

Board of Trustees
July 27, 1951

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:40 P.M.

Members present, Mr. Knuth presiding; Mrs. Gage, Mrs. Garman, Mrs. Loewen, Messrs. Felts, Hull, Owen and Stafford. Mr. Knuth welcomed Mr. Felts, who was attending his first meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Librarian's report for June was examined and ordered filed. The motion was made by Mr. Owen, seconded by Mrs. Loewen, and unanimously passed that bills for maintenance \$1776.92, and salaries \$4721.11, be paid.

The Librarian presented figures from Clyde Songer for refinishing the counter back of the juvenile desk for \$12.75, and the top of the desk for \$15.50. Mr. Spangler recommended that this be done and said that Mr. Miller would sand the tops for \$10.00. The motion was made by Mr. Stafford, seconded by Mrs. Loewen, and unanimously passed that this be done.

The Librarian reported that the inter-telephone system was still not correct in that calls made for the first floor still sound in the staff room. She asked permission to have Mr. Hamilton correct this as soon as all of the renovation bills are paid inasmuch as Blades and Campbell seem to have difficulty in setting it up correctly. Permission to do this was granted.

Mrs. Garman reported with regard to the scagliola. Mr. Spangler had received figures from Pug Fischer, local plasterer, to remove existing scagliola and replace with plaster columns, for \$100.00 per pillar, without paint. During the discussion it was decided that we should try to preserve the existing scagliola as long as possible without undue expense. The motion was made by Mr. Hull, seconded by Mr. Stafford, and unanimously carried that Mrs. Garman continue with this project and do the best she can with the pillars.

The Librarian reported on fireproof containers for valuable papers and especially the Decatur-Barnwell portrait of Lincoln. Linxweiler Company has a one-drawer fireproof file 16" deep, 12" wide, 10" high, for \$69.99; also a small fireproof safe for \$165.50. Haines and Essick has a four-drawer Shaw-Walker file, legal size \$227.25, letter size \$202.75; also a small safe similar to above for \$163.00. These articles are for a one-hour rating at 1700 degrees Fahrenheit. Action was postponed but the Librarian was instructed to consult Mr. Spangler on estimates for a fireproof vault.

(Lawrence M Duncan)

Mr. Hull read to the Trustees a Notice of Bankruptcy Petition, from the Southern District Court of Illinois. The Librarian reported that many of the figures within this petition do not balance with those given us by Harris Associates. The Librarian was instructed to discuss this matter with Mr. Merris. Notice was also given of a bankruptcy meeting August 17th in the Supervisors Room at the County Building.

The Librarian reported that the Association of Commerce had offered the Library, as a gift, the G.A.R. flag which had been given them some time ago. This flag was purchased in 1887 from Linn and Scruggs for \$125.00. It was used in G.A.R. parades until the flag bearers became too feeble to carry it. Mr. Boltz of the Association of Commerce said that the Auxiliary of Sons of Union Veterans would make a display case for the flag. After some discussion it was decided that

the Librarian should regretfully decline the gift on the grounds that library space should hereafter be given to library material and that no further additions should be made to the Lincoln room.

It was reported that three members of the Grant School P.T.A. had approached the Librarian for library service to that district. Mr. Spangler had contacted Mr. Grant and asked what disposal was to be made of the old Grant School. Mr. Grant said that he also had been asked by interested people to have the Board of Education assign the building to the library and he suggested that the Librarian talk with him about the project. The Trustees instructed the Librarian to investigate and report back.

It was also reported that Mrs. Kenney of the Klazerbrook-Kenney Drug Store, E. Wood and Jasper Street, had requested installation of a rental library as part of our rental service. The Librarian said that she had cleared with McNaughton, Inc., and that it would be possible for us to use their rental books in agencies outside the main building. She would like to draw up a contract with Mrs. Kenney under which the library would supply them with a certain percentage of rental copies, plus a certain percentage of our own books for free distribution, such contract to include a time limit for the library's protection in case the project did not work out. It was explained that such a station would add to our distribution of books on the east side, without adding to our personnel since Mrs. Kenney would be in charge of the collection. The Librarian was cautioned to check with the Nicholson Insurance Company to be sure that our books would be insured when placed in such an agency.

The Librarian reported that the children's book game would close with a party on August 4th. Since the reading project has been more successful than anticipated she asked the Trustees for suggestions in obtaining adults to help at the party. It was estimated that between 300 and 500 children might be present. The Trustees suggested that she contact Mr. Dame of the Lions Club,

It was reported that the Mayor had re-appointed Mr. Hull and Mrs. Loewen for another term. Mr. Knuth appointed to the Finance Committee Mr. Hull, Mr. Stafford, Mr. Owen, and Mrs. Loewen; and to the Building and Grounds Committee, Mrs. Garman, Mrs. Gage, Mr. Felts, and Mr. Blackford.

It was reported that Mr. Spangler had recommended that we leave the windows in the basement area and the heat in this area to be taken care of after all the renovation items are completed. Mr. Stafford brought up the question that if this is done and the basement area is found to be too cold we would then be faced with the additional expense of correcting the situation, whereas previous to the renovations the basement had been adequately warm. This, the other members agreed, was true but felt that nothing could really be done since radiator outlets had been covered by the new ceiling.

It was reported that a new telephone system of two lines was installed last week and that the contract for oil for Evans Branch had been given to the Standard Oil Company upon installation of the oil burner. Also, that Mr. Jennings had been released as Bookmobile Driver on July 3rd and William Cox hired as Driver on July 6th.

The Librarian asked the Board if they knew anything about Mrs. Evelyn Starkey Walker who is considering applying for the Young Adult Librarianship. Mrs. Walker was High School Librarian some ten years ago. No Trustee knew anything about her.

The Librarian asked if it would be possible to omit the August meeting if she found that she could take her vacation beginning some time that month. It was agreed that no meeting be held until September.

The meeting stood adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel E. Perry
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Secretary

MEP/rs

Mrs. Valdora Soare's last day on duty July 30, 1951.