

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
June 23, 2022
Held Virtually
12:00 Noon

Present: Mr. Seifullah, Mr. Corrigan, Ms. Rodriguez,
Mr. Hairston, Mr. Parker

Absent: Ms. Butts, Ms. Thomas

Ms. Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Motion to Temporarily Suspend the Regulations

Ms. Rodriguez stated that because this is a Special Board Meeting, there was no Finance Committee Meeting previously scheduled and moved to temporarily suspend the Regulations of the Board of Trustees in Article IX and X requiring referral of resolutions to committees, to consider the following resolutions. Mr. Corrigan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Settle Claims and Litigation Up to the Amount of \$75,000

Ms. Rodriguez moved approval of the following resolution. Mr. Parker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

WHEREAS, From time to time, claims and lawsuits, including administrative claims, are filed or lodged against the Cleveland Public Library and its officers and employees; and

WHEREAS, In some cases it is in the best interests of the Library to settle a lawsuit or claim for a small or modest monetary sum rather than incur the costs of litigation and subject the Library to the possibility of a large judgment for damages; and

WHEREAS, Certain courts and administrative agencies require that the Library have full settlement authority

**MOTION TO
TEMPORARILY
SUSPEND THE
REGULATIONS**
Approved

**RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING
THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR TO
SETTLE CLAIMS
AND LITIGATION
UP TO THE
AMOUNT OF
\$75,000**
Approved

at mediations, arbitrations, and pretrials when settlement negotiations are likely to take place; and

WHEREAS, Because the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library only meets regularly once a month it is not always possible to obtain Board authorization prior to a settlement negotiation; and

WHEREAS, Therefore, this Board desires to grant the Executive Director standing authority to settle claims and litigation up to an amount not- to exceed \$75,000; now therefore be it

RESOLVED That the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library hereby grants the Executive Director, CEO, the authority to settle any claim or lawsuit, including any administrative claim, presented to or filed against the Library, its officers and/or employees, provided the settlement does not exceed Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) per claim, and further provided sufficient monies are available for the payment of the settlement amount. This authority shall be in effect from the date of this Resolution for a period of one (1) year, after which time the Director's authority shall be \$40,000 per claim. Said settlement must be approved by the Director of Legal Affairs, who will notify the Board of Trustees as soon as possible after a settlement is reached.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that this item was discussed at length during a recent Executive Session.

Mr. Corrigan stated that since the days of former library director Marilyn Mason, this traditional amount of \$35,000 had been set and has remained unchanged. Perhaps it is time to consider raising the amount to a higher number.

Ms. Rodriguez agreed that this was mentioned during the discussion that it has been 30 years without an adjustment.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that perhaps this issue can be revisited and discussed in greater detail at the upcoming Regular Board Meeting in September.

Mr. Parker stated that, for the record, he would be in favor of a higher amount and looked forward to the discussion in September.

In agreement, Mr. Hairston expressed that an increased amount would give the Director more authority and flexibility to address settlement claims so that issues would not have to come before the Board as often.

Ms. Rodriguez adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Maritza Rodriguez
President

Thomas D. Corrigan
Secretary