

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
May 20, 2025**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:34 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by Board President Suelynne Mickey.

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

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

In the absence of a quorum, Ms. Mickey announced that agenda items requiring a vote must be tabled until the next meeting, but those present to give reports before the Board would be heard.

Auditor's Presentation

Mr. Lee Willis and Ms. Precious Goins of Rozier, McKay and Willis CPA gave a favorable account of the Library's annual audit, stating that RPL's financials were in good standing.

Director's Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on library business, including upcoming maintenance projects, discarded damaged shelving, and the dedication of the Myrtle Groves Garden at the Huie-Dellmon House. She also welcomed Ms. Jackie Wilson as the new Board of Control member from District C.

Direct Services Report

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton thanked Ms. Doyle for her contributions to the Glenmora Easter Egg Hunt in April.

Westside Regional Manager Pam Martin and Youth Engagement & Literacy Manager Craig Jones recognized young patrons Luke Blazek and Finley LeBlanc for completing the "1,000 Books Before 5" challenge. Miss LeBlanc was present with her family to receive her award.

Human Resources Report

Ms. Mouton announced Service Awards for Libuse Circulation/Reference Clerk Darlene Paul (30 years) and Westside Regional Manager Pam Martin (15 years). She also invited Board members to attend the retirement reception of Hineston Branch Manager Joy Lutrell on May 31.

Programming & Outreach Report

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported that Summer Reading Program pre-registration is underway. This year's entertainment line-up features master puppeteer Hobe Ford as well as returning favorites Lady Chops and the Kinders.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux announced that the new online catalog will go live in the first week of June. It includes features such as AR rating information, reading recommendations, and mobile barcode scanning.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller reported on upcoming program promotions, including Creative Con, the Summer Feeding program, and Juneteenth events.

Ms. Reech-Harper encouraged attendance at Summer Reading kick-off celebrations across the parish, beginning May 27.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at the Westside Regional Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey
President