



**VIRTUAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021
4:00 P.M.**

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

PURSUANT TO NRS 241.020, THE AGENDA FOR THE TRUSTEES MEETING HAS BEEN POSTED ELECTRONICALLY AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: www.washoecountylibrary.us; and <https://notice.nv.gov>. PURSUANT TO SECTION 3 OF THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 0006, THE REQUIREMENT IN NRS THAT NOTICE AGENDAS BE PHYSICALLY POSTED WITHIN THE STATED OF NEVADA HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA PROVIDED TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING TAMI GASTON AT 327-8343 OR tgaston@washoecounty.us. **NO MEMBERS WILL BE MEETING IN PERSON AND THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND DUE TO CONCERNS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY RESULTING FROM THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF NEVADA'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 0006 SECTION 1 WHICH SUSPENDS THE REQUIREMENT IN NRS 241.023(1)(B) THAT THERE BE A PHYSICAL LOCATION DESIGNATED FOR MEETING OF PUBLIC BODIES WHERE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC ARE PERMITTED TO ATTEDN AND PARTICIPATE. THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ONLY.** IF YOU SHOULD REQUIRE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY TRUSTEE MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 327-8341 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE BY LOGGING INTO THE ZOOM WEBINAR ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84224131597> Password: 889408

PUBLIC COMMENT. As required by the Governor's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 Section 2, members of the public may submit public comment via teleconference by logging into the Zoom webinar link above. NOTE. This option will require video and audio capabilities. Additionally, public comment can be submitted via email to tgaston@washoecounty.us. Please try to provide email or voicemail comments by 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

THE LIBRARY BOARD CAN DELIBERATE OR TAKE ACTION ONLY IF A MATTER HAS BEEN LISTED ON AN AGENDA PROPERLY POSTED PRIOR TO THE MEETING. DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, SPEAKERS MAY ADDRESS MATTERS LISTED OR NOT LISTED ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA. THE OPEN MEETING LAW DOES NOT EXPRESSLY PROHIBIT RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS BY THE BOARD. HOWEVER, RESPONSES FROM TRUSTEES TO UNLISTED PUBLIC COMMENT TOPICS COULD BECOME DELIBERATION ON A MATTER WITHOUT NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC. ON THE ADVICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL AND TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC HAS NOTICE OF ALL MATTERS THE TRUSTEES WILL CONSIDER, TRUSTEES MAY CHOOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO PUBLIC COMMENTS, EXCEPT TO CORRECT FACTUAL INACCURACIES, ASK FOR LIBRARY STAFF ACTION OR TO ASK THAT A MATTER BE LISTED ON A FUTURE AGENDA. THE BOARD MAY DO THIS EITHER DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM OR DURING THE FOLLOWING ITEM: "BOARD COMMENT – LIMITED TO ANNOUNCEMENTS, STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITY UPDATES OR ISSUES PROPOSED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR WORKSHOPS."

THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES CONDUCTS THE BUSINESS OF THE WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM DURING ITS MEETINGS. THE PRESIDING OFFICER MAY ORDER THE REMOVAL OF ANY PERSON WHOSE STATEMENT OR OTHER CONDUCT DISRUPTS THE ORDERLY, EFFICIENT OR SAFE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING. WARNINGS AGAINST DISRUPTIVE COMMENTS OR BEHAVIOR MAY OR MAY NOT BE GIVEN PRIOR TO REMOVAL. THE VIEWPOINT OF A SPEAKER WILL NOT BE RESTRICTED, BUT REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS MAY BE IMPOSED UPON THE TIME, PLACE AND MANNER OF SPEECH.

IRRELEVANT AND UNDULY REPETITIOUS STATEMENTS AND PERSONAL ATTACKS WHICH ANTAGONIZE OR INCITE OTHERS ARE EXAMPLES OF SPEECH THAT MAY BE REASONABLY LIMITED.

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY TAKE AGENDA ITEMS OUT OF ORDER, CONSIDER TWO OR MORE ITEMS IN COMBINATION, REMOVE ONE OR MORE ITEMS FROM THE AGENDA OR DELAY DISCUSSION ON AN ITEM.

The Board of Trustees may take action only on the items below that are preceded by the words "For Possible Action." The Board will not take action on any other items.

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Public Comment and Discussion Thereon – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person
No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this public comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.
- 3) Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. *For Possible Action:* Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of December 16, 2020
- 4) Old Business
None noted
- 5) New Business
 - a. *Informational:* Presentation on Library Assistance with Washoe County COVID-19 Contract Tracing
- 6) Reports
 - a. Library Director's Report to Include Administration, Collaborations, Programs and Activities
 - b. Maker Services Presentation to Include Updates from July through December 2020
 - c. Tacchino Trust Update to Include Expenditures and Balance
 - d. Board Task Report to Include Board Tasks to be Followed Up
- 7) Staff Announcements - Three Minute Time Limit Per Person
No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.
- 8) Public Comment and Discussion Thereon – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person
No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this public comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.
- 9) Board Comment – Limited to Announcements, Strategic Plan Activity Updates or Issues Proposed for Future Agendas and/or workshops
- 10) Adjournment

**VIRTUAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020
4:00 P.M.**

The Board met in regular session virtually via Zoom Webinar

Chair Marsh called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

1) ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Amy Ghilieri, Wayne Holland, Zanny Marsh, and Jean Stoess

Board Members Absent: Ted Parkhill

County Staff Present: Assistant District Attorney Keith Munro, Assistant County Manager David Solaro

Public Present: None noted

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2020

On motion by Trustee Holland, seconded by Trustee Ghilieri, motion which duly passes, the Board approved the meeting minutes from the Library Board of Trustee meeting of November 18, 2020. All in favor, none opposed.

4) OLD BUSINESS

None noted

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. SELECT AN OPTION FOR MEETING THE MATERIALS-EXPENDITURE STANDARD PURSUANT TO THE MINIMUM PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS AS SET FORTH BY THE NEVADA STATE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC RECORDS

Collection Manager Debi Stears reviewed the annual materials expenditure library budget standards set forth by the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records for public libraries in Nevada.

She provided background to 2015 when the Board aspired to aim for Option III, the goal which meets or exceeds at 10% total operating budget divided by collection budget. She stated that, although Director Scott has done a tremendous job in finding and diverting Expansion money to collection development funds, Washoe County has not provided any increase to the Library General fund budget.

She also pointed out the budget numbers on the report provided in the packet are just the regular budget allotments and the Library System will be expending final \$200k from the

ITEM 3a

Tacchino Trust to expand children's materials collections at the Northwest Reno and Sparks Libraries children's materials collections and utilizing some of the Give the Gift of Reading dollars to expand the core collection of selected popular titles from grade 3 to teen so they are available at all the branches and in time for 2021 Summer Reading Program.

The State is asking the Library System to select an option based upon the \$1M assigned to the materials budget. The Library System does not meet Option III but does meet Option I and II. Ms. Stears stated we normally recommend Option I as that is the biggest number the Library System can achieve and needs a Board motion to finalize the approval to send to the State by the end of the calendar year.

On motion by Trustee Stoess, seconded by Trustee Holland, motion which duly carried, the Board adopted Option I for 2021. All in favor, none opposed.

b. ESSAY WRITTEN TO NEVADA HUMANITIES BY ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR REGARDING 2020 POLLING SITES WITHIN THE LIBRARY SYSTEM

Vice Chair Stoess thanked Assistant Library Director Dalusung for submitting the essay. She stated that in addition to applause, polling officials were also handing out a certificate with their name and date to new voters, and that went over well.

Assistant Library Director Dalusung stated it was a pleasure to write and hear the applause. She noted this was shared during the weekly manager meetings held during the polling cycle and noted that all branches used for polling stations participated.

Chair Marsh stated the essay was well done, and she appreciated the wait time notifications provided by the Washoe County Registrar's Office apps.

6) REPORTS

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

Director Scott reviewed the written report provided in the packet.

Upon questioning by Trustee Holland, Director Scott stated he did not feel reopening Grab and Go services during the Northwest Reno or Sparks Library renovations would be greatly impacted. He clarified that Northwest Reno would be using the drive-up window for these services and Sparks Library is creative in providing Grab and Go services and may experience minimal impact.

Trustee Parkhill joined the meeting during the Library Director's report at 4:17 pm.

As noted, multiple times in the Library Director's Report, Director Scott verbally commended staff on their innovation and creativity to adapt for continuity of service regardless of circumstance.

Chair Marsh stated she did not see the Senator Cortez-Masto nomination in the report. Director Scott thanked her for the insight and stated they would see if they would be able to add something about it in, but that they were over 250 words and the report requires less than 100 words total.

b. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS (MARCOM) TEAM UPDATE TO INCLUDE UPDATES FROM JULY THROUGH NOVEMBER 2020

Development Officer/PIO Andrea Tavener introduced herself and her full-time Library Assistant III Jamie Hemingway.

Ms. Tavener stated that the mission statement (slide 2) has not changed but the way the Library System does business has. She stated that there are many people that have stepped up to the plate to ensure the transition to virtual has been successful. She specifically noted that the Library System would not be where it is, virtually, without the efforts of Jamie Hemingway, Jen Cole, John Andrews, Tim Prentiss and Jena Molina. Ms. Tavener said the job of Marcom is to make the efforts look seamless which is where Ms. Hemingway, Mr. Prentiss, Ms. Cole and Mr. Andrews shine. She turned the presentation over to Jamie Hemingway for review of the provided virtual services (slides 3-10).

Ms. Hemingway highlighted the following:

- Virtual Programming and Projects to include virtual video production and virtual Storytime programming: Postproduction of videos and behind the scene editing for all digital programming and social media postings. The month of December included a pop-up card program provided by Trustee Ghilieri.
- Social media: The third component of current projects and, at any given time, there may be three (3) to five (5) staff members posting to Library social media accounts. All social media must be created. Marcom staff provide the graphics for social media posts, Library updates, and special promotions
- Explorer: Although the Explorer booklet is not physically available, the concept and information has gone digital and the Library System provides access to and monthly digital issue in the events section of the library website. Additionally, Marcom has expanded the Explorer team from four (4) members to six (6) which has also increased productivity

Ms. Hemingway finished up with slide 10 of the presentation where she briefly discussed developing a process for incoming marketing requests and informed the Board that each branch received video production equipment including the “green” screen earlier in the year so that each library branch has the ability to create and submit videos.

Ms. Tavener completed the presentation with the updates slide (slide 11), informing the Board of Ms. Hemingway’s participation with programming and outreach prior to joining the Admin team recently. She noted Ms. Hemingway has played a significant role in system programming when working on the Explorer booklet and helped coordinate outreach events such as parade participation. Ms. Tavener stated she was waiting to hear back from the Institution of Museum and Library Services (IMSL) 2021 Medal submission, which should be in the spring of 2021.

Ms. Hemingway stated she wanted to provide the social media information added to the last slide on the presentation for everyone to be able to follow the Washoe County Library on their preferred social media sites.

c. TACCHINO TRUST UPDATE TO INCLUDE EXPENDITURES AND BALANCE

Director Scott noted the update remained the same as last report. He stated the orders for the children’s materials for Northwest Reno and Sparks Libraries are ready to go and we look

forward to renovations to take place beginning in March 2021 and completed by May 2021. The completion of the renovation and payment of children's materials will close out the Tacchino Trust as expected by the end of the fiscal year.

Upon questioning by Trustee Holland, Director Scott stated it would be nice to do a ceremony or commemoration for the Tacchino Trust for the additions and changes the trust allowed the Library System to accomplish.

D. BOARD TASK REPORT TO INCLUDE BOARD TASKS TO BE FOLLOWED UP

Chair Marsh noted the essay task for Trustee Ghilieri has been completed.

Upon questioning the following Trustee on their requested task:

- Trustee Parkhill stated he would like to extend the deadline three (3) months for follow up on where the library stands after removal of fees item from January 2021. He stated these are weird times with everything still up in the air and as he has not heard anything from the public at this time, he would still like to look at this further when things are somewhat more normal. He stated he went along with it at the time as Director Scott was able to provide rationale for this course of action, but still feels it is the right thing to do to see how things stand when all returns to some normality.
- Trustee Holland stated he was still comfortable the November 2021 deadline for review of the 2024 Tax Initiative.
- Chair Marsh reminded Board Trustee Parkhill that she and Trustee Parkhill were the members who volunteered, and they will revisit metrics for the Library Director Evaluation at an undetermined date in the future.

Upon questioning from Trustee Ghilieri, Trustee Parkhill further explained his thoughts of staying on top of his board task item as he does not feel there can be a real gauge of where things stand when library items are not being returned and checked out with regularity and this was a momentous change from how libraries have always done things. When she asked for his metrics for success or failure, he noted it was a good question and noted the possible following metrics: Feedback/concerns from staff and patrons, is it working from the perspective of the Library Director. Director Scott noted he had received a total of (maybe) four (4) emails, half supportive and half against.

7) STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Development Officer/PIO Andrea Tavener gave a shout out thanking Friends of Washoe County Library (FWCL) for ongoing support of the Washoe County Library System, especially during these trying times. Despite cancelling some book sales, they donated to the Washoe County Library System.

8) PUBLIC COMMENT

Assistant County Manager David Solaro introduced himself and thanked the Board for allowing him to time speak under public comment. He said he felt it was necessary on behalf of Washoe County citizens, to publicly thank Library employees and the Library System for the sacrifices they are making through this whole COVID experience. He stated that not only are they not doing what they love in the branches serving our community, but they have volunteered to assist with

the fight in the community. ACM Solaro said he really appreciates the staff we have working through this pandemic with us and appreciates the flexibility of Director Scott and Assistant Director Dalusung. He wanted to assure us that we are making the right choice, from his perspective, in our response to this pandemic. He confirmed one of the things they are struggling with is people not heeding the warnings of how this virus transmission is occurring and by having the library system operate in a virtual aspect, although it is not fulfilling the needs of some of our community, it is fulfilling the needs of a portion of our community. He said that at the end of the day, by not having in person library services, we are helping to slow the spread of the virus in our community.

9) BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Parkhill apologized for not attending November's meeting and arriving late to this meeting.

Trustee Ghilieri gave a shout-out to the Library staff who take submitted videos and turn them into something. She thanked the staff involved stating they did a wonderful job and made it look easy.

Chair Marsh noted the celebration of Director Scott's 5-year employment with Washoe County this month, including a longevity certificate provided by Washoe County. With the current environment, we cannot gather safely and do a presentation; still, we would like to come together and assemble when it is safe to do so to acknowledge this milestone. She stated although COVID may have eclipsed this year, there are four (4) years prior which show a directed effort to prepare the Library System for challenges that we might not have anticipated but allowed the Library to be positioned for perfectly. She stated that pre-COVID, Director Scott was moving the Library System towards digital services expansion which made the services provided this year during COVID possible. She said the Library was ready to allow for patrons to access digital initiatives and the Library System would not have been there without vision, persistence and the work of Director Scott to help the system achieve that. She stated she wanted to acknowledge that Director Scott has prioritized service continuity through more than COVID to include: Spanish Springs Pyramid Highway/McCarren construction project, weather events at Incline, stepping in when Tacchino Trust was established and the renovation of the Downtown Reno Library, North Valleys Library, and Sparks Library renovations. She noted his ability to provide the level of leadership that allowed staff to flourish in these challenging times and being able to establish and provide services with a can-do attitude is worthy of acknowledgement and the Board has been pleased with the progress of the Library System.

- Director Scott thanked Chair Marsh for her comments and stated that he would not have been able to do any of those things without dedicated (the right) staff in the right positions.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Marsh adjourned the meeting at 5:01 pm

WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT TASK FORCE

- Partnership with Washoe Co. School District for COVID-19 related contact tracing of WCSD students and staff
- Approximately 32 Library staff working
 - Across all branches and administrative offices

1

TRAINING

- Extensive staff training began December 10th-January 19th
- Making Health Happen – State of Nevada COVID-19 (online) training (approx. 10-12 hrs.) including:
 - Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Contact Tracing
 - Certificate course



2



TRAINING CONTINUED

- HIPPA overview via Webnettraining.com
 - Certificate issued
- Health District facilitated Contact Tracing Training 6 hrs.
- Shadow with Health District contact tracers 6-12 hours

3

TASK FORCE PROJECT OVERVIEW

- WCLS task force members will work from home
 - Technology issued for project to task force members:
 - Laptop
 - County cell phone
- Minimum 10 hours shift per week, some up to 40 hours
- Goal to “call down” top 6 contacts of positive cases
 - As time permits expand beyond 6
- Project is expected to run though end of WCSD year: Jan. 19-June 7, 2021
 - Probably a few days after as a buffer for exposure calendar

4

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2021/01/08/washoe-county-school-district-covid-19-contact-tracing-classrooms/6595701002/>

“In December, county officials promised additional help with the backlog of COVID-19 cases being investigated by the health district.

On Wednesday, Washoe County Health District Officer Kevin Dick said additional contact tracers are still being trained and shadowing others doing the work. The county has 40 employees from other jobs, including from county libraries, working on contact tracing for the school district.”

Washoe County Yammer Posting and Library Staff in Live Training Attendance



Pierce, Samantha Follow – Monday at 11:30 AM

Last week these really amazing people attended a live training on COVID Tracing and supporting the Washoe County School District! Not only do we have these wonderful employees pictured but 20+ more staff who will be part of this team! Thank you to those who are stepping outside your "normal duties" and taking on this new project!

cc: Bateson, Diane L., Davis, Kyle, Giles, Emily, Hobbs, Susan, Hocker, Paula, Lichty, Denise, Nadeau, Carolyn, Nguyen, Thanh-Quang, Norris, Elizabeth, Plamondon, Jon, Rassuchine, Robyn, Ruesch, Linnae, Sloan, Tyna, Small, Cecily, and 3 others



People Who Were Sent This Message



Bateson, Diane L.
LIBRARY ASSISTANT II

+ Follow



 GE	Giles, Emily LIBRARY ASSISTANT III	+ Follow
 HS	Hobbs, Susan LIBRARY ASSISTANT III	+ Follow
 HP	Hocker, Paula LIBRARY AIDE	+ Follow
 NT	Nguyen, Thanh-Quang LIBRARY ASSISTANT II	+ Follow
 NE	Norris, Elizabeth LIBRARY AIDE	+ Follow
 RR	Rassuchine, Robyn LIBRARY ASSISTANT II	+ Follow
	Ruesch, Linnae LIBRARY ASSISTANT II	+ Follow
	Sloan, Tyna LIBRARY ASSISTANT III	+ Follow
	Small, Cecily LIBRARY ASSISTANT II	+ Follow
 TT	Trainer, Theresa LIBRARIAN II	+ Follow

TO: Washoe County Library Board
FROM: Jeff Scott, Library Director
RE: Library Director's Update
DATE: January 20, 2021

Library Director's Report for January 2021

Library Hold Pick-ups Resume

Library staff have developed a plan to bring back hold pick-ups. Most of the service locations will be drive-through only with two locations having walk-up services. This will allow us to minimize the number of needed to handle the service point. It will reduce the possibility of staff to staff exposure as well as free up staff for virtual services and COVID tracing. We hope to be able to expand services to the rest of the branches soon.

Washoe County Library System Hours starting Jan 19, 2021

Washoe County Library System Hours starting Jan 19, 2021							
Library Branch	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Northwest Reno		10-1		3-6		10-1	
Spanish Springs		10-1		3-6			
South Valleys		10-2		3-6		10-2	
Downtown Reno		10-2		10-2			10-2
Incline Village		2-6	2-6	2-6			

Library COVID Trace Assistance

Washoe County Library staff have volunteered to assist with COVID Contract tracing to assist with the school district resuming their in-person classes. We have 36 staff members assisting with the Health District. With increased tracing we should be able to help reduce the spread and keep our community safe.

Library Renovations: Northwest Reno and Sparks Libraries

We are in the final stages of design for the Sparks and Northwest Reno Libraries! We have carpet and furniture getting ready to go. Initial plan is to start work around March. Both Corinne Dickman, Kristin Reinke, and their respective teams are working hard in getting this ready to go. We are very excited to be able to continue to work on improving our libraries.

Automated Material Handlers

Automated Material Handlers are currently being delivered. We should expect to see them in January. Washoe County Facilities is working on an installation plan that will take several weeks.

Notifications reactivated

Patrons will again get reminders when their items are due. We had turned off notifications in March 2020 with the closure. This was in order to reduce the number of items that would be returned until we received more information about the need to quarantine materials. Patrons will again have one checkout and two renewals on their accounts. Library staff will work with patrons to encourage them to return materials.

Maker Services Team, WCLS LBOT Report, January – December 2020

Science ♦ Technology ♦ Engineering ♦ Art ♦ Mathematics



In late 2019, the Maker Services Team was asked to take the lead role in facilitating and supporting STEAM events for WCLS.

- In November 2019, two LAIII staff members were asked to lead the STEAM efforts: Toni McLaughlin at the South Valleys Library and Natalie Villegas at the Sparks Library
- Meetings were held with the new STEAM Leads, Julie Ullman (*Maker Services Chair*), Beate Weinert (*Youth Services and Library Events Manager*), and Judy Hansen (*Youth Services and Events Librarian*)
- Goals were developed:

Provide Engaging STEAM Experiences in WCLS

- Support branches in providing science-based, in-person STEAM events
- Provide training for branch staff creating STEAM events
- Share STEAM resources amongst branches
- Support STEAM events with Maker Services budget

With a *Roundtable Sharing* session scheduled for March 31 we were ready to start sharing resources and tips, with all branches participating, but due to COVID-19 closures, plans changed.



Toni and Natalie had already begun creating take-home activity sheets to support in-person STEAM events. As our focus shifted from in-person library events to virtual activities, they increased the production of these activity sheets which were posted weekly in WCLS social media and newsletters. Along with these activities they researched 3rd-party online resources to share high-quality science-based websites and videos of interest to school-aged children.

In April 2020, Natalie resigned from WCLS. Jeannie Koster, LAII at the South Valleys Library was asked to assist Toni to continue creating the at-home STEAM activities. In July 2020, the activity sheets were rebranded as “Spark” sheets.

Since March 2020, 88 at-home STEAM activities have been created, providing fun and informative activities on a wide range of topics:

- **Earth Day 2020** - garbage gardening using leftover seeds and food scraps: squeezed lemons, carrot tops, green onion roots, etc.
- **Earth Science Week 2020** - geothermal energy activity and online resources to be used as an online scavenger hunt
- **Halloween STEAM** - puking pumpkins and monster slime
- **Geography Awareness Week 2020** - mapping activities: find your home on a map, take a walk and map your neighborhood, online activities using Google Earth
- **Blubber** - blubber as an insulator; using shortening as blubber
- **Slime (a.k.a non-Newtonian fluid)** - learn about viscosity and make your own slime with white glue and baking soda, and glitter!



In 2021, two additional staff have been asked to assist with the continued creation of these activities: Tyna Sloan (LAIII) from the Downtown Reno Library and Mela Garcia (LI) from the Sierra View Library. Eventually there will be additional staff from other branches assisting with these so more staff can learn about creating **science-based** activities as branches prepare for in-person STEAM activities while continuing to provide online activities as well.

This cache of STEAM Spark sheets will provide lots of activities that can be easily adapted to in-person events. A complete list of these is on the WCLS website:

<https://washoecountylibrary.us/resources/steam.php>

STEM Kits from DRI and NSLA

In December 2020, libraries throughout Nevada were gifted with a variety of STEM kits from the Desert Research Institute and the Nevada State Library and Archives. Branches will be able to share these to support events in their branches. Topics range from cardboard creations to solar mechanics and fuel cell vehicles, plus, a Rok Blocks Mobile STEM Lab for building and designing.



TO: Washoe County Library Board
FROM: Jeff Scott, Library Director
RE: Tacchino Trust Expenditure Update
DATE: January 20, 2021

Background: The Library Board of Trustees receives regular monthly updates regarding the status of expenditures from the Tacchino Trust bequeathment to the Washoe County Library System.

Northwest Reno Tacchino funds had a total expenditure of \$6,115.20 for the month of December 2020.

Sparks Tacchino funds had a total expenditure of \$1,067.11 for the month of December 2020

To date, Tacchino Trust funds has expended a total of \$478,951.03 with \$107,181.49 of those funds spent on Children's Materials.

The total Tacchino Trust funds available the beginning of January 2021 is \$433,298.97.

Recommendation and Suggested Motion: This agenda item is informational and does not require any action.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEE TASK RECORD/FOLLOW-UP

ITEM 6d

FY20/21

DATE ASSIGNED	TRUSTEE	TASK / AGENDA ITEM REQUESTED	ANTICIPATED COMPLETION	DATE COMPLETED
10/21/2020	Parkhill	Follow up to fine free policy changes for review – December 2020 meeting included extension of 3 months	January 2021 April 2021	
9/18/19	Chair Holland	Regular updates on Library progress towards 2024 Tax Initiative – From June 2020: need to start messaging by November 2021, after getting a sustainable plan from CDC on how to keep services safe	To be determined November 2021	
9/18/19	Vice Chair Marsh	Created Adhoc committee consisting of herself and Trustee Parkhill to determine metric in which Library Director should be evaluation upon to present for recommendation. From June 2020: plan to address at physical meeting after reopening in Phase IV of State Reopening Plan	October November 2019 Feb 2020 by June 2020 – CLOSED COVID – TBD for next physical Board meeting	

<https://thisisreno.com/2021/01/renos-champions-every-day-heroes-in-2020/>

“Librarians

In the best of times librarians serve as conduits to information, connecting library patrons with resources and information, and giving them the tools to find it on their own in the future. And in a pandemic—they do exactly the same. Of course, the running joke is that they’re experts in shushing those who are too loud in the library and that they spend their days reading books.

But, this year Washoe County’s librarians proved they are loud and proud about books and learning and are willing to stretch their creativity for the benefit of the community.

Within a week of closing for stay-at-home orders the library system rolled out digital library cards to increase access to online resources for locals. [Demand for digital resources soared this year](#), and data from OverDrive, a digital lending source used by Washoe County Libraries, shows e-book use has increased dramatically, especially for children’s e-books.

In March, librarians mobilized their 3-D printers to print PPE for front line workers and highlighted resources for people to access unemployment or job support resources. They’ve also engaged in months on end of dynamic online programming with virtual story times, online how-to projects and themed activities, Zoom chats and book discussions, video learning sessions, virtual outreach to school classrooms and so much more. National Cookie Day saw librarians hosting at-home baking demonstrations!

Librarians have invited families into their homes as they spiritedly read books, sometimes in costume. And they’ve helped families at their own homes by providing resources for home-schooling and distance learning. They’ve done all of this while also managing online book orders and curbside pickups, and even helping public health officials with contact tracing.

Most librarians will tell you it hasn’t been easy. Not having the resources and ability to serve those that need the library most has been a struggle. In person services such as helping people to gain computer access, fill out job applications or connect with family and friends—all things that have become so much more important in 2020—have been impossible to provide. Librarians also haven’t been able to provide the same level of educational support to students who may need books or help finding and navigating complex online resources, the same students who’ve lost access to their school libraries as well.

Librarians this year have had a front row seat to witness the expanding of the digital divide, but thanks to their firm grasp of resources and their never-ending creativity there’s hope they’ll help to guide the way to better connectivity for all in the post-pandemic years to come.

Thank you, librarians, for your dedication.”