

## **Fact-Checking Mary Sue Bancroft's August 8th Town Hall Meeting**

- Pamunkey Regional Library does not provide any building for any branch library in the system. Each county is responsible for providing the building for the libraries in their county. Moving the Upper King William Branch to another location would NOT require leaving PRL. PRL is not the reason why the UKW branch is at the Sharon Road location; that is the county's responsibility and always has been.
- Funding for West Point Library was not referenced in any correspondence detailing plans of the new independent library. Though Mary Sue Bancroft claims it was always the Board's intention to have 2 libraries in the county, that is not evident based on any communications between county officials and the Library or Virginia or any other FOIA request.
- "If it costs us a little more, the citizens are worth it." Those were Bancroft's words at the Town Hall. However, this decision was earlier framed under the guise of a reduction in cost to the county.
- Bancroft claims, PRL's acting director, Jaime Stoops, stated that King William "would probably do very well in having [their] own independent library because of the resources for us and the size of the county lends to us having more resources than most." Jaime Stoops was contacted to confirm whether this was true and her reply was, "I heard about that from an attendee at the meeting and I emailed the King William Board members today to refute that statement that was incorrectly attributed to me."
- Bancroft discusses needing the libraries to open more hours. This could have been accomplished by meeting the budget request that PRL submitted to the Board earlier this year, totaling \$652,645. If the Board wouldn't mind paying more for libraries to receive less resources, why would they have an issue paying more for PRL? As she stated, "our citizens are worth it."
- Bancroft states that no member of the Board ever mentioned only funding one branch. If King William's Finance Director is only referencing one library building in his correspondence with LVA and County Administrator, Percy Ashcroft, is only mentioning one 12,000 square foot library building in his email to a county resident's FOIA request, then where did they get this one library idea from?
- Bancroft claims PRL "does not care what King William wants" She claims that Hanover County proposed "a 6 Board panel for them and 2 for us." This is odd, considering it leaves out Goochland County, who is also a member of PRL. However, currently, PRL's Library Board has 8 seats; 4 are for Hanover, 2 are for Goochland, and 2 are for King William. By the numbers, King William contributes 10.1% of PRL's budget; Goochland is 10.6%, and Hanover 64.8%; So, even if King William only had 2 seats on a 10 seat panel, it would still be a higher percentage (20%) than what they contribute to PRL's budget (10.1%).
- Bancroft stated, "Folks are afraid of what could go wrong instead of being excited about what could go right." Framing concerns about fiscal responsibility in providing library resources as having a "lack of excitement," is insulting and demeaning to every tax payer in King William.

- Mary Sue Bancroft claims that the Board of Supervisors would negotiate away from PRL revoking access to their resources from every King William resident. PRL policies are made by PRL's Library Board. Once they are no longer a member, King William cannot negotiate access to PRL's resources, as the Library Board's policies state that they cannot. Per PRL's Library Policies, pg. 33: "The Board of Trustees may determine that for any jurisdiction that departs the Pamunkey Regional Library system, the residents of that jurisdiction, regardless of their eligibility for a library card as set forth above, may be ineligible for a library card for a period of time."
- The Library of Virginia provided information on federal grants that are available to King William. These grants are NOT operating costs. The amount of those grants does not matter if you do not first know how much operating a library will actually cost. To make the decision to leave PRL without even knowing how much operating an independent library will cost is neither fiscally responsible nor logical.
- There is constant refrain about King William "not having a say" about what happens in PRL. There has never been any detail as to what residents are asking for that PRL has supposedly denied King William. PRL's Collections Department regularly reviews circulation numbers to provide resources to branches based on what their patrons check out. They also rotate resources periodically to give patrons in each community the opportunity to see different facets of the collection. Library staff at both Upper King William and West Point regularly ask patrons what programs they wish to see. The Library Board has no say in what books are added to the collection or what programs are put on in the branches; library personnel decide this.
- Pamunkey Regional Library is a non-profit. They operate off of county contributions and state funding, with a reserve fund; the same as King William County does. PRL's full budget is published every year and can be accessed here:  
<https://www.pamunkeylibrary.org/custom/web/content/FY2025%20Approved%20Budget%20v6.pdf>