



TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT  
LIBRARY

**Board of Trustees Special Meeting**  
MINUTES (approved)  
Friday, May 31, 2019 at 12:00pm  
**McGuire Community Room**  
610 Woodmere Ave., Traverse City, MI 49686

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Gersch at 12:00pm. Present were: Gersch (President); Vickery (Vice-President); Gillman (Treasurer); Jones (Secretary); and Odgers and Sullivan (Trustees). Mathewson (Trustee) was absent. Also present was Carpenter (Staff).

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

All members in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

3. **Approval of agenda** *ODGERS*

It was MOVED by Sullivan, SUPPORTED by Jones, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED.

Jones explained that three candidates, Ryan Deery of Allegan, MI, Leah Dodd of Battle Creek, MI, and Michele Howard of Traverse City, MI would be interviewed for the position of Director of the Traverse Area District Library through a series of questions. Each candidate would also be provided time to ask questions of the board of trustees. The board would later review and score the responses in a consistent manner across all candidates. A final approval of the results of the Directorship position will be brought before the board at the June 20th regular meeting which will be held at the Fife Lake Public Library.

4. **Public Comment**

President Gersch opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

5. **Interviews**

a. *Ryan Deery, of Allegan, MI* *ODGERS*

Deery greeted the board at 12:15pm. Sullivan conducted the interview asking an identical set of questions for all candidates set forth by the director search committee. Follow-up questions were asked of Deery and then Deery asked questions of the board. The interview ended at 1:25pm

It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Gillman, to take a recess until 1:40pm. Motion CARRIED.

b. *Leah Dodd, of Battle Creek, MI*

Dodd greeted the board at 1:45pm. Vickery conducted the interview asking an identical set of questions for all candidates set forth by the director search committee. Follow-up questions were asked of Dodd and then Dodd asked questions of the board. The interview ended at 2:35pm.

It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Gillman, to take a recess until 3:10pm. Motion CARRIED.

c. *Michele Howard, of Traverse City, MI*

Howard greeted the board at 3:10pm. President Gersch conducted the interview asking an identical set of questions set forth by the director search committee. Follow-up questions were asked of Howard and then Howard asked questions of the board. The interview ended at 4:17pm.

Jones noted that there will be a special board meeting for the purpose of discussing the interviews and possibly making a decision on the candidate to offer the position of Director to on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

6. **Public Comment**

President Gersch opened the floor for public comment. Betsy Myers, of Benzie County and TADL employee, commended Jones and Mathewson for the favorable candidates selected. She addressed TADL's strategic goals established in 2018 and she provided input for her support of candidate Howard.

Jones noted that the board had received an email from the Director of Fife Lake Public Library in support of Howard and a letter from some of the current leadership staff at TADL in support of Howard.

7. **Adjournment**

With the interviews completed and a motion by Gillman, President Gersch adjourned the meeting at 4:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,



V. Carpenter, Recording Secretary

Approved by board vote on June 20, 2019,



J. Jones, Board Secretary