

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
January 28, 2025**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by Board President Suelynne Mickey.

Board members present were Ms. Mickey, Ms. June Arrington, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Ms. Le'Anza Jordan, and Mr. James Morgan. Ms. Dana Cox, Ms. Donna Rivers Doyle, and Mr. Morris Taft Thomas were absent. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper and seven members of staff.

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

Agenda

Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Minutes

Ms. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of the December meeting, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Financial Report

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the November financial report, which showed e-rate disbursement and payment for fees and facilities repairs. Ms. Arrington motioned to accept the financial report, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Director's Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on various library business including an anticipated RPL mobile app and a delay in Westside Regional Library roofing replacement due to weather conditions.

Direct Services Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on an upcoming managers' meeting and an expansion to the artwork at the King Branch's African American Cultural Heritage Center slated for February.

Human Resources Report

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown announced that the Manager position at Martin Branch has been filled, and hiring is open for floating Circulation/Reference clerks. She invited Ms. Mickey, as Board President, to present Celise Reech-Harper with a 5-year service award.

Programming & Outreach Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on recent outreach activities and upcoming expansions to STEM programming.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux announced that a backup internet service has been installed to reduce downtime from AT&T outages. She stated that a new online catalog and mobile app are forthcoming.

Public Relations Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on program promotions, including the AACHC celebration in February.

New Business

Personnel Committee Chair Le'Anza Jordan reported that the committee had reviewed the Director's annual evaluation results. On majority vote, the committee approved the recommendation of a 5% salary increase for the Director based on evaluation scores in the "Exceeds Expectations" range from both board members and staff. Ms. Arrington motioned to accept the committee's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. With four votes in favor (Arrington, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey) and one opposed (Morgan), the motion passed by majority vote.

The 2025 regular Board meeting dates were reviewed. Due to the weather closure on January 21, the January meeting date was changed to January 28. Ms. Arrington motioned to adopt the revised meeting schedule, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The 2025 board committee assignments were reviewed. Ms. Jordan motioned to accept the assignments. Ms. Hobbs seconded, and on unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Mickey requested an item be added to the agenda regarding name tags for Board members. The board unanimously agreed to add the agenda item.

Ms. Mickey asked if name tags could be made available for Board members who may choose to wear them during library visits and events. Ms. Arrington motioned that name tags be ordered for Board members, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On vote, the motion unanimously passed.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2025 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Jordan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey
President