

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Meeting

August 12, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marilyn Breckel called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. at Walnut Grove Elementary School in Vancouver, Washington.

II. PRESENT

Chair Marilyn Breckel presiding. Board members: Ellis Dunn, Jerry King, Merle Koplan, Karen Peterson, Elena Smith and Shirley Morgan. Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Associate Director; Candy Morgan, Associate Director; Doreen Turpen, Associate Director; Sue Vanlaanen, Associate Director; Becky Pettigrew, recording.

Other staff and citizens: Cindy Benjamin, Neal Blomquist, Joe Bond, Marcus Brotherton, Marjorie Casswell, Foster Church, Mhari Doyle, Frances Foley, Susan Fowell, Dianne Hibbard, William Larson, Sharon Larson, Ethel Marini, Alex Mintz, Joan Rasmussen, Ron Rasmussen Jr., Ron Rasmussen Sr., Woodley Smith, Sherene Steinagel, Margaret Tweet, Den Mark Wichar, Jackie Youngblood, Nancy Youngs and Katie Ziegman.

III. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. MINUTES

The minutes of the July 8, 2002 meeting were approved as mailed, with King and Breckel abstaining.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Breckel gave an overview of how the meeting would be conducted. She noted that during citizen comments, persons could speak for 3 minutes on any agenda item. No citizen comments would be taken during the board business portion of the meeting.

Breckel also thanked the Friends of the Vancouver Mall Community Library for the food they provided prior to the meeting.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Den Mark Wichar said that free access to information is a pillar of freedom. Almost free equates with not free. If the issue was just pornography, the decision by the board would be simple. He expressed concern that if pornography is defined as offensive material, there are many other offensive things. There are books on the shelf and on the Internet that are offensive to him and if we were to remove pornography from the library, we'd remove all sex. Nudes such as Michelangelo's *David* would be removed. He feels that this is absurd because what is so clear to some is not clear to others. Much of art and literature are on the "outside" of

pornography. He is concerned that filters do not exist which do not limit academic searches. While he agreed that children should be protected, adults should not. Also, he questioned who would provide protection, what limit would be applied and to what extent. He thought that love, peace and brotherhood would help limit pornography.

William Larsen agreed that freedom of speech and constitutionality are important. He shared that a few months ago, he was at a Fort Vancouver branch and glanced at one of the computer monitors. There was offensive material on the screen that he believes should not be in the library. If there are things that some people find offensive, he said that these things should not be viewed in a public place. Filtering the Internet is a tough decision, but where do you draw the line? He said that there is technology out there that blocks using a content-based method rather than by text alone. When using a content-based filter, he said searches for breast cancer return valid resources but not inappropriate material. He stressed his belief that libraries are public places and not a place for inappropriate material, whether that is violence, hedonism or pornography. Smoking is not allowed in public places. He said his 13-year-old son doesn't need to walk through the library and see images on a computer monitor of a man being stabbed.

Sherene Steinagel said that her family went to the library for a family activity. While her children were using the downstairs lobby bathroom, they saw Internet pornography printouts that someone had left there. Her kids did not tell anyone until about an hour later, when they told her husband, "that bathroom is a bad place." She was very grieved that her 9-year-old sons saw things that they in their lives consider filth. She said that while she does not want to push her morals on anyone else, she doesn't want others' immorality pushed on her. The constitution also says that we should promote the general welfare. She sees that her family was not protected. How, when things are printed off the computers, can we prevent young people from coming into contact with these things? She suggested that this is something for the board to answer in the future. She loves the library and has read all the board bios. She knows that the board members love the library and that they had great experiences as children at the library. She asked how the board is going to help protect our children?

Ron Rasmussen Jr. said that he is chair of Vancouver Mall Neighborhood Association. Community standards are being discussed around the nation. He feels we should have some sort of filter on the computers at the library. Bess and Paxnet are two filters he mentioned that are effective. He agreed with the earlier statements about content-based filtering software versus word-based software. He said that there are many different ways to obtain good filtered Internet searches at the library and suggested that the board look at them all.

Cindy Benjamin acknowledged that she has been to a lot of library board meetings. She teaches her kids to love and accept everyone, but that is difficult when her daughter saw a man looking at nude women on the Internet at the library. She cited that in the news recently, two children were kidnapped and murdered. The man who committed the crime was arrested and officers found porn in his home. She said that the majority of the people in their survey expressed that they want Internet filters at

the library and more people have signed the surveys. She believes that the majority of people are willing to accept filters with the condition that if a search doesn't work a librarian can easily override the filter. She has a filter on her home computer. Searches she has done on breast cancer and homosexuality have produced results without bad porn sites. The library is a public place that she wants to take her kids to, but she won't and her friends won't because they have to worry about problems that might happen in the bathrooms and what they might see on the computers.

Neal Blomquist said he's scared and highly troubled and feels compelled to be here. Several hours ago a new murder and rape occurred in Gresham. He asked what role computers in the library might have played in this latest murder. If not that incident, he wondered, what about future incidents here in Clark County? He asked the board to consider what role and responsibility they play in kids' lives, when they are offering open Internet access to kids who might otherwise not get home access to Internet porn. He has supported every financial measure that the library has done so far; he said he now realizes that he has participated and assisted in nurturing pedophiles. He sees that the board is composed of a group of caring citizens who work hard. But he asked the board to consider the next murder and rape that may take place, and how they will sleep at night knowing that their decision might have played a part in nurturing that along.

Joe Bond said that he lives in the Mall neighborhood. He doesn't think that porn is an issue that needs to be debated before the ACLU and supreme courts—he thinks it's a simple issue. If he goes to the social security office and sits there looking at a porn magazine, a security guard would come to him and say he can't view that material in a public place. If he wore in the library a t-shirt with racial slurs, he'd probably be told that it's inappropriate. He could say that if people don't like it, they shouldn't look at it. He feels that it is the same with porn for someone to say that. He said he likes the board regardless of how this issue turns out.

Margaret Tweet said that she has had several experiences at the library involving pornography. In one incident, she saw some children who saw someone else looking at porn. In another incident, several boys were teasing girls with porn printouts. Tweet also expressed her disappointment that CIPA was declared unconstitutional, and that an Associate Director had participated in the CIPA trial, as well as Candy Morgan's outside participation in efforts related to the Freedom to Read Foundation. Tweet then expressed concern about the availability of child pornography on the Internet. She said that child porn does not fit in our community standards, nor does she believe that viewing violence against women, rape, and other items on the Internet fit our community standards. She said that the very least that the board can do is set the default to filtered for children. She asked what the board plans to do to stop or prevent viewing of child porn, as viewing it is illegal and this needs to be communicated to the community. She said that recessed computers and privacy screens are not going to prevent people from looking at child porn.

Ron Rasmussen Sr. said he is embarrassed by our library and feels that citizens have wasted their time communicating with the board. He expressed concern that board members are not elected and threatened that the board would never pass a bond or

election as long as he's alive. He believes that the board is delaying action by having meetings, while other cities have complied with CIPA quickly. He said that Congress had passed CIPA. When the board didn't comply with CIPA by the July deadline, he saw this an indication that the board is wasting our money. He said we need to put a triple X sign on the library.

Sharon Marcini said that in her prior employment, she worked with children ages 6-18. She took one of her clients to the library. As she was looking at the Internet with her client, she saw another client (who was not with her) and that client's friend (both are 9 years old) looking at porn. A coworker of hers walked in a few minutes later and assisted with the problem. When she turned back to her own client, the girl was looking at a terrible anorexic site and thinking it was cool. Sharon was appalled as she did not know that things like the anorexic site were available online. She is concerned that children do not know the difference between a practical and impractical site. A content-based software called "Prefilter" is one that she recommended. She is for free speech but believes that kids do not know what is good for them to hear or see.

Marjorie Casswell congratulated the library board and staff for the grants they have received that will help with programming, such as the Every Moment Counts and early childhood development initiatives. She thinks it's very difficult to raise a child in today's world and as a grandparent appreciates the frustration and horrors parents go through. She urged the library board to be very cautious in what they do and how they approach the filtering problem, because of what she's seen with other countries as far as how censorship was handled. She hopes that we will not turn over to the government or any other agency the ability to censor things. She knows that the library offers a filter system and urges the board to continue to look for something better along that path.

The next citizen to speak (she did not state her name) said that last time this issue was discussed, it seemed that the Board had already made up their minds because they read pre-written statements. This gave her the impression that the Board doesn't listen. She asked the Board to filter Internet porn and noted that there are other libraries in the state that filter.

Ethel Marini said that computers are our future as they are the mind builders for children who use them right. Kids use them and go to college and get to the head of the class. She encouraged that we have to use the computers right and give kids good access to good material. She noted that if kids are spending 2 hours on the computer working on a report, they're not going to spend it looking at porn.

Margaret Tweet submitted incident reports from Timberland Regional Library.

VII. BUSINESS

A. Expenditure Approval

MOTION: Marilyn Breckel moved and Ellis Dunn seconded approval of the accounts payable, payroll and payroll payables as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area Expenditure Approval

MOTION: Marilyn Breckel moved and Karen Peterson seconded approval of the Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution 2002-6: Budget Amendment #02-03

Ziegman reported on the great success of the new Three Creeks Community Library. The district took a conservative approach to providing the initial staffing for Three Creeks. It was established at the Battle Ground level, as both would be open the same number of hours. While it was realized that this would likely be insufficient, the district did not want to risk overstaffing the branch. To provide for a likely needed staffing increase, a reserve fund of \$300,000 was established.

Three Creeks is 3½ times larger than Battle Ground. This means that Three Creeks requires more staff on duty at the same time to provide service, monitor the space and complete opening and closing routines. Three Creeks' average weekly circulation is already over 500 more than Battle Ground's, at approximately 7,500 per week. The branch also receives about 400 more reference questions per month and about 300 more patron visits per day than Battle Ground.

Creating the new Assistant II position for Three Creeks now would allow the district to combine the hiring processes with two part-time Assistant II positions that will be vacant within a month. This will save staff time by avoiding two rounds of interviews and give potential applicants the choice of applying for full or part-time.

MOTION: Merle Koplan moved and Karen Peterson seconded that the Board adopt Resolution 2002-6, Budget Amendment #02-03 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Koplan commended staff for their foresight in recognizing that this would become an issue and putting aside funds for it.

Ziegman thanked the Board for their prompt action on this. He noted that in the past, administration has waited longer to bring these issues to the Board, which has put branch staff in a very difficult situation.

D. Resolution 2002-5: NCIPA

Ziegman said that the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act was passed by congress in 2000. As it was not challenged by anyone, it is the law. NCIPA requires that public library boards address five issues related to children, the Internet and library policy. It does not say how we need to

address these issues. Resolution 2002-5 would bring the district into compliance with NCIPA and allow the district to continue to receive all federal e-rate funds.

It was noted that the resolution presented refers to our current Internet policy. Ziegman suggested that if the Board directs staff to draft a different Internet policy, a new NCIPA resolution could be brought to the Board at a future meeting.

King said that the resolution was very well prepared. He pointed out that paragraph five relies on the decisions of the district court (which could be reviewed and could come to a different result in the future).

All agreed that further discussion and action on the NCIPA resolution should wait until after the Board discusses the topic of Library Internet Filtering.

E. Library Internet Filtering

Breckel thanked the citizens who came tonight, noting that the Board is continuing in this process of reviewing the district's Internet access policy. She said that this is an important issue for the Board as well as for citizens. The Board has recognized that this is a complex issue involving a wide range of opinions. Breckel said that the Board's decision has to be based on a number of factors including the law. She referred to a handout that was made available to meeting attendees, titled "filtering options discussion document," (see attached) in case anyone wanted to read along during the Board's discussion.

Breckel gave a summary of the filtering topic to date. The district's current Internet policy was developed in 1998, following considerable community input and discussion. The current policy offers patrons the choices of filtered, unfiltered or no Internet access. Parents are able to lock in the access level for their children. After the current policy was adopted, the district advertised the policy by doing press releases, putting out flyers in branches and mailing information to all addresses in our 3-county service area. The district continues to inform the public of the policy when patrons sign up for Internet use, when patrons sign up for library cards, with brochures available at the library, when the staff speak to groups or the press about services and on the library website.

Staff members have also developed Kids and Teen Web pages with links to many age-appropriate sites, as well as a training program for parents to help them better guide their children's Internet use.

FVRL has taken steps to prevent patrons from inadvertently viewing things they consider objectionable on computer screens. These steps include the placement of computer terminals, recessed monitors with hoods and privacy screens. The staff are currently experimenting with adding dividers between adjacent workstations and combining recessed monitors and privacy screens.

Although the U.S. Third Circuit Court ruled that CIPA is unconstitutional, the Board is continuing to review its policy. Breckel noted that Board members have spent considerable time on the issue at meetings. They have read and listened to citizens' comments. Staff members have done considerable background work, researching the policies of other libraries and developing options for consideration. Also, the Board's Policy Committee has discussed the issue several times.

Breckel said that the Board would now have a thorough discussion on this issue. No motions will be entertained for a set period of time, so that all the relevant issues can be discussed. When the discussion is finished and the Board takes action, their motion should help direct staff in proceeding with developing a draft policy. The Policy Committee will meet at a later date to discuss the draft policy, and then action will be taken on the new policy no later than the Board's October meeting.

Breckel also made some clarifying statements about the types of incident reports that have been completed by library staff. She noted that there are more than 1.3 million visits to the district's branches each year. The district serves a very diverse community. Whenever an unusual situation occurs, employees complete an incident report form. The Board asked staff to analyze the number and type of incidents that have occurred over the past few years.

Breckel shared that on average, 375 incidents are reported district-wide each year. Staff broke these incidents down into categories. One of the categories is Internet Content. This includes patrons who have complained to staff about the Library's Internet policy, or someone who reported that they inadvertently viewed something they considered objectionable on the library's Internet computers. On average, three percent of all district-wide incidents each year are categorized as Internet Content.

Less than one percent of all incidents are related to Internet behavior. On average, this works out to three incidents district wide each year. Most of the Internet behavior incidents involve someone leaving sexually explicit printouts from the Internet somewhere in the library. If the situation warrants, the police are called. While these incidents are very serious in nature, they are rare and have been dealt with quickly and accordingly.

The category "Other Internet" includes patrons who become argumentative when their time is up on the Internet, or patrons who use their friend's or family's library cards to get extra Internet time. Eleven percent of all incidents fall in the "Other Internet" category.

Together, Internet Content, Internet Behavior, and the larger category of Other Internet make up an average of 14% of all district incidents each year.

That leaves 86% of incidents as being non-Internet related. Examples of these incidents include children left unattended in the library; a patron collapsing with 911 being called for emergency assistance; a magazine found with part of the content torn out; a patron with a paper cut asking for a band aide, an unauthorized car parked in a handicapped space, and a variety of other such situations.

Breckel opened the discussion of the Board by referring to the "filtering options discussion document." Koplan said the Policy Committee is presenting this information to the Board as a basis of discussion.

King said that option #1 is the district's current policy. He recognized that the weakness in this policy is that a parent has to know about their right to filter their children's Internet access. King also noted that the library did send out information about the policy to 156,000 homes in the district when the policy was adopted. He noted that one disadvantage is that we may not have adequately advised every one of their options. He felt that the Board would need a good reason to change it much more than it's already been changed, as the Board has approved \$60,000 to improve the filters and other things already. King also noted that the current policy is the policy followed by several other Northwest libraries.

Dunn said that as the district replaces the current Pharos system, all Internet users would be required to re-register. That would give the district the opportunity to inform every Internet user about their choices for filtering. Ziegman confirmed that re-registration for every Internet user would be necessary at that time, which is about 35,000 people. Not all library cardholders have registered for Internet use.

S. Morgan asked the Board to seriously consider option #5A. This option requires a default filter for children and allows parents or guardians to turn the filter off. Adults would have unfiltered access. S. Morgan said that it is difficult for her to draw the line on what is obscene and what is not, so she sees that adults should make filtering choices for themselves. She also noted that in our society we have generally limited kids in certain ways. For example, children cannot buy certain magazines, cigarettes, or alcohol until they reach a certain age; nor can they drive until they reach a certain age. Our society tends to protect children. She said that she doesn't think that kids have the necessary judgment to make decisions on Internet content. S. Morgan also questioned if the Board would be taking a child's right away by allowing the parent to make that choice. She thought that by making the default unfiltered, we've made a parental decision. Changing it to default filter "on" would make kids go to their parents to change it. She noted that kids might not otherwise go to their parents to get direction on using the Internet.

Dunn expressed concern about using a person's age for setting default filtering criteria. He sees age as an arbitrary criterion for determining when

children are mature enough to view material. He said he does not think government should make that decision and that parents are the best judges of their own children's maturity. Because of this, Dunn said that he opposes the age restriction.

S. Morgan clarified whether Dunn opposes all children having filtered or having the default filter on. Dunn said that he opposes setting a default of filtered, and said that Option #1 gives parents that choice. S. Morgan said that Option #1 takes away the parents' rights at the very beginning. It still allows the parent to make a decision, but she expressed concern that parents are not always part of that process until after the fact.

Koplan asked if S. Morgan was suggesting that we do not give children Internet access until after parents sign them up. S. Morgan clarified that she is proposing default filtering for children, not requiring parental permission for any Internet access.

Koplan recommended that if we do not go with default filter on for kids, then we should not allow any access until children have gotten permission from their parents. King noted that this would mean kids wouldn't have access at all, until a parent came in. He said that he supports not allowing access if a parent has selected that option for their children. King sees that the library's purpose is to stand up for free access to information, so long as we're providing sufficient information to families so that they can make their filtering choices.

**Correction
made at the
9/9/02
meeting:**

*feel strongly
about this
issue

Smith said that she has seen that you can't always count on parents to be proactive. The ones who ~~are~~* are the ones who do come in and sign their children up for filtered access. She expressed concern that we are running the risk of stripping children's rights based on a few parents not knowing about it. She expressed that our duty in supporting the library mission is accomplished with the current policy. Smith said she thinks children do have rights and she wants to stand up for them. She added that a lot of kids would lose out if they have to wait for their parents to sign them up.

Koplan said that the Internet is a totally different medium from books. There is no editor, no publisher, and in many cases no known author. Koplan believes that we would normally not bring that kind of information into the library as some of the information online contains fallacies. Smith disagreed with this statement, as she believes there are many books that may have fallacies or questionable ethics.

**Correction
made at the
9/9/02
meeting:**

Koplan said that we do make choices on what books come into the library. Smith said that she ~~disagrees and that she~~ doesn't see a lot of children misusing the Internet. She added that the library has a great staff that helps people use and learn how to use the Internet.

S. Morgan said that by allowing a child to have a card and have access to an unfiltered version of the Internet, we've made a decision for parents. She thinks we need to give that decision back to the parents. She said that she understands what Smith is saying about kids having access to information, but as adults we make decisions for kids about other things, such as driving and limiting kids' access to certain magazines. She is concerned about parents who don't participate in their kids' activities. S. Morgan proposed that we make parents have dialog with their child by the child having to ask for unfiltered access.

King said that he appreciates this discussion and noted that it is a difficult philosophical issue. He said that the current policy has been in effect for 2 years and during that time 20% of the parents chose to filter. If we send out another mailer, he estimated that maybe 40 to 50 % would choose filtered. He said he thinks that parents have a good reason for not going to filtered and that the record we've provided here shows we've got a good system going.

Peterson said that she agrees with S. Morgan to a certain extent, referring to kids who don't have parental support. She supports kids being able to come in and get a library card. Kids who don't have parental supervision is a concern for her. The question of when the default filter would be on is the issue for her. Generally, 17 and under are minors and at age 18 you're an adult. She suggested that we might want default filtering to apply to kids age 12 and under. Peterson added that her biggest issue is the children who are not supported. For her, children means through age 12.

Breckel said that she couldn't support the option of no access to the Internet for kids. What she has wrestled with is determining whether the default filter should be on or off and what action we would take to allow access to change. If we provide unfiltered access to all, kids will have full access but parents can limit it. If the default for kids is filtered, kids would have some access but parents could come in to give full access. Breckel said she agrees with Peterson that the default filter should not apply through age 17. Breckel suggested that we would have to pick something that is reasonable for a majority of children. Just like kids cannot drive until they are 16, Breckel said she is not sure kids are ready for other things at certain ages either. She noted that we do not have the privilege of knowing every individual child and where they are in maturity. She said she wants to make sure every patron in our district has access to the Internet, but wrestles with how we make that access available to children. She has read the options and thinks that at a minimum, we have to do a far better job of letting parents know what our policy is and what their options are.

Smith said that for her, it always comes back to choice. When you make the default filter on, then you don't have a choice. Breckel said that you do have a choice, as it would not be default filter "on" for everybody.

Smith agrees that we need to do more to inform people about the policy. She said that she thinks our policy has gone well.

Koplan said that in an idealistic world, our policy should work. She reiterated the steps we've taken, including warning people that they will lose their Internet privileges if they go to illegal sites and preventing inadvertent viewing with the setup of workstations. Koplan said we have a responsibility to our people. Citizens have appointed us through those that they have elected. She said that what we've heard from people we've talked to and from others is that our responsibility to the community is to go a little further than our current policy to protect the children.

Dunn said that he has heard the idea of protecting our children repeatedly for the last 5 years. He encourages that we protect our children. Thousands and thousands of kids have used the library during those five years and none have been assaulted. He said we do an injustice to our kids if we underestimate their knowledge of sex. He said he learned about sex as a child and it wasn't when he was 17. Dunn added that our character is not determined by a casual exposure to porn on the Internet, and that this exposure does not cancel our thousands of other experiences. He said that we need to educate our children about the dangers of the Internet and encourage parents to make choices for their children.

King agreed with Dunn's statements and said that he thinks a lot of parents have not gotten around to expressing their support of the current policy. He sees that the Internet has both good and bad and that there is temptation in today's society. King noted that 70% of homes in Clark County have Internet access and a majority of that access is unfiltered. Kids have other places besides the library to access the Internet. King said that the public library is about real problems and real issues. He said he could remember seeing porn movies and pictures distributed around school when he was in 4th or 5th grade. More parents need to be involved with their children. He agreed that determining an age is difficult.

S. Morgan mentioned her past experience with a successful sales campaign where customers would have to send something in that says "no." It was the most successful program ever presented to their clients, because most people did not send in the post-paid card that was provided. She compared this to the library, suggesting that if parents have to do something to say no, it's generally easier to do nothing. She suggested that we give the parents the responsibility of choosing full Internet access for their children (instead of leaving that choice up to us).

Koplan referred to the "filtering options discussion document" and examined what others are doing in our state.

King said we should send out a mailing to all people advising them of their options.

Ziegman clarified that option #2 is similar to our current policy except that for every minor who registers, we would send a letter to their parents letting them know their child had registered. Included would be a postage paid form for them to change their child's access level. King said that this is one of the ways to improve our policy.

Koplan asked what access level the child would have in option #2, if the parent did not respond to the letter? King confirmed that essentially, the parent would have the ability to veto the choice made by the child. S. Morgan said that option #2 says we've made a choice by giving the child the access he or she has chosen. Breckel said that in any case, we've made a choice and parents have the veto power to change it. So the question is, what is the choice we are going to make? We're still giving parents the option to turn it around.

Peterson asked for clarification in option #2 regarding re-registration. Ziegman said that in option #2, the library would re-register everyone, locking the filter in for those kids who already had the filter on. Then, as other children register or re-register, we would send a notice to the parents with a card those parents could return. The card would allow parents to change the access level selected by their child. Peterson asked what would happen if we did not get a response from the parent. It was confirmed that no action would be taken. Koplan said she could not accept that, and Smith said that she could not accept option #2 either, but for different reasons.

Koplan said she feels that we as adults have to make a societal decision about what is safe and good for children. She said she would be willing to drop the age for default filtering below 17. She is worried that children would destroy the library's letter about filtering so that their parents would not see it. Koplan said it has been hard for her not hearing from parents and giving children access to the Internet.

King said that he doesn't think we can solve all problems, referring to a child destroying mail addressed to their parents.

Koplan said that her ideal solution is that we leave the filter on unless the parent has responded otherwise.

Smith said that she still likes option #1, as it's been a really good policy. She added that option #2 is a clerical nightmare and that she does not think it's right to require people to share their age and give proof.

King acknowledged that how we involve the parents is difficult to work out, and that we are giving them the option to turn on a filter in the current policy. He has been concerned that parents may not know about our current policy. Smith said that perhaps most do know about the policy as she feels we've done a good job advertising it.

Ziegman said that the library is planning to do a district-wide mailer anyway in couple of months. Koplan expressed concern that the mailer would be junk mail to many and therefore not read.

Breckel asked for any other new points.

Smith said that people go to malls and participate in all kinds of things she finds unsavory. She feels the library is fairly safe. She said we can't protect people everywhere, and suggested that we be careful that we don't overstress our role in protecting children in libraries.

MOTION: Merle Koplan moved and Shirley Morgan seconded that we put the default Internet filter "on" for children (age of child to be discussed) and allow parents or guardians to turn the filter off for their own kids; adults would continue to have a choice for their own library Internet access. The motion was discussed further.

Peterson asked how parents would be informed about the policy. Ziegman said that staff would do whatever is required by the Board's policy in terms of implementation. S. Morgan said it would be interesting to see what other libraries do in regard to this. Ziegman wasn't sure if other districts require a parental visit to change their kids' access level.

King suggested that if the proposed motion fails, we have a similar motion with the only difference being that the default filter would be off with details set out on how we would carry it out in informing parents of their rights.

Breckel and Koplan agreed that knowing the age that the default filter "on" would apply is necessary in order to vote on the motion.

MOTION: Karen Peterson proposed a friendly amendment to the motion that it would apply only to children age 12 and under. Merle Koplan seconded the amended motion and it was discussed further.

Breckel asked what would happen to the child's access when they turn 13? Ziegman said that the software could automatically turn the filter off at 13 or the Board could direct staff to do something else. Breckel said that she doesn't want to take away the parent's right to control their children's use of Internet when the child is between 13 and 17. Peterson said that she was leaving this open to see what parent wants to do. Breckel said we need some action to happen at 13.

Koplan suggested that we send a letter to the parent saying that in 2 months their child will turn 13 and the library's policy is that the child will at that time be given full Internet access unless you take action. Parent can then return the letter, go into the library or call to say that they want the filter to remain on. If the parent does not take action, then the child would have unfiltered access.

Ziegman clarified the option being presented, saying that it sounds like option #2 when the child reaches age 13.

Dunn said that it's a 13 year old who will be smart enough to intercept that letter. He said he prefers the current policy with addition of a letter going to every parent saying that his or her child has available unfiltered access to the Internet. Smith agreed. Dunn said he will vote against the current motion.

VOTE: Before the vote was taken, the motion was restated by Breckel as follows: Children age 12 and under will have library Internet access with a default filter “on” and parents can change that access for their own children to no access or unfiltered access; at age 13, the child’s parents will be notified that their child will have unfiltered access unless they take a proactive step to lock in the filter or lock in no access. If nothing comes back from the parent within a certain amount of time, kids can make their own Internet access choice. The motion carried with 4 Yeas (Shirley Morgan, Merle Koplan, Karen Peterson and Marilyn Breckel) and 3 Noes (Jerry King, Ellis Dunn and Elena Smith).

Breckel said that while her preference was for option #2, she was concerned about whether or not the district could do a good enough job informing parents about their rights. She said she doesn't think we have a perfect solution. She would like some other way of controlling the Internet without having to set out parameters; our job is to provide open access to information. She recognized the value of providing a variety of viewpoints and ideas and teaching children to think critically by having a lot of ideas open and available.

Koplan said that the library's job is to provide information and that the Internet is a place where parents need to watch children carefully. She mentioned the value of having filters on at home. She asked those present to consider how many terminals the library has compared to how many are out there in homes. Congress and the courts are not monitoring the Internet; in fact, nobody is monitoring it.

Smith asked if the process we took in regards to our vote was proper. It was confirmed that the process we took was proper.

Breckel asked if staff have enough direction to draft a policy, which will then go to the policy committee. Ziegman said that they have enough direction.

Breckel said she would like a first draft and discussion in Sept. before voting in October.

F. Resolution 2002-5: NCIPA, continued

C. Morgan clarified that we need to pass the NCIPA resolution now to be in compliance with the law.

MOTION: Jerry King moved and Karen Peterson seconded that the Board adopt Resolution 2002-5, bringing the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District into compliance with the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act. The motion carried unanimously.

Breckel clarified that this resolution was adopted using our current policy and that a new resolution will be brought to the Board in October following adoption of our new Internet policy.

Citizens present asked for clarification of Internet filtering vote. Breckel repeated the motion voted on, above.

VIII. REPORTS

Breckel noted that reports from Associate Directors and the Foundation Director were submitted to the Board in writing to allow more time for discussion of the library's Internet policy.

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ziegman reported that district circulation continues to increase. Latest statistics indicate that we are up 11% over last year due in large measure to the new Three Creeks branch. Many new people are registering for library cards and checking out books.

Ziegman attended the first part of a sleepover event that was held at the Three Creeks branch for children ages 5-12. About 50 parents and 50 kids participated. Another event Ziegman attended was the garden tour put on by Friends of the White Salmon Valley Community Library. He noted that the gardens and art were just gorgeous and it was a very successful event.

Goldendale Community Library will have their annual Ice Cream Social this coming Friday at 6 p.m. and Ziegman invited those present to consider attending.

Summer reading has been very successful this year. Teen summer reading has over 700 more participants so far this year.

Ziegman noted that there was a big article in the newspaper today about the more than \$100,000 in grants that the district has received recently. The grants provide funds for cultural diversity and early child learning projects and for author visits and other cultural programs.

Over the last year or two, Ziegman has mentioned that the library would become involved in the I-Net. Implementation is now complete and all Clark County branches are hooked up. Ziegman said that this has solved a lot of our access issues. All other branches are on T-1 lines. Breckel asked when the I-Net would be available upriver. Ziegman noted that Skamania and Klickitat Counties are not in the AT&T service area and T-1 service is the best option available. Breckel asked that staff not give up on pursuing better access for upriver branches.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Katie Ziegman said as a young adult, she agrees with some of the things the Board had to say. She feels that anyone under the age of 17 should have filtered library Internet access. She said that she does not feel parents will take full responsibility. For parents who don't want their kids to have Internet access, the kids will get access some other way. She said that she does not agree with sending letters to parents because kids will intercept the letters. Kids will also make phone calls for their parents. She asked the Board to require parents to come in to take responsibility for their kids.

Ron Rasmussen Sr. said that the key words are judgment and decisions. He feels we have used judgment not to put *Penthouse* and other magazines in our library, yet we have said we have to have porn in our libraries with the Internet. He said he loves the old days when there were banned books.

Neal Blomquist said that the Board member in the green dress is talking "horse sense." He said to look at what's going on in our society. He asked why we would open the door to the raunchiest, worst information to those aged 13? He asked why we couldn't continue blocking to age 17 unless a parents intervenes?

Margaret Tweet said that using a postage paid envelope would not work. She feels that our community standard is that minors are 17 and under. She expressed concern that ages 13-17 are the teen ages that pornographers are marketing. She said she is grateful for children that the Board has taken this action, but said that child pornography was not addressed.

Koplan objected to Tweet's comment about child pornography not being addressed. Koplan said that the Board's policy clearly states that child pornography is not to be accessed in the library.

Tweet said that the library should do more to monitor. She said it would be like a shop putting up no mirrors and no cameras but saying "no shoplifting." She expressed concern that we're hiding with our recessed screens, which makes it available to people to view with no one knowing.

The next citizen to speak (she did not state her name) thanked the Board for taking a step in the right direction. She said she feels that 17 and under is more appropriate. She added that a majority of people that took their poll wanted filtering completely.

The next citizen to speak (he did not state his name) said that he could appreciate our dilemma of trying to decide appropriate age for access. As a parent, he feels responsible for his kids up to age 18. He said he wants the library to agonize less over the age and leave it up to the parents. He understands why we've agonized and made our decision as such. He sees we are spending a lot of time defending porn when that is not an issue where he is concerned. What is on the Internet is protected by the constitution and those things not protected by constitution will be dealt with accordingly. He feels that the library shouldn't have to deal with those unconstitutional things in our policy.

XI. BOARD COMMENTS

King said that he feels the Board had a really good discussion. He recognized that there's no way for everyone to be satisfied with this type of decision. King said he is not satisfied with what we've come up with so far but thinks it could be a lot worse. He recognized that there is no use in trying to cater to an extreme point of view. There are those who will be dissatisfied with us no matter what we do. King said he feels pretty good about what we've done.

Dunn agreed with King and the quality of our discussion. He said that he appreciates being able to discuss this on record in front of the entire board. Even though he voted against the filtering policy motion, he said he would support the decision of the Board wholeheartedly.

Koplan recognized that we have a great library system. She said she hopes we can now move forward and focus on more programs. One thing that would help the library would be having better and more space so that we can better respect people's use of the library. Having more space would certainly help us.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be at the Vancouver Community Library on Monday, September 9, at 6 p.m. It was noted that the Board might need an executive session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Approved at the September 9, 2002 Board meeting

July 22, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Policy Committee
SUBJECT: Filtering Options Discussion Document

Below are some library Internet filtering options for discussion at the August 12, 2002 Board of Trustees meeting.

OPTION 1: Current Policy: Free choice of Internet access level for everyone unless a parent or guardian initiates filtered only or no access for their own minor children.

Under the current policy, any user regardless of age may register for the Internet and select filtered, unfiltered or no Internet access. However, a parent or guardian with their child present, or with possession of the child's library card, may register the child and make the filter level selection for them. The setting cannot be changed without knowledge of a password entered on the registration form, which the parent can retain exclusively.

Pros & Cons

- 1) This policy gives adults the ability to choose filtered, unfiltered or no access and to change their own settings at will. The policy is in line with FVRL's mission "to protect the rights to, and to identify and meet the individual's needs for full access to information." Providing open access is criticized by some because it allows patrons to view information that is offensive to some, including sexually explicit images.
- 2) Minors also may choose any of the three options, unless a parent or guardian signs them up for filtered or no access and controls that choice by use of a password. As such, the library does not impose a choice on anyone but gives the parent the opportunity to do so should they so choose. This policy gives parents the ability to control the access level of their own children and provides parents a practical tool for taking that responsibility. It does, however, require parents to be pro-active and accompany the child to the library at least once if they are to determine their child's Internet access level. The disadvantage of this procedure is that a parent must know about it to take advantage of it. The library has been criticized for inadequately informing the public of their options for library Internet access.

Should the Board choose to retain its current policy, a significant advertising effort should be made to inform the public about Internet options. Advertising will have to be done continually to some extent to inform new residents.

Among larger public libraries in Washington, this policy in use by FVRL, Pierce County Library, King County Library and Timberland Regional Library.

Technical Considerations

The Internet management software adopted by FVRL, developed by Pharos, has proven difficult to administer, unstable and complicated to use by patrons. Pharos was the only company willing to create a technical response to FVRL's then unique policy but the product has not progressed as we would have liked. FVRL staff are currently investigating alternative software packages. We have not yet located another company that has implemented the password approach we now use, although one reputable company has assured us that they would add this feature, or one that achieves the same result, to their standard package.

OPTION 2: The current policy, except that parents would not have to have their child's library card and would not have to come into the library to choose how their child will use the Internet.

The implementation of new Internet management software will require the re-registration of all Internet users. As a part of implementation we will pre-register those current Pharos patrons who had selected a passworded default of "filtered" or "no Internet", which will maintain the choice of parents who have used Pharos to restrict their child's access to the Internet. All other Pharos patrons would re-register themselves the first time they use the Internet under the new Internet management software. If this option is adopted, the new Internet Registration form will require that an age range be selected. Beginning with implementation of the new software and continuing thereafter, when a minor registers for Internet use we would send a letter to the parent or guardian of the minor indicating that the child has registered for Internet access. Parents who wish to do so could use an enclosed form to select the level of Internet access their child would have and choose a password to protect the choice. The form could be returned to the library in person or by mail using a postage-paid envelope.

This is a change in current policy since we would be notifying a parent that a child has registered for the Internet. The age of the child to which this would apply would have to be determined.

Pros & Cons

This change would greatly increase the likelihood that parents would know about their Internet options and make it more convenient for them to make Internet choices for their children.

While no large public libraries in Washington use this policy, a similar result is achieved by those that have an Internet policy similar to FVRL's and also require parent signature for a minor's library card (Timberland & King County). Their card application forms allow parents to make the Internet selection for their children.

OPTION 3: Filtering for everyone as called for in CIPA

Generally, this means blocking all illegal sexually explicit images from being viewed on any library Internet terminal, by anyone, regardless of age. It also calls for filtering of material deemed “harmful to minors” for children.

Pros & Cons

1. The concept contradicts FVRL’s fundamental mission “to protect the rights to, and to identify and meet the individual’s needs for full access to information.” Further, it is by no means the least restrictive means (a standard firmly established by the courts regarding First Amendment issues) to achieve the desirable goal of protecting children from undesirable content on the Internet. The policy is favored by those who believe no one should be allowed to view sexually explicit images for a variety of reasons.
2. The courts, as seen in the Loudon County case and in the recent CIPA decision, are consistently ruling against this type of filtering. As called for in CIPA, it would require 2 levels of filtering. The first level would seek to filter out illegal obscenity and child pornography. While this could likely be accomplished with Websense or a similar product with the usual caveats about the imperfect nature of filters it would necessarily filter out constitutionally protected speech as well (tests submitted in the CIPA trial found that Websense’s underblocking rate was 0.6% and the overblocking rate was 14.59%). Judge Becker of the 3rd Circuit Court spoke to this directly in his Preliminary Statement in the CIPA decision: “In view of the limitations inherent in the filtering technology mandated by CIPA, any public library that adheres to CIPA’s conditions will necessarily restrict patrons’ access to a substantial amount of protected speech, in violation of the First Amendment.”
3. A second level for children would seek to filter out material that is “harmful to minors” (defined as images that appeal to a prurient interest in sex). If it were the Board’s decision to abide by the CIPA restrictions, the Websense categories entitled “Adult,” “nudity” and “sex” would have to be activated. This would undoubtedly result in blocking access to speech that is constitutionally protected for minors since the 3rd Circuit Court found that CIPA was unconstitutional as it would apply to minors.

Technical Considerations

There are no known technical obstacles to this policy option.

OPTION 4: Filtering out only sexually explicit images for everyone (the Tacoma Public Library Model)

Pros & Cons

This option could be viewed as an improvement over Option 3 in that it does not block the text of sites containing sexually explicit images, only the images. However, the courts took the same view of this approach as they did with CIPA as a whole since Tacoma’s policy was presented by the government to support their failed argument that CIPA can be applied in a constitutional manner.

It is in use only at Tacoma Public Library.

Technical Considerations

Were the Board to opt for such a policy, the library would face considerable technical difficulties. The software that enables this policy has been written and maintained by the staff of the Tacoma Public Library. It has not been made available to any other library. Were FVRL to acquire it, we would have to rely on Tacoma's information technology staff for maintenance or hire a programmer to maintain our version.

Tacoma's custom browser is designed to operate with the filter Cyber Patrol (FVRL uses Websense). Cyber Patrol has a category called "Explicit Sexual Images." Tacoma's browser is able to retrieve the URL's blocked in this category and present the text of such web sites to the user while blocking any images associated with the site.

Operation has been labor-intensive, in that the code must be modified by TPL staff to accommodate changes in the Internet environment. For example, when JavaScript was introduced as a Web programming language, Tacoma's browser had to be modified to deal with it.

In summary, Tacoma's software has not been made available to other libraries and would require considerable local maintenance if it were to be acquired, or if similar software were to be written by, or contracted for, by FVRL. This option has been included because of the public attention it has received but is not considered to be a viable option for implementation by FVRL.

OPTION 5-A: "Default filter on for children" allowing a parent or guardian to turn the filter off for their own minor children. Adults continue to have a choice of filtering options.

The purpose of this policy option is to give parents more control over the Internet viewing activities of their children at the library. Under this policy a child could sign up for Internet use on their own but only filtered access would be available to them without some form of parental approval for unfiltered access. Adult use would continue to be unrestricted. This policy option would be favored by those who believe access by adults should be unrestricted but that parents should have more assurance that their children are not able to view sexually explicit images without their permission.

Pros & Cons

It must be acknowledged that while the best filter is an involved parent, we live in a very busy, independent society where it is virtually impossible for parents to monitor all the behavior of their children. While it is not the library's responsibility to monitor the behavior of children this policy would give parents, many of whom simply may not know about the options available to them for Internet filtering at the library, a larger measure of control.

Under FVRL's current policy, a significant measure of control has been given to parents in that a parent can lock in filtered Internet access for their children. However, filtering of any kind has never been established as a default. This kind of control is not available for any

other information format in the library. For example, after previous extensive deliberation in 1993 (see the report entitled “Minor’s Access to Library Materials”), the Board decided not to establish a juvenile library card or require parental permission for a child to obtain a library card.

This policy might have the added benefit of reducing, to some extent, the amount of sexually explicit material viewed on library PCs, thereby reducing inadvertent viewing complaints. On the other hand, since very few of the inadvertent viewing complaints have been about the material being accessed by children, the difference would likely be minor.

Should the Board adopt this policy option there are several logistical issues to deal with:

- 1) An age level would have to be selected. One choice would be that the filter would be on for all minors, i.e., age 17 and under. This may seem overly restrictive and a younger age could be selected, say somewhere in the 12-14 year old range, so that most high school students would be able to have unfiltered access.
- 2) FVRL has never required that patrons reveal their age as a criterion for obtaining a library card so birth date has not been a mandatory field in the Dynix database. This policy would require, at a minimum, that birth date be added to the patron record when a minor registers for Internet use so that those individuals requiring default filter on could be identified. Further, those reaching the age of 18 could be automatically changed to unfiltered. In this scenario, a minor’s filter setting could only be changed by staff at the request of a parent.
- 3) Everyone currently registered to use the Internet (approximately 35,000 patrons) would have to have their ages verified by staff the first time they use the Internet if this policy were adopted, since age is optional on our current library card application. New Internet users would have to be registered by staff. We may have to re-register all Internet patrons anyway when we acquire new Internet management software, but this option would not make it possible for us to use the self-registration feature we hope to get with that new software in order to reduce staff time spent on registering patrons.
- 4) The level of filtering would have to be reconsidered. It could be considered inappropriate to require older teenagers to accept the level of filtering currently operational with Websense, which has 14 blocked categories, of which only 3 could possibly be considered to block illegal content for minors of any age. Either a much less restrictive level could be chosen or multiple levels could be chosen and implemented based on age so that 9 year olds and 17 year olds do not have to be blocked at the same level.
- 5) Under the current policy we accept that the person with the library card has the authority to set the filtering level for the person whose card it is. If this policy is adopted we will have to decide if the parent who wants to allow unfiltered access still has to have the child’s library card to do so. Some staff are very concerned about the possibility that they will have to determine who is the legal parent or guardian.

Among large public libraries in Washington, this policy is in place at Everett Public Library, Sno-Isle Regional Library, and Spokane County Library. In all 3 cases, the default filter on requirement applies to everyone 17 and under.

Technical Considerations

While the policy issues are somewhat complex, the technical issues are more straightforward. Standard Internet management software can handle differentiation by birth date or birth year. In these systems, a patron under the age of 18 is prevented from changing their filter option. The ability to offer multiple filtering levels is also available. Birth year or date can either be added as a field in the Dynix patron record or directly into the Internet management software database.

OPTION 5-B: Same as option 5-A in that the default for minors would be “filter on.” The difference is that minors would be able to turn the filter off, at their own discretion, unless a parent or guardian locked in the option of their choice with a password or similar mechanism.

OPTION 6: Parental permission required for any Internet use by minors, with the parent selecting the access level at that time

This policy option would give parents a further level of control since no Internet access would be allowed for minors without parental permission. Adult use of the Internet would remain unrestricted.

Pros & Cons

It would be possible to offer several levels of filtering, as with option 5, designed for various age levels but selected by a parent. In this case, the parent could directly select the filter level rather than it being tied specifically to chronological age as in option 5. Proof of age would be required to obtain Internet access without permission.

This policy would require a signed form or parent visit for a young person to obtain Internet access. Registration would have to be done by staff due to the proof of age requirement. Initial registration for adults would also have to be done by staff, since we do not have consistent records in Dynix or otherwise of the age of a patron to determine who does not need parental permission.

As a practical matter, many young people would be excluded from Internet use regardless of parental intent. As schools often find, many students find it difficult to obtain parental permission whether it involves filling out a form or arranging a visit.

The logistical issues enumerated in option 5 also apply to this option.

Among large public libraries in Washington, this policy is used by Yakima Valley Regional Library.

Technical Considerations

Standard Internet management software can provide the features necessary, including preventing minors from changing their filter option, offering multiple filtering levels, and automatically changing the filter setting to unfiltered upon the 18th birthday (or the year in which a minor turns 18).

**COMMUNITY LIBRARY SERVICES
REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD
August 12, 2002**

Vancouver Mall

Barbra Meisenheimer (Community Librarian) reports several highlights of the month. First I-net (Institutional Network high-speed telecommunications) was successfully installed. Thanks to the hard work of IT, library patrons and staff are pleased that all Internet stations are back in operation and the frustrating delays are a thing of the past. The hiring of an Assistant Community Librarian is the second piece of good news. Sean Scott will start work on August 13. He previously worked at Multnomah County Library where he got experience in the Central Library and most of the branches as well as in Technical Services and other behind the scenes departments.

Doreen Tannenbaum completed a lapsit series at Vancouver Mall. They were well received so Michele Taylor (Assistant Circulation Supervisor) will begin offering a lapsit program in September.

The Friends of the Library continue to provide important support for the branch. Booksales are their major source of revenue and have been increasingly successful. They earned over \$1,500 at their July sale.

Circulation

We often get asked why we are planning larger library buildings because many people assume that computers are rapidly replacing the traditional function of libraries to collect and circulate books, magazines and other materials. Here are some facts about Fort Vancouver Regional Library's circulation from January - July 2002.

- Clark County population increased 3.01% between 2001 & 2002. Clark County January - July 2002 circulation is 12.1% higher than the same period in 2001.
- Klickitat and Skamania County populations did not increase between 2001 & 2002. Nevertheless, their respective circulations are up year-to-date 7.9% and 2.1%.
- Woodland's population increased 1.72% while circulation is up 10.8%.

You will notice that three Clark County Branches (Vancouver, Vancouver Mall and Ridgefield) have lost circulation, most likely as a result of the opening of Three Creeks. However, most of Three Creeks' circulation represents "new circulation". The combined decline in circulation for the three branches (January - July) is 69,566. Three Creeks year-to-date circulation is 215,862.

Battle Ground

Summer Reading was the major focus of the branch in July. The good weather was welcomed since the branch is too small to accommodate most programs and they are being held on the lawn. As of July 23rd 403 teens had registered for summer reading in Battle Ground. This is the largest number in the District and 37% more than signed up during the whole summer last year.

Cascade Park

Cascade Park is also holding its summer reading programs outside on the lawn and they have been well attended. They tried out a new program this month, "Food for Thought", a teen book discussion. Attendance was not as high as they hoped, but those who attended enjoyed it. Teresa Torres (Community Librarian) is working on a plan to recruit more teens through the schools for programs like this and for YAAB group.

Amy Lee and Sherri Feinstein (DIS) provided two training sessions on FVRL's electronic resources for all of Cascade Park's staff. Teresa reports that they did an excellent job.

Cascade Park's circulation continues to increase -- January - July 2001 was 11.6% higher than the same period in 2001.

In our continuing saga of filling positions, Nancy Rehbock (Library Assistant) was the successful applicant for a Woodland position. Lynn Endo, who had moved to Three Creeks, decided she would like to return to Cascade Park and she was the successful applicant.

Goldendale and Klickitat County Bookmobile

Naomi Fisher (Community Librarian) reports July summer reading programs usually draw a smaller audience, but that has not happened this year. As an example, they had planned for about 50 to attend the "Pirate's Paradise" on July 19th. It was fortunate that Heidi Jones (Library Assistant) had extra craft materials in her bookmobile supplies, since the program attendance was 115.

The final lapsit program was the best attended -- 30. Naomi reports that Doreen Tannenbaum presented a wonderful program. The kids, parents and Early Headstart teachers had a great time even though the space was really too small for that group size.

The bookmobile in the Community Days Parade was a success as usual. It was a large crowd and Naomi reports that everyone cheered for the driver Judy Bane (Library Assistant) and the kids waved madly.

Naomi and I reported on the library to the Goldendale City Council on July 1. They seemed very proud of all the Goldendale branch is doing and are very supportive of the library.

Three Creeks

Everything continues to increase, especially circulation and program attendance. Three Creeks tried a new kind of program this month. Marilyn Walther, a master knitter from Washington State Extension volunteered to offer a five session knitting class. It was very well received. Brenda Cameron (Project Manager), and Dennis Sword (Facilities Manager) are working diligently to identify and resolve the remaining construction issues.

Stevenson and Skamania / Klickitat Bookmobile

Mara Reynolds (Community Librarian) reports that summer reading participation is up and the kids seem to be particularly enthusiastic this year about reading. The programs have also been successful and well attended.

Stevenson tried a new type of program for kids and parents this summer - Dancing & Singing with Janine Williams, Dance Instructor. The program, held on Mondays and Wednesdays started on July 1 and will go through August 28. The program initially attracted about 9 attendees and has grown to 25. The participants are primarily preschoolers and mothers, but there are a few kids in the 8 - 12 year old range. Ms. Williams recently moved to Stevenson and volunteered to provide the free program.

North Bonneville's annual Banana Bash, co-sponsored by the library was a success. Cynthia Dominik (Library Assistant) planned the program, Doreen Tannenbaum told stories and Judy Larson (Circulation Supervisor) brought the bookmobile.

A teen summer reading fund-raiser in Stevenson was very successful, thanks especially to the efforts of Cynthia Dominik and Trish Segal (Young Adult Services Coordinator).

The Stevenson staff are very pleased with the new staff break room. They send thanks to you, the Board for allocating the funds and to the Facilities staff for making it a reality.

White Salmon Valley

Thanks IT and especially to creative problem solving by Mike Smith, public Internet access in White Salmon (as well as Stevenson and Goldendale) is once more up and running with reasonable speed and reliability.

It is always a challenge to pass on to all staff information from the training opportunities that Human Resources have provided. Jennifer Hull (Community Librarian) and Jenine WhiteCastle (Circulation Supervisor) recently approached this challenge by scheduling staff for a four hour training session on a Monday when they are closed. In addition to their regular monthly staff meeting Jennifer and Jenine provided information from the workshops they have recently attended on teens, early childhood development and library services for patrons of other cultures.

Washougal

Washougal's circulation continues to grow. Year-to-date, the increase is 20.5%. July 2002 was 32.9% higher than July 2001. Summer Reading signups are also way up - 132% more teens and 19.4% more children. Summer reading programs have also been a success.

Sean McGill (Community Librarian) and Syn Ferguson, local poet and author, went to Cape-Horn Skye Elementary School this month to present a program on writing poetry for 35 summer school students. Sean reports that most of the poems were what you would expect from beginners, but the work of two students really stood out. A student who is just beginning to catch up with students in her grade level teamed with another student and wrote a song. To the astonishment of Sean and Syn, their song had perfect meter and rhyme.

Washougal started a teen bookclub this month. Sean reports that one of the attendees has since signed up to volunteer at the library.

Woodland

July was the first full month of being open on Monday and closed on Saturday. While it is too early to draw conclusions, the branch's increase in circulation continues. July 2002 circulation was 19.8% higher than 2001 and year-to-date they are up 10.8%.

The Woodland Friends Building Committee reported to the City Council about their efforts to get a new, larger library for Woodland. Graphics provided posters to illustrate the growth in service that the branch has experienced since it became a FVRL branch in 1996. The Council voted to support the group's desire to build a library on city owned land at the east end of the part where we are currently located. The Committee, chaired by Rich Simpson, with the help of Rick Smithrud (Foundation Director), has developed a funding plan that is based on fund raising rather than a bond.

Ridgefield

Summer reading signups at Ridgefield have increased from last year. This is particularly true of the teens (up 93%).

Collection Development

Work has begun on spending the Lewis & Clark grant money the Foundation received from BPA. Jackie Youngblood (Collection Development Manager) has provided Selection training for Bridget Cain-Bushman (Three Creeks Assistant Librarian and Project Coordinator) as well as holding a meeting for the other Selectors who will be involved.

The new books on CD can now be found in our catalog and can be placed on hold.

Technical Services

Both Yvonne Iverson (Technical Services Manager) and Jackie Youngblood have spent the month providing information to Jeanne Goodrich, a consultant we have hired to do a work flow analysis to help us make decisions concerning the migration to a system that integrates selection and acquisitions functions into our other systems. Tricia Leppo has been hired as a Processing / Mending Library Assistant.

Children's Services / Family Literacy

The Yarnspinnners a FVRL performing group consisting of Jacquelyn Keith (Children's Services Coordinator), Teresa Torres (Cascade Park Community Librarian), Sean McGill (Washougal Community Librarian) and Mike Jansen (Vancouver Youth Services) presented a series of very successful summer reading programs. The props provided by Graphics are beyond belief.

Jacquelyn has stepped in to present storytimes on several occasions when branch staff have been on vacation or sick.

Young Adult Services

As of the end of July teen summer reading signups were almost 700 more than last year's total and we have a month to go. Trish worked on several teen summer reading fundraisers, including a car wash she organized for the Battle Ground teens.

Vancouver Community Library Board report
August 13,2002
Doreen Turpen

Programs

Although the calendar of events slowed down in late July/early August, program activity remains high. For example, Vancouver staff organize the activities and scheduling for our presence at the Clark County Fair. We provide most of the staffing for the 10 days of the fair. Other branches are more involved this year with the introduction of activities to highlight each Clark County branch on specific days.

We are also working on the final preparations for the Live @ Your Library series. We needed to fill in three author time slots because of cancellations by authors. Two of those slots were filled, local matching dollars have been secured, and programs are confirmed.

ESD 112's Youth Volunteer Corp approached the library with a proposal to conduct computer classes. We reached agreement on the framework and have set up four days of computer classes in mid-August. The classes will be taught by teen volunteers, Youth Corp project leaders, and Vancouver Library staff. We targeted seniors with the initial advertising and several classes filled up within the first week of registration. Family Internet and Teen Internet sessions have been slower to fill.

Forum at the Library is working with the League of Women Voters to provide a Candidate's Night in late August. We have programs for seniors lined up for this fall, including a session on on-line auctions. Another staff group has sent a survey to local authors to build a list of authors who are interested in working with the library. They have a commitment from Pat Rushford for a workshop about writing for teens.

Services:

We are working on the initial activities for the Diversity Grant. Beginning activities include hiring project staff and identifying people or firms to conduct the needs assessment. Local groups that work with our Latino population have expressed enthusiasm for this project.

A few staff took a tour of the Beaverton Public Library. It opened in a new building about two years ago. Circulation increased 21% in the first year and 9.9% in the second year. Their door count increased 33% in the first year and 15% in the second year. They have 67,000 square feet and feel there is too little space for certain functions. They are using self-checkout and are considering an automated check-in system. The trip was very useful and we were able to gather ideas for training, distribution of staff, and services as well as the facility.

Library Friends

The Friends have set fall book sale dates for October 26, 27, and 28.

Date: August 12, 2002
To: Fort Vancouver Regional Library Board of Trustees
From: Patty Duitman
Subject: Support Services Report

ACCOUNTING

Vikki Rowe has been awarded the Payroll Analyst position. Vikki was promoted from Accounts Payable to replace Debbie Hose (who was promoted to and the 50% Library/50% Foundation Sr. Administrative Assistant position). There were over 200 applicants for the open AP position and after careful review 11 candidates have been selected for testing. Interviews will be scheduled the week of August 26th and the position should be filled shortly.

We are pleased to announce that Shelley Mullen and Brynn Dahlquist have been hired to fill the two open 50% Mail Department Assistant I positions. After training is completed, FVRL will now offer Saturday mail service. Kelly Ackley, the Purchasing/Mail Supervisor is working with the training the new staff.

Frank Matlock has developed a database that will allow branches to order supplies online. The Battle Ground branch has graciously agreed to be the alpha-testing site. If all goes well, the database will be set-up for all of the branches in September. This system allows the branches to order supplies from Purchasing, check order status and review backorders online. Purchasing will be able to download the information and automatically format for purchase orders to vendors. This is a huge step in automating the purchasing process.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Network issues and connectivity - our connections to the iNET are complete for all Clark County branches. The iNET provided gigabit communication speeds. All other branches are now on T-1 connections, except North Bonneville. We have made changes to the firewall to resolve Pharos communication problems at several branches. In September, we will move our internet access T-1 lines to the K-20 project, which will provide substantial savings.

Internet/Print Management - This will be the replacement of the current Pharos system and allow charging for internet and other electronic printing. The committee will be ready to issue an RFP in August, with demonstrations of vendor systems in late September or early October.

System Migration - This is the evaluation and investigation of the existing automated library system (Dynix) and what options are available for migrating to a new system. 10 committees have been formed made up of both library staff and representatives from the contract libraries (Clark College, Camas Public and SWMC). The committees are working on needs

assessment for the various functions performed by Dynix. This phase should last through September.

HUMAN RESOURCES/ADMIN SERVICES

Debbie Hose has joined the Administrative Services staff as a Sr. Administrative Assistant. 50% of Debbie's position is funded by the Foundation the other 50% is providing clerical and technical support for assigned library staff and assisting with secretarial support functions.

Sub-Finder has been installed, training is in progress and implementation in Clark County is targeted for September 3, 2002. Clark County branches are beginning to enter substitute requests into the system, Clark County substitute staff will begin being scheduled through the automated system on September 3rd. The training has been well received by both supervisors and substitutes.

A Supervisory training series will begin this fall. This training will be made available to all FVRL supervisors. Instructors through Clark College Business and Industry Training will be conducting the sessions.

FACILITIES

The wood sculpture in Vancouver Community Library has been cleaned and refurbished. Also, the curbs and east parking lot have been painted and stripped.

FVRL Board Report

Sue Vanlaanen, Associate Director-Communications
August 12, 2002

Service awareness campaign

Focus on seniors: July-August

Our focus on seniors will continue through the end of August, with a bylined article about large-print books in Senior Messenger and ads running in all newspapers and senior publications serving the district. We've distributed the service awareness survey to 1,075 residents in Klickitat County through the county's senior services newsletter, and I'm arranging with Clark College's mature learning program to distribute the survey to their senior students in early September.

I should have the results of both the family and seniors surveys in September.

Focus on teens: September-November

I'm working with Obie Media to develop transit ads – panels on the sides of busses and ad cards inside vehicles – to begin in late September to reach Clark County teens. I'm also looking into using movie theater on-screen advertising, radio ads in Klickitat County, high-school audio/video announcements, exterior/interior banners at branches, and some type of outside-funded giveaway token to supplement the teen-focus posters we'll distribute in branches and communities. Unlike previous campaigns, the focus on teens will not be promoted primarily through newspaper ads, since statistics show that teens are not generally newspaper readers.

Bookmobile

We're working on cost information and design ideas for exterior graphics for the three new bookmobiles on order. Brenda Cameron, Jeanne Heikkinen and I have looked at many examples of library bookmobiles and "mobile technology labs" as we determine what visual message the new vehicles should carry. One possibility I'm considering as we finalize the bookmobile design is providing two or three design options (all acceptable to us) to District constituents and taking a public vote on the preferred design. This would allow us to build good public visibility and heightened anticipation for delivery of the new vehicles and whatever events we plan to celebrate their arrival.

FVRL Board Report

Rick Smithrud, Foundation Director

August 12, 2002

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Grant

The Washington State Historical Society has selected FVRL Foundation as recipient of the Washington Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Community and Tribal Assistance Grants Program. One of the only three organizations to be selected for an award, the Foundation will receive \$12,050 to add new books and materials. In addition, the grant will help fund the development of a curriculum guide that will assist library patrons and scholars doing research on Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery.

Piecing Together the Fabric of the Community

The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington has awarded the FVRL Foundation a grant of \$1,477 to support the Library's Live @ your Library program. "Piecing Together the Fabric of the Community includes a series of author appearances, displays and programs. The grant supplements funding provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, Wallace – Reader's Digest Funds, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Target Foundation

On July 23, 2002 the Target Foundation held a special ceremony in honor of the opening of a new Target store on 164th Avenue in Vancouver, WA. As part of the ceremony the Target Foundation presented the FVRL Foundation with a check for \$1,000. The gift will be used to help underwrite the cost of the Library District's biannual Bookmark Contest for children in grades K thru 8.

Sprint Foundation

On August 1, 2002 the FVRL Foundation received \$1,000 from the Sprint Foundation. This contribution represents a gift matching a donation given earlier by a Sprint employee. Both the original gift and the matching gift funds will be used for the benefit of the White Salmon Valley branch.

Dorsey S. Lewis Estate

On August 5, 2002 the FVRL Foundation received 1,250 shares of Wyeth Corporation stock as part of a distribution from the Estate of Dorsey S. Lewis. As of August 12, 2002 the value of this stock transfer is \$52,437.50.

New Brochure

Attached is a copy of the new 2002-2003 FVRL Foundation Brochure. Copies of this brochure will be made available at all 12 library branches. Additional copies will be used as supporting material in grant applications, sponsorship packages, and direct mail solicitations.