The Larchmont Public Library Board of Trustees met on at April 15, 2009 at 6:30 PM. Present were Board Chair Miriam Curnin, Trustees David Birch, Pamela Dubitsky, Joan Macfarlane, Maureen LeBlanc, Carolyn Parlato and John McGarr; Town of Mamaroneck Liaison Valerie O’Keeffe; Village of Larchmont Liaison Marlene Kolbert; Friends of the Library Liaison Harriet Kline and Library Director Diane Courtney.

The minutes of the Board meeting of March 11, 2009 were approved unanimously upon motion of Carolyn Parlato, seconded by Joan Macfarlane. The minutes of the special Board meeting of March 27, 2009 were unanimously approved upon motion of Maureen LeBlanc, seconded by John McGarr.

The schedule of bills dated April 6, 2009 was unanimously approved upon motion by Maureen LeBlanc, seconded by David Birch. The schedule of bills dated April 15, 2009 included payment to WB Engineers for the invoices received before the Library terminated them. Previous attempts to negotiate this amount were futile and the Board had already received WB’s most recent communication in which they threatened to sue the Library for a far larger amount if the payment of $13,581 was not made. After weighing the time and legal costs involved, the Board instructed the Director to pay WB, as well as the other payees listed on the April 15 schedule of bills, but to send WB’s check with a letter that refuted WB’s allegations and ensure that this payment is in full accord and satisfaction of all liens and debts. This motion was made by Carolyn Parlato, seconded by Joan Macfarlane and was carried by a 6 to 1 vote.

The Board received the budget performance report dated April 15, 2009. Trustee McGarr noted that the oil tank expense, which currently shows in the operating budget, should be moved to the capital budget. The Director will raise this with the Village Treasurer.

Harriet Kline, Liaison of the Friends of the Larchmont Public Library, reported that the Friends did 3 mailings in April: one that announced the slate of officers and inviting everyone to the annual meeting on May 12, one to solicit support for the annual magazine subscription program, and one announcing the April 19 program with the local authors of the Westchester Review. She also noted that Board Chair Curnin will also receive the check for the additional gift of $25,000 the Friends are making to the Children’s Room Renovation. The Friends will also have their annual Read-In at the Library on Saturday, April 18 to celebrate National Library Week. Lastly, Ms. Kline reported that the March 29 program in which Bridget Paolucci presented her final lecture on opera was a resounding success.

The Director reported that there had been great Children’s programs during the school vacation and briefly described them.

She noted that Staff Appreciation day is slated for 4/16, which coincides with National Library week and invited all board members.
The CSEA unit has a new labor representative, so it is hoped and expected that negotiations for a new labor contract will commence soon. There has been some progress on grants. $72,000 of the awarded $80,000 from the NYS Public Library Construction Grant was received. In addition, paperwork has come through from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, giving us hope that the $100,000 CCAP grant promised by State Senator Suzie Oppenheimer may be viable. The Board received a thank you for the donation of four computer monitors previously declared surplus equipment from the Fresh Air Fund Camp Vacamus. Board Chair Curnin reported on the status of the Children’s Room Renovations. Due to fiscal concerns, the lobbies will become smaller and square, but this sacrifice is necessary to keep the focus and priority on the Children’s Room itself. A meeting is slated for Friday, April 17.

The Board received the Library’s annual report to the State of New York. Upon motion of Carolyn Parlato, seconded by Pamela Dubitsky, the Board unanimously approved the annual report and directed that it be submitted to the state. The Board then considered the request of Paul Cantor that the Library archive materials related to the participation of local residents in World War II and student essays related to the subject. The Director noted that she had spoken with Mr. Cantor in an effort to ascertain quantity and formats of materials, but he has no data at this time. He is also looking at the high school, Mamaroneck Library and the Historical Society as places to archive these materials, and envisions the duplicated archives in all four places. It has also been suggested that a website might be the best way to preserve and disseminate this information. He sees no motion on this until the next academic year, so there was no reason for the LPL Board to take any action at this time. The Board applauded his efforts and asked the Director to express our gratitude and our hope that digital dissemination is the route chosen.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be May 13, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Courtney
Library Director