

DRAFT

MANSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Special Meeting

Wednesday, August 10, 2011 7:00 P.M.

Mansfield Public Library Buchanan Center Auditorium

Present: S.Q. Clark presiding, E. Chibeau, H. Hand, B. Katz R. Pollack, C. Rees, D. Truman, Matt Hart, ex officio

Absent: E. BarShalom, J. Greene

AGENDA

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. Initial presentation regarding the concept of a Shared School and Public Library Director for official consideration by the Library Advisory Board
 - School Superintendent Fred Baruzzi and Town Manager Matt Hart gave an initial presentation about the concept of a position which theoretically would include duties at Mansfield Middle School, supervision of library-serving staff in the four Mansfield Public Schools, plus the Directing of the public library. (For details, see included document #1). They then specified reasons as to why they, at this point in time, feel favorably toward this idea.
 - Library Advisory Board members then had the opportunity to pose questions or make comments. Most chose to defer until later in the meeting.
- III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
 - Numerous members of the public in attendance spoke. Some referred to their concerns as regards adequate staffing at the public school libraries. Some spoke in concern as regards specific knowledge, training, Experience, and allotment of time as regards the public library director duties themselves. Some spoke in concern over both issues. Some spoke in concern with the timing and order of steps of this process of idea consideration. Professional librarians spoke as did members of the lay public. All comments were in opposition to this idea. A letter from Linda Williams (a Library Consultant for the State Library) was read aloud and also submitted in writing (see document #2)
 - Recommendations from professionals in the field of Library Sciences had been sought. Those received to date were officially entered into the record of this meeting (see document #3).

- A document (provided by the State Library) detailing plus comparing and contrasting roles and responsibilities of CT public libraries and school media centers was also submitted into the record of this meeting. (see document #4).
- A resume obtained online of a person to whom the initial presenters had referred was submitted by a resident who is also a professional librarian. Since at this point this meeting was called for just presentation of the initial concept itself, this document is not formally attached to these minutes, but is being held in the possession of the Library Advisory Board to be referred to if and when the appropriate need arises.
- When public comments had concluded, library board members asked questions and voiced some concerns. The Library Board will save further Board comments for the next meeting, at which discussion toward formulating its recommendation will ensue.
- An audio tape of the meeting was recorded - a malfunction evidently caused only part of the meeting (from most of the public commentary on) to be recorded. Library Board members were contacted concerning this, and asked to review their own notes and recollections in light of this.

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.