

Putnam County Library Board of Trustees Minutes
Called Meeting: August 4, 2020

Called to order by Harry Ingle at 4:31pm.

Board members attending: Kristy Herr, Harry Ingle, Patricia Phillips, Daniel Rader IV, Kathryn Wisinger

Putnam County Library System staff attending: Chelsea Gifford, Matt Knieling, Brian Page, Phil Schaller

The board welcomed new board member, Kristy Herr.

a.) Discuss mask mandate-

Harry Ingle began the meeting by stating that it was important to call a meeting to discuss the mask mandate, as a staff member had anonymously reached out to the board with concerns. Phil recommended mandating masks for patrons using the library. He made the recommendation based on feelings of staff who are required to be masked while working, increased COVID-19 cases in Putnam County, various establishments in the community who are now requiring face coverings upon entry, and schools returning to session who are also requiring students to be masked. Phil also reported that there has not been any major push back from the encouragement of mask wearing and patrons are taking the free masks that are being offered. Other libraries are also requiring masks in their buildings.

The board discussed the potential risks of having a mask mandate, such as staff having potential conflict with patrons. Kristy asked if employees could rotate a position at the door to remind patrons to wear a mask as they come in the building. There would be staffing limitations to keep someone manned at the door. Daniel Rader mentioned that he does not agree with a policy that could not be enforced and that would also create unnecessary conflict for staff at the front desk. He stated that the purpose of the library board is to help promote literacy and encourage people to use the library. He suggested that if Randy Porter did not feel the need to mandate masks in county buildings then the library shouldn't either. The board continued to discuss potential issues with enforcement of the policy. Daniel suggested using more prominent signage to encourage mask wearing rather than making a formal policy to require it. Harry requested that staff take note of the number of patrons entering the building without masks versus how many are wearing them.

Daniel Rader made a motion to encourage masks with stronger marketing using more prominent signs, added signage around the computer area, and to try this for a few weeks to see if there is a percentage increase in the number of patrons wearing masks, Kristy Herr seconded, motion carried

Adjournment: 5:15 p.m.