

Trustees Meeting
March 25, 1955

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 3:50 o'clock.

Members present: Mr. Felts presiding, Mrs. Gage, Mrs. Ridgley, Messrs. Blackford, Burgess, Rollins and Schroeder.

The Minutes of the previous meeting stood approved as read.

The motion was made by Mrs. Ridgley, seconded by Mr. Burgess and unanimously passed that bills for operations totaling \$4853.58, for salaries \$6138.10, a grand total of \$10,991.68 be paid.

Mr. Burgess reported that he had seen Mr. Merris, City Attorney, half a dozen times and the latter had promised to examine the original Council Resolution offering the land on North Jasper St. to the Board for a Branch, but no report had been received. The only solution that Mr. Burgess can think of is that the Council may consider making the deed a fact.

In reply to Mr. Rollins suggestion that the Board write to Mr. Merris for an opinion, Mr. Burgess thought the delay was because the City Attorney was busy. It was just a question of "when"

The question was raised as to the possibility of Sunday opening for the Branch. Mr. Schroeder had discussed this with Mr. Knuth, Principal of St. John's School and former Trustee. The latter said the area was heavily Lutheran and the people wouldn't like it. Mr. Schroeder had spoken with the Minister of the Evangelical United Brethren Church who opposed the idea.

Mr. Felts reminded the Board that the Librarian had recommended closing the Branch except on Mondays and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

After discussion the motion was made by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Blackford and unanimously carried that beginning April 18th the Evans Branch be closed except on Mondays and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Librarian was instructed to send for descriptive materials and prices on bookmobiles and the Extension Committee was asked to continue its study and report back at the April meeting.

Mr. Rollins questioned the wisdom of housing the Bookmobile and Mr. Burgess suggested investigating carports.

Mr. Felts reported on the March meeting of the Council of Education at which he and the Librarian discussed the Survey. He said it was a selective report, that the information was news to the Council and would be to the general public. They were extremely interested in how little income we have and in the new building. It was a profitable meeting for the Library.

The members agreed with Mr. Rollins that we definitely need a new building and that the probable cost would be two million dollars.

Mr. Felts spoke of the Association of Commerce Future Decatur Committee's request for a projection of library needs from 1955 to 1970.

Mrs. Gage remarked that it would be most unwise to use the term "County service" in extension planning because of the surrounding small communities' local pride. She suggested the term "Metropolitan area".

The Librarian was instructed to prepare a projection from 1955 to 1970, discuss it with Mr. Felts and send it to the A. of C. Committee as soon as possible.

Mr. Felts read a letter (Feb. 15th) from Walter Stone of the Survey team in which the latter reported that he would have the final pages of the Survey delivered in time for the March meeting if not before. These had not been received.

The matter of allowing the Staff to read the Survey was taken from the table. The Librarian asked if Mr. Down's letter of Sept. 23, 1954 which reads "These are for you exclusive use" meant that they should not be given to the Staff. Mrs. Ridgley thought such action would be wrong. The Librarian felt strongly that staff morale which has been so fine since September would be endangered.

The motion was made by Mr. Rollins, seconded by Mr. Burgess and unanimously passed that one copy of the Survey be made available in the Second Office for the Staff members only and that Mr. Felts meet with them beforehand to interpret the Board's acceptance of it.

Mr. Felts asked the Financial Committee to meet previous to the April meeting and to prepare the 1956-1957 budget. Mrs. Gage's remark that the collection fee of 5% be added to each individual item was referred to the Committee. also the Librarian's request to have Mr. Carmean put grounds, shrubs, and trees in good condition.

A discussion took place regarding the wisdom of purchasing the American Legion property.

The motion was made by Mr. Rollins, seconded by Mr. Schroeder and unanimously passed that the Staff be allotted expenses for Regional meetings on the same basis as last year.

The Librarian requested the appointment of a Staff doctor for pre-employment and routine examinations. She was instructed to inquire about the services of the City Physician.

The members agreed that it would be permissible to use Roy Schlobohm (Mrs. Schlobohm's husband) as Bookmobile driver on a temporary or emergency basis.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel E. Perry
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Secretary