**Community Conversation about Library Accessibility
August 27, 2024**

Question: How do you use the library?

* Attending programs
* Books
* Libby & digital services
* Book club
* Audiobooks for travel
* Safe haven
* After school
* Magazines
* Newspapers
* Water

Question: How can we make these services more accessible?

* Staff training on working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
* Staff training on mental health
* Staff constantly updating resources for the sight impaired or for the aging
* Listing of library events via phone
* Information or someone to help sight impaired people operate technology
* More formal training for seniors on technology
* A Library of Things listing on paper
* A sign that reads – “If you have questions about tech, just ask”
* Activities in the parking lot for kids in chairs (this was meaning that when we hold outdoor events, grass is uneven and does not work for those that use wheelchairs. The suggestion was that if we used the parking lot, this would work well for those using chairs.)
* Fix the phone menu so that no buttons are required to be pushed to talk to a real person
* Talking magazines
* Small sound proof area to work
* Sound buffering
* Wheelchair ramp – check location & size
* Check emergency exits for accessibility
* Check emergency plans for accessibility

Question: How would you like to use the library?

* Help with BARD reader
* Sensory time for kids – lower lights, quieter, etc. (TBHS has Carter Kits that we could request)
* Space to work with no distractions
* Book club for book clubs – an evening for book clubs to come and learn about what resources that we have
* Weekly short story reading – Partner with drama department at high school? Possibly hold at a restaurant or somewhere at 1pm or 3:30p-4p
* Including books in the collection that include people with disabilities
* Story time for adults

Question: Whose perspectives might be missing in this conversation?

* Senior citizens
* Residents of adult foster homes
* Emotionally challenged

Actions that we have taken as a result of that conversation and the research we have done around this grant:

-We changed our phone system so that if you just wait on the line, you are connected to a live person.

-We have installed noise dampening panels in our study room to reduce distractions and aide in concentration.

-We are had sound masking installed in our study room to reduce distractions and aide in concentration.

-We upgraded our sound system in the Community Room and have a great audio/microphone system.

-We will be starting a program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in January 2025.

-We have added a large collection of VOX books. These are picture and chapter books with audio players included. The act of reading and listening at the same time is great for beginning readers, low readers, people with print disabilities, and families.

-We have added large print teen and tween books. There is a large body of research that says these are great for those with ADHD and reading disabilities, as well as those with some sight disabilities.