

Minutes for Randal Library Trustees Meeting

July 18, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:30

Present: Library Trustees: Amante Coppes, Barbie Wolfenden, John O'Keefe, Kathy O'Brien and Director Melissa Fournier

Absent: Tim Reed, Jane Epstein and Harry Donahue

Visitors: John Witten (Stow town counsel), Denise Flynn (children's librarian); Bob Flynn (husband) and Mark Burrell (Ms. Flynn's lawyer).

Public Comment: John O'Keefe welcomed patrons and/or interested citizens who wanted to support Ms. Flynn and explained that we were all interested in having Denise return to work. He then allowed public comment with parameters of directing all statements to him and keeping all statements polite as well as appropriate.

All speakers were in support of Denise: Joan Honig said Denise was important to the library; Kim Seatter read a letter from her 12 year old son supporting the crafts program; Ann Deluty noted that Denise was the liaison to the Cultural Council and did "lots of stuff" including writing grants. She also suggested professional mediation for all parties; Laura Acosta said Denise would reserve books for her child without being asked; Liz Anderson said that Ms. Flynn made her feel like part of the town and helped with school reports; Ms. Yvanovich said she was not taking sides but that the library was our community center; Daisy Dearborn said that she was the oldest living former Trustee Chairman, was proud of the children's librarian and asked that both the director and the children's librarian should behave like ladies to solve the issue with a handshake; Winnie Miller said that Denise was a heroine to Stow children and that she was loved and needed; Stacey Almy questioned the board's process and suggested security cameras; Theresa O'Riorden said that Denise had gotten her children involved in reading; Lindsey Hawkes told Denis "I love you" and that Ms Flynn defined the library for her; Jon French said that the Flynn's were neighbors and didn't want to lose her; Lori Hawkes said that there were not many services in town and that Denise was a great children's librarian; Cathleen Hamill said Ms. Flynn was the direct liaison with the elementary schools and she knows all the grants needed; Laura Folsom said that her son loved the crafts classes and showed some of the results; Jean Geneauaux said she no longer needs a children's librarian as her children are grown but wanted to support Denise; Liz Urbano said that Denise knew what type of books her boys liked. Daisy Dearborn asked to have the last word and said that Denise speaks to our heart and that she would fight for her.

John thanked the public saying that the sole purpose of the meeting was to get Denise back to the library and asked for a vote to go into executive session and not return to an open session. The motion was unanimously accepted by attending members: Amante Coppes, Barbie Wolfenden, John O'Keefe, and Kathy O'Brien.

Treasurer's Report: none

Secretary's Report: none

Director's Report: none

FRL Report: none

Chairman's Report: none

Executive Session: began at 8:05 pm and included Library Trustees: Amante Coppes, Barbie Wolfenden, John O'Keefe, Kathy O'Brien, Director Melissa Fournier, John Witten (Stow town counsel), Denise Flynn (children's librarian); Bob Flynn (husband) and Mark Burrell (Ms. Flynn's lawyer).

Meeting and executive session were adjourned at 10:24 pm

Next Trustee meeting scheduled for July 25th.

Respectfully submitted,


Kathy O'Brien

