

ITEM ADDED TO AGENDA

FOR MEETING OF MARCH 27, 2023

SUBMITTED ON MARCH 27, 2023 BY AMANDA MOMBOURQUETTE

1. **ITEM:** Dolly Parton Imagination Library

2. **BACKGROUND:**

- (a) **Define/explain issue:** With the announcement of the closure of the Richmond County Literacy Network some time ago, the Board has been looking for an alternate organization to take on administering the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. RCLN has been sponsoring the Dolly Parton Imaginary Library program for about the last 10 years funded by golf tournaments. The impact has been significant; any child living in Richmond County between the ages of birth and 5 are eligible to sign up and receive a book each month. The Imaginary library provides the book free and RCLN has paid the postage. Currently there are 103 children on the list in our county and RCLN is unable financially to continue to fund this wonderful program. The cost of postage per child is about \$5.00 per month which results in a total cost of approximately \$6000 per year.

Given what we have learned through Ms. Melnick about Richmond County's status with regards to the Early Development Instrument which measures children's ability to meet age appropriate developmental expectations, the importance of this program in our County is high. Young children who have access to books at an early age have a better chance for success as they start their formal education.

Through discussions with RCLN, Troy and Shannon have been in discussions with Eastern Counties Regional Libraries to look at taking over this service provision in Richmond County, and the associated costs. Talks are still ongoing.

- (b) **Outcome Requested:** Information Update Only.

3. **STAFF COMMENTS:**