CEO's Report:** Motion # 4:

Moved by C. Higgins, seconded by N. Chan that the CEO's Report of February/March 2014 be accepted as presented. Carried.

**Outstanding Business:**

**Closed Meeting:**

Motion # 5:

Moved by T. Sabourin, seconded by N. Chan that the Board enter into a closed meeting at 4:25 pm for the purpose of discussion about labour relations or employee negotiation. Carried.

Motion # 6:

Moved by T. Sabourin, seconded by B. Almon Felhaber that the Board come out of closed meeting at 5:00 pm. Carried.

**Strategic Planning:**

T. Sabourin reported that some issues need to be resolved before planning can begin. This process is on-going.

**New Business: Building Cost Assessment:**

This report was tabled until the next meeting to allow the Board to examine it more thoroughly.

**Member Input:** Theresa proposed that a donation be sent to the hospice in Renfrew in memory of Kelly's father who passed away last weekend. The Board agreed. Betty presented an article from last Saturday's Pembroke Observer which disagreed with cuts to the children's programs at the Pembroke Library. It provided food for thought.


**Next Meeting:** Special meeting – Monday, March 31, 2014 at 4:00 pm.  
Monthly meeting – Monday April 28, 2014 at 4:00 pm

**Adjournment:** Motion # 8:

Moved by C. Higgins, seconded by N. Chan that the meeting of March 24, 2014 be adjourned at 5:08 pm. Carried.

  
E. Chow, Chairperson

  
C. Higgins, Secretary

  
Date



## **CEO's REPORT February - March 2014**

### **Workshops and Meetings:**

- E. Malins and M. Jacques attended a Training Program as prescribed by the Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training Regulation. All staff will have attended such a program by the end of the month.

### **Grants and Subsidies:**

- Municipal subsidy of \$41,137.36 received for March

### **Highlights from Adult Programming (submitted by E. Malins):**

- The Petawawa Library will be visible at Spring Showcase
- Painting with Watercolours class had a very long waitlist – presenter is only able to admit 4 participants at a time
- Nutrition class, Cooking class and Gardening class all took place

### **Highlights from the Children and Teen Department (submitted by M. Wakelam):**

- March Break events went very well. All events were filled before March Break and many had a long waitlist. We opened up a second movie timeslot for Friday because the waitlist was so long and that also filled up
- Playdough Club and Lego Club have become very popular! Our last Lego Club reached capacity.
- Upcoming children's programs and events for the rest of March and April include:
  - PAWS to Read
  - Homework Help
  - Playdough/Lego Clubs
  - Forest of Reading
  - Bonjour les Amis! French Storytime
  - Baby Storytime
  - Easter Crafternoon and Egg Hunt
  - Spring and Earth Day Planting Party

- Meagan created a Tumblr account for the teens. Students are invited to post articles
- Teen department held two fundraisers over March Break. Moncion Grocers donated the materials for the Pancake Breakfast
- An article entitled "Collecting Controversy: How Libraries Aim to Offend", authored by M. Wakelam was published in the Pembroke Observer
- No Slumber Party and Bring a friend TAG were successful events, with new faces at each
- Upcoming teen programs and projects includes:
  - Vine contest
  - Tumbler account
  - Writing club (scheduled for the spring)
  - Teen NextReads Newsletter
  - Trivia Night
  - Book Club (ongoing)

**Other Points of Interest:**

M. Jacques is compiling photographs from the Library's Heritage College to be used in displays during Petawawa's Anniversary Celebrations later this year.

### Collecting Controversy: How Libraries Aim to Offend

“A truly great library has something in it to offend everyone.” – Jo Goodwin

There is another hot button item hitting shelves across the United Kingdom, and it's packing its bags for North America. *When Mr. Dog Bites* by Brian Conaghan tells the rather profane story of a teenage boy with Tourette's syndrome. The harsh language in both the book and its publishing has sparked debate among those who feel that the story relies too heavily on shock value to attract readers.<sup>1</sup> Of course, this is not the first time the flow of literature has been interrupted by controversy, and websites like Goodreads.com have lists of banned books longer than Santa's naughty list.

Some may argue that certain books must be censored from public institutions like libraries which are meant to be inclusive; one might claim that including controversial books in libraries will only serve to divide communities and possibly corrupt fragile minds. However, libraries exist to foster personal growth and cultural development, not to shape the mind of a community into the ideals of its librarians. This mandate cannot be achieved in anyone's comfort zone. Furthermore, what offends one person might be a necessary learning tool for another, and the Petawawa Library recognizes that if we censor certain subjects from our collection we will exclude members of our community from their right to access opportunities for personal growth. In the case of *When Mr. Dog Bites*, Rebecca McNally, publishing director of Bloomsbury Children's Books in the UK explains, “Yes, the words are shocking. That's intentional. If we weren't shocked by them, we couldn't begin to understand how Dylan feels at having them explode uncontrollably from his mouth.”

The Petawawa Library will not impose any materials on you or your children, but we will provide you with the opportunity to think, wonder, question and expand your minds. Indeed, we believe that a “safe” library is a dangerous one.

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<sup>1</sup> Bean, J. (2014). YA Novel 'When Mr. Dog Bites' Causes Stir. *Publishers Weekly*.