

**Toronto Public Library Board**  
**Meeting No. 6: Tuesday, June 22, 2021, from 6:00 p.m.**  
**Via Webex and Teleconference**

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**Members Present:**

Sue Graham-Nutter  
Alim Remtulla  
Tamara Balan  
Sarwar Choudhury  
Jonathan Hoss  
Councillor Paul Ainslie  
Jennifer Liu  
Alison Menary  
Councillor Gord Perks  
Andrea Geddes Poole

**Regrets:**

None

**21-107 Call to Order**

Sue Graham-Nutter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed Tamara Balan, a new citizen TPL Board member for the Board's 2019-2022 term. Sue then introduced Vickery Bowles, City Librarian, and asked her to make a special statement on behalf of the Board.

Vickery acknowledged recent, devastating reports of violence, hate and injustice, including those recently coming out of Kamloops, British Columbia with the discovery of 215 Indigenous children buried in unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

On behalf of the Toronto Public Library Board, Vickery expressed shock and heartbreak at these events, and reaffirmed TPL's commitment to advancing the work started in 2017 as part of the Board-approved Indigenous Strategies response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action.

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**Call to Order – continued**

Vickery also reiterated the Library's commitment to advancing equity and inclusion as part of the strategic plan, applying an equity lens to everything so that everyone feels welcome and represented when using Library spaces and services.

**21-108 Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Conflicts of Interest by members of the Library Board.

**21-109 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by** Alim Remtulla, **seconded by** Jennifer Liu:

**That** the Toronto Public Library Board approves the agenda as revised to:

1. add a Presentation from Leon Willems regarding Agenda Item No. 14 – COVID-19 Emergency Response - Update.

**Carried**

**21-110 Confirmation of May 25, 2021 Toronto Public Library Board Meeting Minutes**

**Moved by** Councillor Gord Perks, **seconded by** Councillor Paul Ainslie:

**That** the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. confirms the minutes of the May 25, 2021 Toronto Public Library Board meeting.

**Carried**

**21-111 Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

**Moved by** Andrea Geddes Poole, **seconded by** Jonathan Hoss:

**That** the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the consent agenda.

**Carried**

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**21-112 Business Arising from the Minutes**

There were no *Business Arising from the Minutes* items at the June 22, 2021 meeting.

***Carried***

**21-113 City Librarian's Report (*Received for Information by Consent*)**

***That the Toronto Public Library Board:***

1. receives the *City Librarian's Report* for information.

**21-114 Communications (*Received for Information by Consent*)**

***That the Toronto Public Library Board:***

1. receives Communication (a) from Vickery Bowles, City Librarian, Toronto Public Library, to Heather Taylor, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, City of Toronto, dated June 03, 2021, regarding funding for additional service enhancements from the TPL 2021 Operating Budget, for information.

**Presentations**

**21-115 Agenda Item No. 14 – COVID-19 Emergency Response - Update**

Leon Willems addressed the Board summarizing his written submission; in particular, expressing his dissatisfaction with TPL's response to the Province's stay-at-home order and level of concern for staff wellbeing.

Alim Remtulla asked Vickery to clarify the Library's actions in response to the pandemic and give a brief overview of the re-opening plan. Vickery clarified the Library has not violated any provincial regulations, and in fact made the decision to restrict Library services even further than was required because Toronto was a COVID-19 hotspot. Vickery also talked about the advocacy work that was done with 19 other Ontario public library services to prioritize vaccinations for library workers.

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**Presentations – continued*****Moved by Alim Remtulla, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks******That the Toronto Public Library Board:***

1. *receives the presentation from Leon Willems regarding Agenda Item No. 14 – COVID-19 Emergency Response - Update for information.*

***Carried*****21-116 Toronto Public Library Board Education – Library Settlement Partnerships and Newcomer Services**

Sue Graham-Nutter introduced Pam Ryan, Director, Service Development and Innovation, who in turn introduced Elsa Ngan, Senior Services Specialist, Adult Services & Program Development, and Aly Velji, Manager, Adult Services, Adult Services & Program Development, to deliver the presentation.

The presentation covered:

- An introduction to the City of Toronto's Newcomer Strategy, reiterating that TPL's strategic plan priorities support this work by focusing on levelling the playing field for equity-deserving groups and vulnerable populations;
- An overview of Library Settlement Partnerships (LSP), funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), including key statistics. For example - in 2020, 28,591 clients were served by LSP;
- An explanation of how LSP aligns with the City's work on Access to City Services for Undocumented Torontonians, also known as Access T.O.;
- An overview of the work done with COSTI Settlement Services to provide support for government-assisted refugees. This includes engaging family story time sessions and special children's programs onsite, and the delivery of simple crafts kits to families. Special programs were possible thanks to funding support from the TPL Foundation in 2018;
- An overview of supports provided for Asylum Seekers, including the donation of children's books to family shelters and sites where asylum seekers been staying by TPL; and

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- An overview of the work being done with Toronto's school boards, including English as a Second Language support and supporting international students.

The Board thanked the team for a moving presentation on the services provided by TPL to support newcomers.

***Moved by* Andrea Geddes Poole *seconded by* Alim Remtulla:**

***That* the Toronto Public Library Board:**

1. receives the Library Settlement Partnerships and Newcomer Services presentation for information.

***Carried***

**Items for Action:**

**21-117 Toronto Newcomer Strategy 2022-2026**

Pam Ryan reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

***Moved by* Councillor Gord Perks, *seconded by* Alim Remtulla:**

***That* the Toronto Public Library Board**

1. endorses the City's Toronto Newcomer Strategy 2022-2026 and adopt and apply the Strategy's Guiding Principles.

***Carried***

**21-118 Security Guard Service – Increase to the Value of the Contract and Purchase Order**

Alyssa van Graft, Director, Transformational Projects, reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

Councillor Perks raised concerns about the effectiveness of a uniformed presence in a welcoming public space, and asked for the motions of this item to be split so they could be voted on separately.

The role of the security guards in libraries was discussed. Vickery explained they provide a valuable support to Library staff. During the pandemic, security guard

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support has been particularly important to assist staff in addressing issues with health and safety protocol compliance.

Staff were directed to produce a report for the Board in the first quarter of 2022, with more information on the role of security guard services and the impact they have on Library services.

The motions for this agenda item were voted on separately.

***Moved by* Jennifer Liu, *seconded by* Jonathan Hoss:**

***That the Toronto Public Library Board***

1. *approves an increase to the purchase order commitment for security guard services with Garda World for the third year, September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021, for an amount of \$0.860 million, for a revised value of \$4.619 million, excluding Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).*

***Carried***

2. *extends the contract for security guard services with Garda World for the first of two optional years, September 1, 2021 to August 21, 2022, with an increase of \$0.700 million, for a revised cost of \$3.512 million, excluding HST.*

***Carried***

**21-119 Advocacy Initiative: Libraries Helping to Build a Digital Ontario**

Pam Ryan and Angela Copeland, director, Digital Strategy & CIO reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

***Moved by* Councillor Gord Perks, *seconded by* Councillor Paul Ainslie:**

***That the Toronto Public Library Board***

1. *call on the Province of Ontario to collaborate with TPL in the execution of their first digital and data strategy, Building a Digital Ontario, and through this collaboration, accelerate progress on the shared goals of the Province, TPL and other public libraries in advancing digital access, literacy and inclusion in Ontario; and*
2. *engage FOPL in TPL's advocacy efforts with the Province and provide them with tools and messaging to amplify the voice of public libraries across Ontario in this effort.*

***Carried***

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Vickery Bowles reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

**Moved by** Andrea Geddes Poole, **seconded by** Jonathan Hoss:

**That** the Toronto Public Library Board

1. receives the COVID-19 Emergency Response - Update report for information.

**Carried**

**21-121 Operating Budget Monitoring Report – April 30, 2021**

Larry Hughsam reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

**Moved by** Councillor Gord Perks, **seconded by** Alim Remtulla:

**That** the Toronto Public Library Board

1. receives the Operating Budget Monitoring Report – April 30, 2021 for information.

**Carried**

**21-122 Motion to Extend the Meeting**

**Moved by** Councillor Gord Perks, **seconded by** Andrea Geddes Poole:

**That** the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. extends the meeting until the completion of the agenda.

**Carried**

**21-123 Capital Budget Monitoring Report – April 30, 2021**

Larry Hughsam reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

**Moved by** Andrea Geddes Poole, **seconded by** Councillor Paul Ainslie:

**That** the Toronto Public Library Board

1. receives the Capital Budget Monitoring Report – April 30, 2021 for information.

**Carried**

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**21-124 Board Resolutions – Status Report (*Received for Information by Consent*)**

***That the Toronto Public Library Board:***

1. receives the Board Resolutions – Status Report for information.

***Carried***

**21-125 Adjournment**

***Moved by Andrea Geddes Poole, seconded by Tamara Balan:***

***That the Toronto Public Library Board:***

1. adjourns the June 22, 2021 Toronto Public Library Board meeting.

***Carried***

The meeting ended at 7:33 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_