

BPL – Policy Committee Minutes

Thursday, August 10th – 3:00pm

1. Call to Order

*The meeting of the Policy Committee was called to order by Chairperson DeFord at 3:06pm.
Present: Trustees DeFord, Villafana, Williams; Director Cox, Assistant Director La Barbera.*

2. Discussion: Technology Policy Revision; E-Rate and CIPA

The committee reviewed proposed revisions to the existing Technology Policy. Changes include adding language to section “Children’s Access to Electronic Information Networks” in order to communicate upcoming content filtering as prescribed in CIPA for e-rate funding. The committee agreed with revisions and the revised policy is to be placed on the agenda of the August 23rd regular board meeting for approval.

3. Discussion: Personnel Policy; IL Paid Leave for All

The committee discussed the recent ‘Illinois Paid Leave for All’ law. This law will require changes to the library’s existing Personnel Policy and official guidance has yet to be made available. The committee agreed that this item is to be placed on future committee meeting agendas until guidance is issued and revisions can be proposed. If no such guidance is provided by November 1st, 2023, library administration will seek advice from legal counsel on how best to modify the existing Personnel Policy in order to meet the January 1st, 2024 deadline of implementation.

4. Discussion: ALA ‘Bill of Rights’ Document

The committee discussed PA 103-0100, a modification to the Illinois Library Systems Act which requires either 1) adoption of the ALA ‘Bill of Rights’ or 2) development of a written policy prohibiting the practice of banning books or other materials.

Chairperson DeFord shared concerns regarding the ALA and loss of localized control of the Library. The committee discussed the ‘Bill of Rights’ document as well as benefits to the Berkeley Library from both the ALA and state-level grants. It was recommended that the adoption include language that provides reasoning behind the action (i.e. “In order to comply with PA 103-0100, the Berkeley Public Library Board of Trustees...”). The committee agreed that while the Library may periodically relocate or remove materials for a variety of reasons including condition or lack of use, the Library does not ban materials due to content.

The deadline of January 1, 2024 was discussed, and the committee agreed to continue the conversation at the next committee meeting prior to discussing at a regular board meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16pm by Chairperson DeFord.