

**Rapides Parish Library  
Board of Control  
November 19, 2024**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:32 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by President Le'Anza Jordan.

Board members present were Ms. Jordan, Ms. June Arrington, Ms. Dana Cox, Ms. Donna Rivers Doyle, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Ms. Suelynne Mickey, Mr. James Morgan, and Mr. Morris Taft Thomas.

Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper and six members of library staff.

Ms. Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Agenda**

Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Minutes**

Ms. Mickey motioned to approve the minutes of the September meeting, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Financial Report**

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the September and October financial reports. The September report reflected payment for the new phone and payroll systems, as well as a deposit of book sale revenue into the Friends Endowment fund. The October report showed donations from the Friends of the Library toward branch programming, and grounds keeping and property insurance expenses.

It was noted that the "Year-to-Date" column was cut off in the October report. Ms. Dubrock will issue a corrected report to the Board.

Ms. Mickey motioned to approve the September financial report, seconded by Mr. Morgan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Cox motioned to approve the October financial report, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Reech-Harper provided information on maintenance projects, State Library databases, and recent events. Additionally, she requested a Board opinion regarding a library closure on the Saturday after the Thanksgiving holiday. The closure would not be a paid holiday; staff would be encouraged to schedule their hours appropriately and use leave time as needed to cover the closure. The unanimous opinion of the Board was to allow the closure.

### **Direct Services Report**

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton extended the library's November promotion, "Attitude of Gratitude," to the Board, thanking them for their work on behalf of Direct Services staff.

### **Human Resources Report**

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown distributed the Director's evaluation documents to the Board, with instructions that they be completed and returned by December 17.

Ms. Brown presented Janitorial Technician Molonee Williams for ratification. Ms. Arrington motioned to ratify the employment of Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

### **Programming & Outreach Report**

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported on the success of the Letters From Santa and Tiny Art Show programs.

### **IT Report**

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on recent AT&T outages in several local communities and updates to library computers.

### **Public Relations Report**

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller highlighted the success of November's "Attitude of Gratitude" promotion.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Jordan welcomed new Board member Ms. Donna Rivers Doyle.

### **New Business**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Committee Chair Dana Cox recommended the following slate of 2025 Officers to the Board:

- Suelynn Mickey – President
- James Morgan – Vice President
- June Arrington – Treasurer

Mr. Thomas motioned to appoint Ms. Mickey to the position of President, seconded by Ms. Arrington. No further nominations were put forth. The motion passed by majority vote.

Ayes: Arrington, Cox, Doyle, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey, Thomas

Nays: Morgan

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Ms. Arrington motioned to appoint Mr. Morgan to the position of Vice President, seconded by Ms. Cox. No further nominations were put forth. On vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mickey motioned to appoint Ms. Arrington to the position of Treasurer, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. No further nominations were put forth. On vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Chair June Arrington opened the floor to discussion of the 2025 budget. Ms. Dubrock distributed the proposed budget and reviewed it in detail with the Board.

Upon completion of the review, Ms. Arrington recommended on behalf of the Finance Committee that the proposed 2025 Budget be considered by Library Board of Control for public hearing at the December regular meeting, and that the Library Director prepare and release two notices to *The Town Talk* as public notice. Ms. Mickey so moved, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Hobbs, Chair of the Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee, reported that the committee had met on November 4 to consider a reconsideration request for the children's graphic novel *Cross My Heart and Never Lie* by Nora Dasnes. The submitter requested that the item be reconsidered under LA RS 25:225 for age-restricted reclassification based on depictions of nudity. Copies of the request and minutes of the committee meeting were provided for the full Board to review.

Ms. Hobbs reported that the committee found no explicit or sexual nudity in their review of the material. On behalf of the Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee, Ms. Hobbs recommended that the title remain as it is currently catalogued and placed in the library's collection. Ms. Cox so moved, seconded by Ms. Arrington.

Mr. Morgan put forth a substitute motion that the matter be tabled until such time as the Rapides Parish Police Jury appoints a District C representative to the Library Board of Control. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Morgan put forth a substitute motion to move the material to the Adult Fiction section. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Returning to the original motion, which had been moved and seconded, the motion passed by majority vote:

Ayes: Arrington, Cox, Doyle, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey, Thomas

Nays: Morgan

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Cox motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Celise Reech-Harper  
Secretary

Le'Anza Jordan  
President

November 2024