

Minutes—Draft  
DIXON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES  
7:00 P. M., Thursday, March 9, 2017  
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING LOCATION  
DIXON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
600 EAST A STREET, DIXON, CA 95620

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Maseda called the meeting to order at 7 pm. There were no announcements to be made following the closed session.

**2. Business meeting**

**a. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance said

**b. Roll Call**

**Trustees**

**Melissa Maseda, President**—present

**John Gabby, Vice President**—present

**Luke Foster, Clerk**—present

**Caitlin O’Halloran, Member**—present

**Guy Garcia, Member**—present

**Staff**

**Steve Arozena, Library Director**—present

**3. Notice to the Public**

None

**4. Correspondence**

None

**5. Consent Agenda**

None

**6. Public Comment**

None

**7. Guests & Presentations**

## 8. Director's Report

### ■ Library Activities

- Mr. Arozena stated that 40 people attended the Missing Kennedy book presentation and signing held at the Dixon High School theatre. Hoopla has been available to the public since February 1 and provides streaming movies and media. The Dixon Tribune project transferring the library's microfilm collection to a digital database has been completed and will be made available to the public following staff training. The Summer Reading Club performers have been lined up and offer a variety of entertainment suitable for children.

### ■ Budget Update

- Mr. Arozena said that 67% of the budget year has been completed and 59% of the salary/benefits budget has been spent. Only 44% of the services and supplies budget has been spent at this point.

## 9. Ongoing Business

### ■ Ongoing Business

### ■ Discussion of Future Governance of Library

- Mr. Arozena said he talked with the attorney and had a staff member prepare an opinion on options for future library governance. The opinion stated that electing a separate library board isn't an option without legislative movement. The legislature has given two libraries exceptions: Banning and Santa Paula. Mr. Arozena said that the attorney's opinion was that the two currently available options were to keep the Library Board as a component of the School Board or to return to having both a Library Board and Commission. Ms. O'Halloran stated that one of the obstacles to having a separate election had been removed in that an agreement was made between Dixon and Vacaville over some disputed school/library lines. She said that another issue was that the cost of an election would be about \$30,000. She said that she doesn't feel that the current configuration gives sufficient oversight to the library and is looking for ways that it can be done better. Ms. Maseda asked how others libraries were governed and if they were primarily commissions. Mr. Arozena stated that they were sometimes commissions, but most often boards. Ms. O'Halloran said there are many different configurations and that there are city libraries governed by city councils, county libraries. She asked if there were other libraries in the county that were separate entities besides Dixon. Mr. Arozena said that Rio Vista and Benecia were the other examples of public libraries independent of the county. Mr. Gabby asked if the structure

of the library would change if Solano County became the governing entity. Mr. Arozena said that he felt that much of the Dixon Library's independence would be lost if the county were to take over. Ms. O'Halloran stated that other libraries under Solano's governance had their own library directors, but were under the ultimate governance of the county librarian. Mr. Garcia said that he also thought that the funding model would change. Ms. O'Halloran said that the money would be put into the pot of Solano County and that the library would likely lose much of its fiscal independence. Mr. Garcia asked whether it would be difficult to pass legislation to allow election of a separate library board. Ms. O'Halloran said she didn't think that would be difficult, but she expressed concern that there may be difficulty finding people interested in running, and that the cost of the election had to be weighed. Ms. Maseda asked what other options are. Ms. O'Halloran that in the past there had been a Library Commission that did much of the work. She asked Mr. Garcia if he could recall how the commission was organized. He said that the commissioners were appointed and were essentially volunteers. Mr. Gabby said that the public was informed of the need for commissioners and that people applied and were interviewed. The commission had a liaison from the Board that sat in on the meetings and would report back to the Board after the meeting. Mr. Garcia said that the Library Board would have only four meetings a year to make decisions on financial matters. Mr. Gabby said that the commission would probably be filled with people who had more interest in the library than people who ran for the school board and that in some cases, school board members only found out afterward that the responsibility of the library came with their post. He said that there were sometimes three or four people interested in an opening. Ms. Maseda asked what the problem was with the former commission. Mr. Garcia said that in his opinion the former commission president was wrongfully blamed for its failings. Mr. Gabby said that the former Board delegated too much power to the commission and that the elected Board shouldn't have given that level of power to people that were not in elected positions. Mr. Gabby and Garcia both spoke to issues of mistrust between the former director, employees and members of the Board/Commission. Mr. Garcia said that a vocal portion of the public expressed their displeasure with the Commission. He said that the decision to disband the Commission was not unanimous. Mr. Arozena stated that the vote was 3-2 with Mr. Garcia casting a dissenting vote. He

said that he dissented because he believed that the Commission President was not given any sort of ‘due process.’ Mr. Garcia said that the climate had totally changed and that patrons of the library were happy and that Mr. Arozena has done a good job. Ms. O’Halloran said that things are currently going well but she would like to be sure that when things aren’t that a series of checks and balances exist. Mr. Garcia suggested that the policies and procedures handbook could be amended if the decision is made to do something differently. He asked if the Board had to be a five-member group and if the power of the Board could be limited. Ms. O’Halloran said that the attorney should be consulted to see what language can be changed in the policies. Mr. Garcia suggested that the Board could meet more often and be in closer touch with the library/library director and that they could hold more of an advisory role. Mr. Arozena stated that the Commission was dissolved in 2012. He postulated that the Commission members could potentially be the same people that were in place when there were problems. Mr. Garcia said he thinks that the issue should be on each agenda. Ms. Maseda said that we should publicize this issue and keep in on the agenda and that we could get more public interest in the discussion at future meetings.

- **Approval of minutes of January 12, 2017 meeting**
- Mr. Gabby moved approval. Ms. O’Halloran seconded. The minutes were approved 5-0.
- **Meeting adjourned.**

Melissa Maseda, President

Luke Foster, Clerk

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