

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
March 18, 2025**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:37 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. Dana Cox, Ms. Donna Rivers Doyle, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Ms. Le'Anza Jordan, Mr. James Morgan, and Mr. Morris Taft Thomas. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper and nine members of staff.

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

Agenda

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

Minutes

Ms. Cox motioned to approve the minutes of the January meeting, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Financial Report

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the December financial report, which showed that final spending for 2024 was \$1,050, 364.45 less than budgeted. Ms. Dubrock requested that the Board consider a proposed addendum to the 2024 budget to allow for additional spending to make use of the overage funds.

Ms. Dubrock submitted the Library's proposal of projects. Mr. Morgan asserted that not enough time was given to consider the proposal, while Ms. Mickey urged action on time-sensitive items. Following discussion, Ms. Arrington motioned for the Board to consider and vote on each item individually, seconded by Ms. Cox. With seven votes in favor (Arrington, Cox, Doyle, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey, Thomas) and one opposed (Morgan), the motion passed by majority vote.

Votes on individual project items and their funding were as follows:

A return to the EBS payroll system, to include upgrades and additional HR software integration - \$50,000. Ms. Jordan motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Cox. The motion passed by majority vote (In favor: Arrington, Cox, Doyle, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey, Thomas; Opposed: Morgan).

Moveable shelving and furniture updates at four locations - \$400,000. Ms. Jordan motioned to table this item pending further information and a breakdown of costs. Mr. Morgan seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Begin the process of Huie-Dellmon House roof replacement- \$60,000. Ms. Cox motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Arrington. The motion passed by majority vote (In favor: Arrington, Cox, Doyle, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey, Thomas; Opposed: Morgan).

Starting costs for a new Operations Building on St. James Street, to house Technical Services, Acquisitions, Loans, and other support departments - \$440,000 to be set aside and marked for this project. Ms. Arrington motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Cox. The motion passed by majority vote (In favor: Arrington, Cox, Doyle, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey, Thomas; Opposed: Morgan).

Vehicle purchases on state contracts— 4 Jeep Grand Cherokees and 1 Ram ProMaster cargo van. Mr. Thomas motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Cox. The motion passed by majority vote (In favor: Arrington, Cox, Doyle, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey, Thomas; Opposed: Morgan).

Ms. Dubrock presented the January financial report, which showed annual renewal costs for system software and a line item for AACHC donation revenue. Ms. Jordan motioned to approve the report, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Director's Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on library business, including the completion of 2024 statistical reports, the upcoming LLA conference in Baton Rouge, and participation in the Alexandria Children's Mardi Gras parade.

Direct Services Report

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton reported on the opening of the Morris Taft Thomas art wall at the King Branch's African American Cultural Heritage Center.

Human Resources Report

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown presented four staff members for ratification: Isabelle Bibbee, Crislyn Bynog, Anthony Franklin, and Camille Head.

Ms. Jordan motioned to ratify the employment of Floating Circulation/Reference Clerk Isabelle Bibbee, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Arrington motioned to ratify the employment of Floating Circulation/Reference Clerk Crislyn Bynog, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Cox motioned to ratify the employment of Floating Circulation/Reference Clerk Anthony Franklin, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Hobbs motioned to ratify the employment of Floating Circulation/Reference Clerk Camille Head, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Programming & Outreach Report

Youth Engagement & Literacy Manager Craig Jones reported on the Easter Basket Read-off and other recent programming and outreach initiatives.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux announced that the RPL mobile app is now available, and a new online catalog is on the way.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller reported on program promotions, including the upcoming “I Heart RPL” initiative to celebrate National Library Week.

New Business

The Library sought Board approval to dispose of three item units at the next available Parish auction:

Ms. Jordan motioned to approve the auctioning of a laser engraver, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the auctioning of an old sound system, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the auctioning of obsolete telephones, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock brought forth a proposed 2025 budget addendum. After reviewing the 2024 year-end finances, she found that a further 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all staff (excluding the Director) could be supported by the existing 2025 budget in addition to the previously approved 3%. The cost of the additional 2% applied to 73 staff members would total \$57,526.36 and would take effect on Monday, March 24, if approved by the Board.

Ms. Arrington (Chair) for the Finance Committee and Ms. Jordan (Chair) for the Personnel Committee each reported that their respective committees had met to review the addendum, and both committees voted to recommend the action.

Ms. Doyle motioned to approve the 2025 budget addendum, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Jordan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey
President