

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 18, 2020**



CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daren Jones called to order the special meeting of the Pierce County Rural Library District Board of Trustees at 4:02 pm. Board members present were Pat Jenkins, Monica Butler, Rob Allen, and Jamilyn Penn. The meeting was conducted by telephone conference due to the Governor’s Safe Start Washington Reopening plan to slow the transmission of the coronavirus.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Jones asked the Board to engage in conversation about current events related to racial and social equity to aid in identifying the direction of the Library and some of the work that is ahead for the Library and the Board.

He reminded the Board that they are speaking from their perspective as members of the policy and governing Board of the Library and that they were thinking about the response and actions of the Library as a public organization.

Discussion ensued on what the Library’s role is when communities are wrestling with, and addressing, important societal issues, such as racism.

Trustees expressed satisfaction with the Library’s demonstration of carrying out its mission, vision and values and being a welcoming space to all.

While the Board did not feel it necessary to make an additional statement outside of their full support of the ULC Statement on Racial and Social Equity that the Library joined in 2017, there was consensus that additional measures should be considered to attract and retain a more diverse staff, increase library materials that address racial and social inequities, review policies through an equity lens, and coaching, mentorship and leadership development of staff of color. The Board also recognized the importance of reaching and developing a broader, more diverse pool of candidates for future trustee vacancies, as well as training for Board members.

There was additional discussion on the use of equity audit tools to assess policies and procedures, the materials collection, services, etc. The Board agreed on the importance to understand where the Library may be falling short on equity related issues in order to take the necessary steps to improve.

The Board will hold a Study Session in August to review core documents, policies, projects, and data to understand the starting point in relation to racial/social equity, diversity and inclusion work.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm on motion by Mr. Allen, seconded by Ms. Butler.

Georgia Lomax, Secretary

Daren Jones, Chair