

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2015

The Board met in regular session at the South Valleys Library, 15650A Wedge Parkway, Reno, Nevada.

Vice Chair Stoess called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Al Stoess, Fred Lokken, John Kupersmith, Derek Wilson via conference call, Sara Sattler arrived at 4:05 p.m.

County Staff Present: Assistant District Attorney Herb Kaplan, Training and Development Manager Kathy Hart

Public Present: Trinity Wrights, Tevien Porter, Minister Lou (*unable to read last name*), Reverend Don Butler, Cami Hawkins, Dr. Greg Juhl, Susan Ke Lee, Susan Robinson, Morgan Gottier, De Ann Radcliffe, George Hardaway, Marilyn Jones, Darryl Feemster, Dolores Feemster, Petra Segraves, Frank Perez, Van Tieu, Don Gallimore, Pat Gallimore, Roberto Nerey, Theresa Navarro, Carlis Lloyd

PUBLIC COMMENT

Darryl Feemster, lifetime resident of northeast Reno is concerned about Agenda Item 5 regarding Duncan-Traner Library closing. He said that the branch is used to maximum capacity by the lowest income community in Washoe County when it is open. He stated the residents of this community do not have transportation and use the library during the summer months the hours it is open. He stated the the new principal at Glenn Duncan School has done great job in creating the STEM academy and getting the kids involved in academics. He said if not for the joint use-agreement, the library would close the full length of summer without academic and educational resources access for parents and their children. He would like the library to seriously consider the impact closing it would have on that community.

Reverend Don Butler, local pastor and resident since 1966, has lived in the neighborhood for over 30 years across the street from the library. All of his children graduated from Hug High School, and he has a grandson who will be going to school next door to the library. He echoed what Mr. Feemster said about the community desperately needing the library. He said the library is heavily used and is in one of the poorest communities, and the residents do not have transportation. He, too, asked that the community impact of closing the library be considered.

Don Gallimore, Reno resident for 35 years currently living in northwest Reno, stated the potential closure was a surprise. He understands that most of the books are free or have some sort of maintenance fee, although he is not sure of the actual amount, and for most part the library is well used. He asked that the library hold off closure or try to understand that there are some people in the community interested in helping to foot some of the bills for maintenance and salaries to try to ensure it remains for a community that is starving for information.

Frank Perez, who works at a Title 1 elementary school and is a UNR student, stated that this library is crucial to the community. He asked that staffing resources be pulled from somewhere else.

Roberto Nerey-Diaz stated he has been in that community since 1976 and he is very proud of it. He said that closing the Duncan-Traner Library would take away the only thing that the local students have to direct them to an education and learn to become responsible. The library allows them to learn and research and do homework. He said that he used that library four years ago with a tutor so that he could graduate from the university. He said that libraries are an educational alternative and taking it away would be detrimental not only to the kids in that area, but their families.

Susan Robinson, Northern Nevada Literacy Council Executive Director, informed the Board that NNLC is a school for adult learners located on the corner of Wedekind and Centennial, which is near Duncan and Traner schools. They educate adults and provide free classes for them to pass the HSE testing (*formally known as GED*) and are great partners with the Library System. She said they were just awarded a large United Way grant to work with libraries to increase library usage with the goal of having more children read at proficiency level by third grade. They are working with the neighborhood people and children to go to the library. They are focusing on the library and really do not want it to close. They have provided ESL classes at Traner Middle School and have had a great response from parents. NNLC has some programs for the summer, encouraging parents to read with their children. It is a really rough neighborhood with kids just running around, and they need positive things to do. She said that if there is anything their school can do to help the library, like a book drive, to let them know.

Dee Ann Radcliffe, Verdi resident, stated she has always lived in Reno and is a major library user, going with her children at least once a week. She states that a holds-only approach would limit access and not be beneficial to her children. They frequently have 40-50 items out per week on her card. She said that first and fourth graders are required to read every night and her children are huge readers. She said her nine-year-old has read at least 10 books last week from the library shelf. She said she can view the books on the shelf to determine if they are appropriate for her children and receives recommendations from staff. Closing the library would be a loss to the community. The library was created in partnership with the Department of Wildlife and the School District, along with a grant to build a community center, and losing the library would close access to the community center also. She implored the Board to not close the Verdi Library.

Cami Hawkins, Verdi resident and teacher at Verdi Elementary, noted that they have access to library books that she and her students would not have if the library were to close. As a parent she goes there often to enjoy the library. Closing the library would impact families. She stated she would be willing to work at the library on Wednesday nights or do whatever is needed to keep the library open.

Morgan Gottier, Verdi resident and PFA president, stated closure would be detrimental to students. Her daughter, who is in second grade, reads at a third-grade level because she goes to the library. As the PFA president, she said they don't have a large budget but would be willing to add to it to help keep the library open. She stated that the students love going to the library and feels it would be detrimental to her daughter's learning if they were not able to do that on a daily basis. She said they go at least three times a week.

Patricia Gallimore, NAACP President, stated that both libraries are important to their communities. She said that access to transportation is an issue and that access to computers is important to seniors. She said that she has grandchildren in both communities who would not be able to get out and get books. She stated she believes that libraries should be maintained and in all communities. They are a resource center and a place for kids to learn, and to read a book outside.

Theresa Navarro, member of Guiding a New Generation, stated that she is a community activist in Reno and works with many families in the Duncan-Traner area. She believes the library it is very important to the whole community, not just the kids, as a lot of parents go there to learn English and they do it at libraries where they can get books and be surrounded by people. Libraries are very important to the community and are needed.

George Hardaway, community leader and retired WCSO educator of 36 years, stated that he has worked in northeast Reno for over 35 years and is totally committed to make sure every child in that area has access to resources. He says it is important that the community realize the importance of resources and facilities where they can be accommodated and is really upset about the possibility these young people will not have the opportunity to access the library and its resources. He stated he hopes the Library can find resources to keep the Glenn Duncan branch open.

Petra Segraves said she doesn't understand how we can close libraries. She said libraries are a place where people gather and talk. She asked how someone can be so ignorant as to close libraries. She said there is a large Hispanic population where parents do not speak English and they go to the library as well as take computer classes.

Carlis Lloyd, retired court clerk/community citizen, stated she grew up in northeast Reno and had no access to a library as a little girl, only when she went to high school. She said residents of that community don't have the transportation to go outside their communities to other libraries, and that is the only source of knowledge they have. She supports all other comments made so far.

Director Maurins read a letter (*see attachment A*) from Heather Cook into the public record regarding the Verdi Library. Her letter recommends reducing the open public hours to Wednesday afternoon and evening in lieu of closing the branch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Wilson noted the first bullet, second sentence on page six should read, “The Library has completed additional studies”

On motion by Trustee Lokken, seconded by Trustee Kupersmith, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the minutes from May 20, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SUMMARY LETTER OF DIRECTOR’S JOB PERFORMANCE

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

Upon questioning by Chair Sattler regarding her personal comments and opinion in the second to last paragraph in the letter, Deputy District Attorney Kaplan stated he believed the letter could say whatever the Board wanted.

Trustee Kupersmith stated he felt that Chair Sattler’s summary of his remarks from the last meeting, although not worded exactly, was satisfactory.

Trustee Lokken thanked Trustee Stoess for his thorough review of the key elements during last month’s meeting, noting they made it easier to summarize the Director’s ratings.

On motion by Trustee Lokken, seconded by Trustee Kupersmith, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the summary letter to the Library Director as written. All in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF A PROCESS AND TIMELINE TO RECRUIT AND APPOINT THE NEXT LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

Director Maurins briefly clarified the following dates from the recruitment timeline provided by Michael Tanner from Strategic Government Resources (SGR):

- September 16, 2015 – this is the date of the scheduled September Board meeting. SGR would spend two to three days with the Trustees and other Stakeholders to finalize a written questionnaire and online interview questions.
- September 28 - October 6, 2015 – the Board would not meet as a group until October 7, 2015, which would require a special meeting to review final candidates.
- November 3, 2015 – the date for a panel of five to seven stakeholders (including perhaps one or two Trustees) who would interview the finalists.

- November 4, 2015 – the date of a special Board meeting to discuss the top candidates and make a tentative selection.

Director Maurins initial proposed list of stakeholders included:

- President of the Friends of WCL
- One to two Friends members
- Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager or John Slaughter , County Manager
- Commissioner Kitty Jung
- Grady Tarbutton, Senior Services Director
- Susan Robinson, Northern Nevada Literacy Council Director
- Karen Barsell, United Way of Northern Nevada Director
- Senior Administrator from the Washoe County School District
- Arnie Maurins, Library Director

The Board discussed adding the following representatives to the stakeholder list:

- UNR Library dean or senior administrator
- Representative from the minority community, such as Susan Robinson, who spoke during public comment.
- Two WCLS branch managers
- Senior administrator from Truckee Meadows Community College
- City Mayors

Director Maurins reviewed the full list of proposed stakeholders, included those added. Mr. Tanner of SGR did not supply a recommendation on the size of the stakeholder list and although the list is long, it may be reduced by lack of availability of those invited to participate. The final list includes:

- President of the Friends of WCL
- One to two Friends members
- Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager
- Grady Tarbutton, Senior Services Director
- Commissioner Kitty Jung
- John Slaughter, County Manager
- Susan Robinson, Literacy Council
- Karen Barsell, United Way of Northern Nevada Director
- Traci Davis, Washoe County School District
- Kathlin Rae, University of Nevada-Reno
- Representative from EDAWN
- Representative from the Law Library
- Reno City Mayor
- Sparks City Mayor
- Scottie Wallace, Downtown Reno Managing Librarian
- Corinne Dickman, Sparks Managing Librarian
- Arnie Maurins, Library Director

Upon questioning by the Board, Director Maurins clarified the following:

- The Library Board of Trustees, not the Board of County Commissioners, has the final approval to appoint the new Library Director.
- The recruitment timeline allows for an approximate two-week overlap in which Director Maurins would work with his replacement to help acclimate him or her.

Upon questioning by the Board, Kathy Hart, Training and Development Manager, clarified the following:

- The process is designed to hold off the release of candidate information and names until necessary.
- The candidate information would become public once the agenda is posted for the meeting at which candidates were to be interviewed.
- The recruitment is not scheduled to be launched until July 31, 2015. The earliest County Human Resources would receive any names would be August 2015.

Trustee Lokken noted that the list of stakeholders should reflect categories instead of names until they know who is available to participate.

Director Maurins advised the list will likely be reduced based on availability of those invited to become a stakeholder. He also recommended the Board make separate motions when approving the process and list of stakeholders.

On motion by Trustee Lokken, seconded by Trustee Stoess, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the process and timeline to recruit and appoint the next Library Director as discussed and modified. All in favor, none opposed.

On motion by Trustee Lokken, seconded by Trustee Stoess, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the identification of the stakeholders listed above. All in favor, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

DIRECTION TO STAFF TO PURSUE TERMINATION OF TWO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS INVOLVING THE WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM, THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, AS APPLIED TO THE JOINT-USE LIBRARIES AT THE DUNCAN STEM ACADEMY AND THE VERDI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

Director Maurins started off this agenda item by stating the following:

- This agenda item is not requesting the Board to approve termination of any agreements today. This item asks for approval to do necessary work to pursue termination. There are a series of legal and financial obligations to consider before a decision of this magnitude is able to be made and acted upon.

- This item is not a new issue. These closures were recommended in the Facility Master Plan adopted by the Board in December 2014. This issue surfaced three and five years ago as well.
- No one who works in a library wants to close any library. Philosophically and emotionally it goes against everything librarians believe in. However, as the stewards of public tax dollars, the Library is obligated to allocate those dollars and resources responsibly.
- The Library will look into terminating any agreements as objectively as possible.
- People will perceive what they choose, but the Library is obligated to make decisions that benefit the entire Library System.
- Termination of these two agreements could result in the re-allocation of approximately 2 full time employees and other resources. This re-allocation of hours could provide outreach to more schools and educational groups than the Library is currently able to do.
- If Duncan-Traner and Verdi closed as public libraries, both communities would still have resources available for the residents.
- The school libraries would remain open and would retain the books in those partnership branches, as was done when Billingshurst Elementary, Mendive Middle and Galena High School Partnership Libraries were closed.
- Duncan-Traner and Verdi students would still have the same online access available to all students throughout the school district.
- Licensing fees for the school districts integrated catalog system have already been paid through February 2015 for both Duncan-Traner and Verdi. If the Library withdraws, the expense for converting data to the school catalog would belong to the Library.
- Termination of the Duncan-Traner Partnership Library would not leave students void of support. They would still have access to online and STEM resources through the school and other nearby libraries. The Sparks Library, open 40 hours per week, is just over two miles away while the Senior Center Library is only half a mile away. The library hopes to add more open hours at the Senior Center branch in the future. Additionally, the Boys and Girls Club is able to exceed the support and resources provided by the Washoe County Library System. As noted in the Staff Report to the Board, the following resources are available through the Boys and Girls Club:
 - Free bus transportation to the Duncan-Traner neighborhood.
 - Tutors to help with homework
 - Volunteers who help assist in building reading skills
 - Computer lab with 27 available computers
 - A library with a reading incentive program similar to the Summer Reading Program available from the Library System
 - An out-door playground and organized sports and athletic activities
 - Nutrition program including full meals

- In late September 2015, the Verdi Partnership Library patrons will have access to holds lockers 24 hours a day, seven days per week. A vast majority of the Verdi Library usage is pick-up of holds. Courier service will be maintained.
- Verdi residents already drive for shopping needs and the Northwest Reno Library is approximately eight miles away, fifteen minutes by car.
- There are still issues that need to be addressed before the Library is able to come before the Board to request official termination of the Verdi and Duncan-Traner Partnership Library branches. Some of these issues include potential financial obligations attached to grants that were obtained in constructing these branches, which have been identified in the Staff Report. These issues will need to be fully explored by all parties before any official decisions are made or actions taken.

Other issues identified by the Director at this time include:

- The contract terms for the partnership agreements state agreed-upon termination is effective June 30 of that year unless all parties agree to a different date.
- The last fully executed agreement with Verdi appears to be from 2003. The date of the agreement currently in effect needs to be researched.
- The cost of withdrawing public library service includes removing the Library's catalog system. The Library System would pay the cost of transferring the information to the school catalog system for materials left with the school library.
- Should the financial grant obligations and liabilities to the County exceed reasonable costs, the Library would not likely request closure dependent upon available resources.

Upon questioning by the Board, Director Maurins acknowledged that maintaining hold lockers would require staff time; however, the amount of time is not yet known. The Library would like time to get a better estimate of hours required once the lockers are installed this fall.

Trustee Wilson acknowledged and thanked the public for attending the meeting to comment on this agenda item. He stated that none of the Trustees are happy to discuss closure of libraries and he hopes that people recognize that their obligation is to ensure that Library dollars are spent in the most effective manner that serves the maximum number of people. He hopes that people realize that there are many issues involved, and this is a part of a bigger picture. He stated he was happy so many people came to the meeting and that he felt this could be the start of discussion into options. He stated his willingness to meet with those who attended and discuss requests to increase the Library's budget with the County Commissioners.

Upon questioning by the Board, Deputy District Attorney Kaplan replied that he did not believe a motion was required on this agenda item, as the Director was requesting direction to pursue termination of contracts, with the intent to explore options prior to making a firm decision once the benefits and liabilities were revealed.

Trustee Lokken addressed this issue reminding all present that this item has been discussed frequently in the last eight years. He reminded the public that 40% of the Library budget and a third of library staff were lost over the last five years. He additionally noted that the Library system receives over one million visits annually. Of those million visits, Duncan-Traner and Verdi Libraries account for only 6,000. He noted that the dilemma of the Board and Library staff is how to expand hours at the branches that more people go to while keeping within the resources available. He recognized the participation in this meeting and stated he is always pleased when a community responds. He stated he would like to keep the dialog going and help the community to find ways to increase facility usage. He stated he was willing to meet with community members and bring back options to the Board while Library staff looks into their options. He addressed the public saying that based on the statistics today, he would support closing Verdi and Duncan-Traner Partnership branches because that would be the best use of current resources.

Trustee Kupersmith stated, as a former librarian, he was not happy about any closure options and was particularly reluctant to do anything that takes away from an area that has so little. This is a consideration for him even though it doesn't play out in the numbers. He stated he was reluctant to do anything that would lock into closures, but hopes the Library will look into some options for further exploration.

Trustee Stoess noted his agreement with Trustee Lokken's statements. He also noted that he would ask the Director to follow the process to its logical end.

Chair Sattler stated she was excited to see so many people show up and that she would like more information on the relevant issues.

Chair Sattler re-opened Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cami Hawkins stated that she seconds Heather Cook's notion of dropping Saturday hours.

Morgan Gottier stated that she grew up in Verdi and lives there for a reason. She said she loves their community. She understands the 15-minute drive to food, but that it doesn't always work with a nine-year old wanting to go to the Library to get some books. She wants the community to have resources and opportunity. She agreed with Cami Hawkins to drop Saturday hours. She stated she goes to the Northwest Reno Branch sometimes but is not able to get all the books they want to read because they are popular and Heather has worked hard to ensure those materials are available at the Verdi branch.

Roberto Nerey reiterated that he has lived in northeast Reno since 1977 and is a product of that neighborhood. The Boys and Girls Club doesn't target low-income minorities, cousins, neighbors and friends who need the library resources. It is not a matter of money or transportation; the Club just doesn't want to deal with them. Education is important; libraries are open doors to help kids become what they want.

Darryl Feemster stated he was a part of the group that worked to get the Duncan-Traner Library placed into the community 20 years ago. He stated that he is going on record to begin an effort to form a Non-Profit Friends of Duncan-Traner Library and wants the Board to let him know the budget so they can raise funds to maintain the facility. He stated he felt insulted that this was not a budget issue but better use of resources and asked how to quantify a human life. He said that for the 6,000 served annually, it is a small library, and if you go during public hours, you will not see an empty seat. He stated that the intent 20 years ago was to add on to the current branch but they were never able to raise the additional funds to expand.

Frank Perez stated he believes that Reno and Washoe County are moving forward to decrease poverty in this area. He works with these kids every day and believes the Library should re-think the whole process as there are alternatives to closing resources in a community that needs it the most.

Chair Sattler closed Public Comment.

Upon request by Chair Sattler, Director Maurins confirmed he would provide budgetary information and operating costs for both the Duncan-Traner and Verdi Partnership Libraries when this agenda item is revisited. Additionally, Director Maurins stated he would look more into the operating hours of the Boys and Girls Club.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE REVISION OF BYLAWS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

Upon questioning by the Board, the following issues were clarified:

- Article IV E - The language changes to the meeting notice provisions would not change the process, but align the verbiage with what is stated in the applicable NRS.
- Article 2B 7 – Current Bylaws allow for the removal of a Trustee after three unexcused absences with a reference to NRS 379.020. To the Director’s knowledge, there have not been any past issues of this nature.

On motion by Trustee Lokken, seconded by Trustee Kupersmith, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the changes as proposed. All in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2015/2016 MEETING CALENDAR

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in packet.

On motion by Trustee Lokken, seconded by Trustee Stoess, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the meeting calendar as submitted. All in favor, none opposed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Lokken nominated Trustee Stoess, and the nomination was seconded by Trustee Wilson. Trustee Stoess was unanimously elected to serve as the Library Board Chair.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Stoess nominated Trustee Wilson, and the nomination was seconded by Trustee Kupersmith. Trustee Wilson was unanimously elected to serve as the Library Board Vice Chair.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

Director Maurins suggested the Board may want to defer this agenda item until the next Board meeting in order to include the two newly appointed Trustees. The Trustees agreed with this suggestion.

REPORTS

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO INCLUDE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLABORATIONS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

Director Maurins highlighted the following:

- The Board of County Commissioners appointed Wendy Alderman and Zanny Marsh as the two new Library Board Trustees effective July 1, 2015.
- He thanked Trustees Lokken and Kupersmith for their service on the Board.
- Spanish Springs Library birthday party was well done. He thanked Trustee Stoess for attending as well.
- Incline Village Library will be celebrating its 10th birthday is Saturday, June 20.
- The staff of Sierra View Library represents the Library System once a quarter, not every week, at the Family Homeless Shelter's parent education sessions.

Chair Sattler stated she was excited about the Community Heroes programming.

SOUTH VALLEYS LIBRARY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

Julie Ullman, Managing Librarian, highlighted the following:

- Attendance for the first time at the Summit Sierra Farmer's Market, where staff issued 14 library cards and talked to 63 people. They are working at becoming more visible within the community.
- Summer Reading Program sign-up for the month was 421 people.
- From August 17 through October 9, South Valleys Library will take part in the Nevada Arts Council Nevada Touring Initiative. During this time, local artists will be invited to show their arts to highlight local artists.
- Ms. Ullman thanked Trustees Lokken and Kupersmith for their service on the Board.

Chair Sattler congratulated Ms. Ullman on her promotion to Managing Librarian.

FRIENDS ACTIVITIES

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

Trustee Wilson noted that the Friend's lease for space has been signed and finalized. He noted the County Commissioners can be a big ally for saving money.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO INCLUDE THE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE COMPARISON AND GIFT FUND BALANCES

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

MONTHLY LIBRARY USAGE STATISTICS

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

Director Maurins noted that the statistics were passed out just prior to the meeting.

ONLINE RESOURCES USAGE REPORT

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Stoess noted he will be starting his eighth year on the Board and has served with 11 different Trustees. He told Trustee Kupersmith that it has been a pleasure to work with him and appreciated his very insightful comments. He stated that Trustee Lokken has proven to be one of the most valuable Trustees the Board has had. He also said that although they have not always agreed with each other, it has been his pleasure to serve with him and he hates to see him leave.

Trustee Wilson stated that he looked forward to working with new members, but was going to miss Trustees Lokken and Kupersmith. He told Trustee Kupersmith that he wished his short time with them had been longer.

Chair Sattler thanked Trustee Kupersmith and wished him the best. She thanked Trustee Lokken for his two terms and told him they value him and would miss his expertise and the countless hours he has donated.

Trustee Kupersmith told the Board that it had been an honor to serve this year and that he valued the opportunity to do so.

Trustee Lokken stated that it had been an honor and an experience. He noted that they survived through trying times and that he has not been as concerned for anything as much as the Library System.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sattler adjourned the meeting at 5:52 pm.

June 15, 2015

Dear Washoe County Library Board of Trustees,

Unfortunately I am not available to attend the Library Board of Trustees Meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2015. Therefore, I am writing this letter to express my concern regarding the possible action of "Direction to Staff to Pursue Termination of Two Interlocal Agreements Involving the Washoe County Library System, the Washoe County School District, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, as Applied to the Joint-Use Libraries at the Duncan STEM Academy and the Verdi Elementary School" that is listed under new business on the Library Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda.

I am writing this letter to ask you not to pursue termination of the Interlocal Agreement involving the Washoe County Library System, the Washoe County School District, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife as applied to the joint-use library at Verdi Elementary School. The Verdi Community Library is an anchor for the Verdi community, which includes the students, staff, and parents at Verdi Elementary School as well as the citizens who live in Verdi, Mogul, and Belli Ranch. I am an advocate for the Verdi Community Library because I am a Verdi Resident and the school librarian at Verdi Elementary School.

I served on the Washoe County Library System Partnership Libraries Advisory Committee in 2007 and 2008 as a representative of the general public, confirmed by the Washoe County School Board. While serving on the Washoe County Library System Partnership Libraries Advisory Committee we worked on revising the Interlocal Agreement for the Verdi Community Library. Therefore, I would like to see the current Interlocal Agreement that is signed by the Washoe County Library System, the Washoe County School District, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife that is currently being enforced before any possible action to terminate the Interlocal Agreement for the Verdi Community Library begins. I believe that the bylaws in the Interlocal Agreement for the Verdi Community Library need to be followed to allow all three entities adequate time to prepare for a termination of the agreement. The last signed copy of the Interlocal Agreement for the Verdi Community Library that I saw stated "This Agreement shall be automatically renewed for one-year periods from July 1 to June 30 of each successive year, unless a party notifies the other parties in writing, delivered no later than 60 days prior to June 30, that it desires to terminate the Agreement. In the event termination is requested by one or more parties, this Agreement shall terminate on the succeeding June 30, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by respective parties..." In my opinion rushing to terminate the Interlocal Agreement will not benefit the Verdi Community Library public and school patrons.

After reviewing the Partnership Library Handbook that I was given when I served on the Washoe County Library System Partnership Libraries Advisory Committee there are a few key points that I would like to address. The welcome letter I received when I joined the Washoe County Library System Partnership Libraries Advisory Committee states "Partnerships efficiently utilize tax-supported structures and funding, increasing service to public and school patrons alike. We've been able to increase library services to many people in areas of the community who otherwise might not have easy access to a library." This statement is true for the Verdi Community Library patrons. There is no public transportation available to the Verdi Community Library patrons who live in Verdi, Mogul, and Belli Ranch. Therefore the Verdi Community Library patrons do not have easy access to other Washoe County public libraries. Most other Washoe County Libraries are near a bus route that patrons can take to visit the library. The welcome letter also states "This handbook was created to encourage others to seek ways of bringing library services to outlying communities that might otherwise go unserved." I

believe if the Interlocal Agreement for the Verdi Community Library is terminated patrons in the outlying communities of Verdi, Mogul, and Belli Ranch may go unserved.

Please consider reducing the public hours that the Verdi Community Library is open rather than terminating the Interlocal Agreement. My recommendation is to have the Verdi Community Library open on Wednesday afternoon/evening only. I understand that other Washoe County Libraries are busier than the Verdi Community Library on Saturdays. That is why I am suggesting that the Saturday public hours be eliminated at the Verdi Community Library to allow staff to work at the busier Washoe County Libraries on Saturdays. Wednesdays are early release days at Verdi Elementary School and the students get out of school at 2:30pm. I would recommend having the Verdi Community Library open at 2:30pm rather than 3:00pm on Wednesdays which would encourage more parents who pick up their children at Verdi Elementary School to visit the library.

The partnership between the Washoe County Library System, the Washoe County School District, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife at the Verdi Community Library provides a unique opportunity for lifelong learning to the Verdi community, in addition to the citizens of Washoe County that cannot be replaced if the Interlocal Agreement is terminated.

Sincerely,

Heather Cook