

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ImagineIF Libraries Director Resigns

Kalispell, MT – After serving Flathead County for 12 years, ImagineIF Libraries Director Connie Behe announced that she is resigning her position as Library Director as of July 31, 2021. Behe has accepted the position of Deputy Director of Customer Experience at Pierce County Library in Tacoma, WA.

“It will be difficult to leave our vibrant library and excellent staff, not to mention this beautiful area, but it is time for me to take on new challenges. This move is a great opportunity for my family.” Behe said.

During her tenure as Assistant Director and then Library Director starting in 2018, Behe guided the library through many transitions to fulfill the library’s mission to provide safe and fair access to information. Behe said that Library staff have worked tirelessly over the past decade to streamline services and stay abreast of new formats and technology.

“I’m proud of what we have accomplished together, especially during the pandemic when we were able to open earlier and with fewer restrictions than most public libraries in Montana. Before the reopening in May 2020, we created a virtual branch within a week of the stay-at-home orders and offered expanded online services to ensure access to books and information at home.”

Over the years, Behe has worked with staff to streamline operations, focus on staff development, and to create an environment that encourages creativity and a focus on the library’s mission provide access to information and reading to everybody.

Behe said “As public servants, the library director and staff don’t get to cherry-pick which interests, perspectives, and values are represented through library materials and programs, even when it violates their own values and perspectives, or those of Trustees.

To serve the community the best, I recommend that the Trustees find a director who is dedicated to the mission of the library, not to their own personal agenda. Someone who will not bend to the will of the loudest patrons, the financially influential donors, nor the Board members themselves, but will listen to and consider all perspectives and make mission-driven decisions for the library and community. And, someone who understands their obligation to the public to be responsive, responsible, and transparent.”

The Library’s Board of Trustees will begin a search to hire a new Director after the July 22, 2021 Board meeting. At the meeting they will discuss the director recruitment and hiring process, and appoint the interim director. Find more information at:
<https://imagineiflibraries.org/board-meeting-documents/>

There will be a going away reception held for Behe at ImagineIF Libraries in Kalispell on July 30th from 3-5pm.

ImagineIF Libraries' mission is to provide safe and unfettered access to information for everyone in Flathead County. For more information, visit www.imagineiflibraries.org.

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