1. Call to Order

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

   The GVPL Board recognizes and acknowledges the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and
   Songhees Nations on which the Central Branch is located, and Board Meetings take place.

3. Introductions

4. Consent Agenda

   4.1. Approval of Agenda
   4.2. Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2021 Attachment 4.2
   4.3. Chair Report Attachment 4.3
   4.4. CEO Report Attachment 4.4
   4.5. Board Liaison Updates Attachment 4.5
       4.5.1. Friends of the Library
       4.5.2. BC Library Trustees Association
       4.5.3. IslandLink Library Federation

Motion to Approve

5. Chair’s Remarks

6. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

7. Committee Reports

   7.1. Policy and Planning Committee – Oral Report For Information
   7.2. Finance Committee- Oral Report For Information

8. New Business

9. In Camera Meeting

10. Next Meeting Date

   October 26, 2021 12:00pm – 1:00pm

11. Adjournment
An electronic meeting of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board was held on the above date. The following individuals were in attendance:

**Board Members:**
- Trustee M. Alto
- Trustee A. Appleton
- Trustee E. Beaton
- Trustee D. Begoray
- Trustee M. Boyd
- Trustee J. Davis
- Trustee E. Glover
- Trustee K. Harper
- Trustee A. Holthuis
- Trustee D. Kobayashi
- Trustee G. Lemon
- Trustee A. MacKinnon
- Trustee K. Roessingh
- Trustee K. Santini
- Trustee D. Seaton
- Trustee B. Thompson
- Trustee J. Vermeulen

**Staff**
- M. Sawa, CEO/Board Secretary
- P. McKinnon, Director, Finance & Facilities
- J. Weissl, Director, People & Culture
- J. Windecker, Director, Library Services, Innovation & Delivery
- F. Ferreira, President CUPE 410
- A. Smart, Recording Secretary
- E. Russell, Incumbent Executive Assistant
- K. Ridgway, Coordinator, Marketing and Development

**Regrets:**
- Trustee M. Sahlstrom

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

   Trustee Holthuis called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm

2. **INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

   Trustee Holthuis provided the Indigenous acknowledgement.

   Trustee MacKinnon arrived at 12:06 p.m.
3. CHAIR’S REMARKS

Trustee MacKinnon delivered the Chair’s remarks. Acknowledgement and thanks were given to Temporary Executive Assistant Araceli for her service.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Alto, Seconded by Trustee Roessingh

THAT the Consent Agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED

M. Sawa reported that there was a small error noted in the May 25, 2021, Regular Board Meeting minutes section 8.1 that will be amended.

Moved by Trustee Santini & Trustee Roessingh

THAT the May 25, 2021 amended minutes be approved. MOTION CARRIED

5. OFFICERS REPORTS

5.1 Chair Report

Trustee MacKinnon provided the Chair Report.

5.2 CEO Report

M. Sawa provided the CEO Report and welcomed new Executive Assistant Erika Russell.

Phase 3 of GVPL’s service restoration plan is near completion. Kudos to staff for their efforts.

Trustee Alto reported that at the June 24th City of Victoria Committee of the Whole meeting a presentation will be given regarding a proposed plan for completion of a feasibility study to inform the development of a new central library branch. An update will be provided at the September meeting.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

6.1 Support of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) at GVPL- Staff Report

M. Sawa reviewed the EDIA Staff report that was prepared for the Board Members, highlighting the activities and achievements to date.

Trustee Alto requested that the Board receive a regular update on GVPL staff progress in support of the stated EDIA goals.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Policy and Planning Committee Meeting June 1, 2021-Oral Report
Trustee Kobayashi provided the Policy and Planning Committee Report.

7.1.1 Strategic Bridging Plan 2021-2023 Motion to Approve

Moved by Trustee Kobayashi, Seconded by Trustee Appleton

THAT the Strategic Bridging Plan 2021-2023 be Approved  

MOTION CARRIED

7.1.2 GVPL Regional Service Delivery Plan 2020 Motion to Approve

Trustee Kobayashi provided an update on the GVPL Regional Service Delivery Plan 2020

Moved by Trustee Kobayashi, Seconded by Trustee Appleton

THAT the GVPL Board of Trustees approve in principle the GVPL Regional Library Service Plan as provided and direct staff to (a) create an introduction to the report to provide additional context in 2021, (b) incorporate feedback from the June 12 workshop into the introduction; and (c) include revised population statistics in the introduction

MOTION CARRIED

8. FUTURE BUSINESS

8.1 2021 Public Library Grants Award Letter

Trustee MacKinnon provided a background and overview of the recent history of provincial funding for public libraries and recent advocacy initiatives. M. Sawa and P. McKinnon responded to questions regarding provincial funding for public libraries. Suggestions for follow up were discussed.

9. BOARD LIASON UPDATES

9.1 Friends of the Library (FOL)

Trustee Santini provided the FOL update. A fall book sale at the Pearkes Arena is being planned, pending current provincial health guidelines.

9.2 BC Library Trustees Association (BCLTA)

Trustee Glover provided the BCLTA update and encouraged to read the BCLA bulletin. https://www.bclta.ca/bclta-bulletin/

9.3 IslandLink Library Federation

Trustee Davis provided the IslandLink Federation Report. Provincial funding for the Federation was received at the same funding level as 2021. The next FOL Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday October 30th.
G. Lemon left the meeting at 12:57

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

   September 28, 2021: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

   Moved by Trustee Davis, Seconded by Trustee Santini

   THAT the June 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting adjourn

   MOTION CARRIED

___________________________  ________________________
Committee Chair              Committee Secretary
I begin this report by welcoming Ramesh Ranjan, who is the newly appointed citizen representative to the library board for the City of Victoria. Vice-Chair Holthuis and I had the pleasure of meeting Ramesh earlier this month and we look forward to introducing him at this month’s board meeting.

While the full board has been on hiatus over the summer, there has been much board related activity over the last three months.

The Planning & Policy Committee met in July and September. I would like to thank Chair & Vice-Chair Doug Kobayashi and Andrew Appleton for their leadership and all members who participated in the discussions. The Finance Committee met in August & September, and I extend thanks to Chair & Vice-Chair Karen Harper and Matt Boyd for their leadership as well as to everyone who contributed. Reports from both committees will be presented at the September 28 Board meeting.

Along with various board committee activities, Vice-Chair Holthuis and I have been working with staff to revamp the format of our regular board meeting agendas. We have expanded the content of the consent agenda to include additional written reports so that more meeting time will be available for discussion. The Board Extranet and Board Handbook have also been reviewed. Thanks to GVPL’s Executive Assistant, Erika Russell, for updating, revising, and streamlining both. We will be asking for your feedback regarding all of these changes as we move forward.

The support of Vice-Chair Holthuis has been invaluable to me this year and it is with regret that I announce that Annemieke’s term as citizen representative for the District of Saanich will come to an end in December. We will have the opportunity to recognize Annemieke’s considerable contributions to the Board before the end of this year. Members of the board who might be interested in the position of Vice-Chair in 2022 are encouraged to contact Annemieke or myself to talk about the role.

We were sorry to postpone the planned board social event in September due to growing concerns about COVID-19 numbers in our region. We really hoped to see everyone in person and are looking ahead for opportunities later in the season to get together.

As you know, September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Time will be allocated at the beginning of the September 28 Board meeting for the board to pause and reflect. I appreciate Trustee Alto’s support and guidance in facilitating this for us.

As described in this month’s CEO report, Phase Four of the library’s service restoration plan is near completion. I am delighted by the progress that has been made by staff over the summer to restore services. My thanks to everyone involved.

The coming months will continue to be busy ones for our board, not only with the launch of our 2021-2023 Strategic Bridge Plan and related activities, but with the much-anticipated relocation and opening of the Esquimalt Branch in Esquimalt Town Square. I hope that all trustees will be able to attend the presentation by Geoff Bird of Justason Market Intelligence Inc. to discuss the results of the 2021 GVPL Perception Survey. If you have not already done so, please respond to the poll that was sent out with the board package to indicate your preference for dates.

I look forward to seeing you all on September 28.

Andy
I am pleased to share highlights of community inspired service initiatives undertaken by staff over the summer months as well as provide updates on ongoing priorities.

**BC Summer Reading Club 2021**

This year’s BC Summer Reading Club (SRC) was a tremendous success, with over 7500 young GVPL readers registered for the program. The annual BC SRC program connects children 12 years and under with reading adventures, augmented by library programs and activities. Building on this year’s theme ‘Crack the Case’, GVPL staff presented virtual programs in partnership with such community organizations as the Royal BC Museum along with a variety of ‘live’ programs outdoors such as StoryWalk® and Storytimes. Enhancing these offerings were a range of staff produced activities such as ‘Take and Make’ bags. Feedback from children, parents and caregivers was very positive as this comment from an enthusiastic parent reflects:

“This program, our libraries and library workers are a treasure and I don’t know what you could do to make them any better. You are awesome and we so appreciate your hard work!! Many thanks!”

91% of parents and caregivers responding to our online participant survey indicated that they believe the program maintains or increases their child’s reading skills.

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30**

While GVPL branches will be closed on September 30, recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will take place throughout the week at all locations. In addition to our ongoing ‘215+’ campaign, special displays and resources will be presented to enhance and support public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools. Every staff member has been provided with a special edition orange t-shirt, created by Carey Newman, whose traditional name is Hayalthkin’geme, a multi-disciplinary Indigenous artist, master carver, filmmaker, author and public speaker. Here is a description of the t-shirt:

“This design was made to honour the children who died in residential school. The hearts express love for all those in unmarked graves and compassion for the families and communities who waited for them to be found. The small and colourful hands remind us of the uniqueness and beauty of every child. Taken together, they represent our commitment to listen to our hearts and use our hands, to do the work that needs to be done.”
215+

On June 1, 2021, we shared the first of 215 resources on our social media channels as part of an effort to support learning, unlearning, and relearning about the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples throughout Canada’s history. This campaign was GVPL’s response to the confirmation of 215 children’s remains in unmarked graves at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School by the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation in late May 2021. We invite everyone to learn along with us by following our daily posts on Facebook and Twitter.

Ideas to Go

In late 2020 GVPL launched the “Ideas to Go” virtual programs. The aim of the series was to spark enthusiasm for learning a new skill or discovering a hobby and connect our librarians to patrons virtually. Ten episodes were produced with topics that ranged from virtual reality to romance. Last week the final episode in this series was released and it highlights our Climate Action To-Go Kits. Thanks to all staff for their work in creating and producing the series.

Victoria Book Prize 2021

GVPL is once again contributing to the City of Victoria Children’s Book Prize and the City of Victoria Butler Book prize annual awards. This year, the winners will be announced at a free online event, hosted by CBC’s Gregor Craigie, on Sunday October 3 at 7 p.m. as part of the Victoria Festival of Authors. Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance via the Victoria Book Prizes website: victoriabookprizes.ca. More information about the event can be found here.

Service Restoration

The summer months were busy with ongoing expansion of public spaces in our branch locations, including the reopening of the second floor of the Central Branch with additional public computers, bookable study spaces and expanded sit-down spaces. We were especially pleased to fully reopen the Saanich Centennial Branch – a notable milestone that has been nearly two years in the making since the flood of August 2019. A selection of print newspapers is now available at all branches with additional titles coming in January 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all staff who have worked so hard to expand and refresh our public spaces. Again, the creativity and ingenuity of our staff is greatly appreciated.
**Esquimalt Branch Project**

We continue to work closely with Township of Esquimalt staff as the Esquimalt Branch relocation to its new space in the Esquimalt Town Square project progresses towards completion.

**Central Branch Feasibility Study**

As noted at the June Board meeting, a City of Victoria staff report on a feasibility study to inform the development of a new central branch Project Plan was presented to the City of Victoria’s Council Committee of the Whole meeting on June 24th. Council approved the proposed project plan in July. GVPL staff are working to support our municipal colleagues in moving the plan forward.

**GVPL Regional Service Delivery Plan**

With the addition of the July 2021 introduction, GVPL’s Regional Service Delivery Plan was posted to the GVPL website in July. The first set of meetings with administrators of our 10 member municipalities to introduce the plan took place in August and continued in September. Daphne Wood, Director of IT & Planning, joined me to provide an orientation to the plan, answer questions and gather preliminary feedback from our administrative colleagues. Nine of the 10 meetings have taken place to date.

**2021-2023 Strategic Bridging Plan**

As approved by the Board in June, the two-year strategic bridging plan considers the current operating environment and leads us to the future state of possibilities and opportunities. The strategic priorities and goals were introduced to staff and details regarding the public launch of the plan in October during BC Library Month will be forthcoming.

**GVPL’s Middle Childhood & Tween Literacy Portfolio**

Finally, I am pleased to provide you with the latest video presentation by GVPL’s Library Services Portfolio Librarians. The intent of these presentation is to share with you information on our community-inspired library services. This month, we are featuring GVPL’s Middle Childhood & Tween Literacy Portfolio. This portfolio plays a vital role in the coordination and delivery of literacy-based services for school-aged children between the ages of 5 and 12 years. The scope of this portfolio includes coordination of Summer Reading Club, Free Comic Book Day, programs for Home Learners, author and storyteller visits, and other literacy-based programming for this age group. The portfolio also provides support to frontline staff in the delivery of readers’ advisory. Here is a video overview of the portfolio prepared by Public Services Librarians Leah Pearse, Vruti Patel and Deborah van der Linde.
4.5.1 Friends of the Library - Kathy Santini

Plans for a book sale at the Pearkes arena in November 2021 have been deferred, as all 2021 bookings in the facility have been cancelled, and no new bookings for 2022 are currently being accepted. Consequently, the Friends are actively pursuing the Westshore Rec Centre for a possible sale in March 2022, COVID permitting. Thanks to Gabrielle Goudy and Dianna Seaton for spearheading and assisting in this. This will break new ground because while the Friends have had smaller pop-up sales plus a school sale in the Westshore and have distributed books to Westshore literacy and food-bank groups, they have never had a major sale in the Westshore.

4.5.2 BC Library Trustees Association - Elysia Glover

BCLTA Bulletin

The September BCLTA Bulletin is available online.

A reminder that you can read past issues and subscribe directly. Workshops, meet-ups and more are open to all library trustees in BC (not just representatives). To review upcoming offerings, please refer to the bulletin and the Events and Learning and Development sections of the BCLTA website: www.bclta.ca

AGM

The 2021 AGM will take place on October 26th, starting at 7PM (Pacific Time) via Zoom.

- 7pm Pacific Time
- Watch the 2021 AGM page and the Bulletin for agenda, resolutions, and nomination updates
- Member boards, represented by their trustee delegate(s), are able to vote
- BCLTA welcomes all BC public library trustees and library directors to attend the AGM

All members are invited to participate in the AGM and library directors are welcome to attend as guests. Each attendee is required to register.

To register email Babs Kelly (babs.kelly@bclta.ca) with:

- your name
- the name of your BC public library board
- your role (trustee, board chair or library director)

BCLTA is very pleased to announce that Dr. Alvin M. Schrader will be the guest speaker at the 2021 BCLTA AGM.

Dr. Alvin M. Schrader will speak on intellectual freedom and public libraries and there will be time for questions before the business portion of the AGM begins at about 7:30PM.

Alvin is a well known and respected library leader and is professor emeritus with the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta and an adjunct professor with the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services in the University's Faculty of Education.
Please read more about Dr. Alvin M. Schrader [here](#).

**Advocacy**

Earlier this month, the BC Public Library Partners (made up of representatives from the BC Libraries Coop, BCLA, BCLTA, and ABCPLD) presented to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on Sept 1, asking the province to increase funding for public libraries to $22 million in 2022.

The Partners also advocated for increased provincial funding to public libraries at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention from September 14-17.

**2021 Call to Action**

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services is holding public consultations on the 2022 provincial budget in August and September.

The BC Public Library Partners (the Partners) have submitted an application to present to the Committee and will be sharing messages about the value of public libraries and the advocacy ask for $22 million in 2022.

The Partners and BCLTA encourage you to participate in this consultation process and lend your voice to highlight the important role that public libraries play in your community.

You can participate in a few ways:

1. Fill out the [online survey](#) by September 30.
2. Send in comments in writing or in audio/video format by September 30.

The consultation closes on September 30th.

The Partners have prepared key messages if you’d like to incorporate these in your comments. These messages are important but it’s your personal stories that will really bring this alive.

**Key Messages for 2021 Budget Consultations** (for the 2022 provincial budget).

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**4.5.3 IslandLink Library Federation- Joy Davis**

The Fall meeting of the IslandLink Library Federation Board will take place on Salt Spring Island on Saturday, October 30, 2021.