

**Rapides Parish Library  
Board of Control  
July 15, 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. Danna Cox, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Ms. Le'Anza Jordan, Mr. James Morgan, Mr. Morris Taft Thomas, and Ms. Jackie Wilson. Ms. Donna Rivers Doyle was absent. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, eleven members of staff, and four members of the public.

Ms. Mickey 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**

Mr. Morgan motioned to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2025 regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2025 regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Service Award**

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock was honored for 25 years of service to the Library.

**Financial Reports**

Ms. Dubrock presented the financial reports from December 2024 through May 2025:

The December final report included updates to reflect the auditor's findings and the remaining 2024 billing statements received after December 31. Ms. Jordan motioned to approve the finalized December report, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The revised January report included similar updates to reflect the auditor's notes and completed revenues and expenses. Ms. Cox motioned to approve the revised January report, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The February financial report reflected annual fees and dues, internet expenses that resulted from AT&T billing errors, and a donation from the Cenla Daylily Society. Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the February financial report, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The March financial report showed security equipment installation and replacement costs and expenses related to the African American Heritage Center's honoree tree, to be repaid with donations. Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the March financial report, seconded by Ms. Wilson. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The April financial report included several donations, including the reimbursement for the AAHC's honoree tree. Expenses included Summer Reading preparation purchases and travel for staff development. Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the April financial report, seconded by Ms. Wilson. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The May financial report highlighted a donation for large print books from the Lions Club as well as expenses for roof repairs, a new Facilities van, and the Board-approved payment for changes to the payroll system. Ms. Jordan motioned to approve the May financial report, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on security changes at the Johnson Branch, the survey of an unused portion of the Westside Regional Library property for potential sale, and Martin Library's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, which is set for September 18.

### **Direct Services Report**

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton yielded her time to Johnson Branch Manager Sophia Pierre-Louis and Youth Engagement & Literacy Manager Craig Jones, who recognized Luke Blazek, who was present with his family, for completing the "1,000 Books Before 5" challenge.

### **Human Resources Report**

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown announced new custodial hires. Hiring for open clerk positions is also currently underway.

### **Programming & Outreach Report**

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported that the final Summer Reading entertainer for the year will be Lady Chops. Back to school events and supply drives are upcoming.

### **IT Report**

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux announced that training classes will be offered at all branches for the new online catalog. The mobile app now has over 700 users and is well reviewed.

### **Public Relations Report**

Ms. Reech-Harper was pleased to announce that RPL's July Author of the Month is Mr. Morris Taft Thomas.

### **Old Business**

The Library's auditing team previously gave their report at the May regular meeting, stating that the Library is in good standing with no issues to address. All Board members received a copy of the official 2024 Audit document for review. Mr. Thomas motioned to accept the auditor's report, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

## **New Business**

Ms. Hobbs, Chair of the Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee, reported that two items were recently presented for reconsideration:

The Committee met on June 25 to review the young adult novel *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen. The submitter of the Request for Reconsideration form requested that the item be reclassified as restricted Adult material based on the depiction of an attempted sexual assault that occurs in the novel. Copies of the request and minutes of the committee meeting were provided for the full Board to review.

Ms. Hobbs reported that the committee reviewed the passage in question and found that, while it may be disturbing to some readers, it does not meet the criteria to be considered sexually explicit as defined by state law and is appropriately paced in the Teen section of the Library. 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. Jordan. On vote, the motion passed with seven in favor (Arrington, Cox, Hobbs, Jordan, Mickey, Thomas, Wilson) and one opposed (Morgan).

The Committee met again on July 8 to review the adult romance-fantasy novel *Lights Out* by Navessa Allen. The submitter of the Request for Reconsideration form requested that the item be reclassified as restricted due to sexually explicit content throughout. Copies of the request and minutes of the committee meeting were provided for the full Board to review.

Ms. Hobbs reported that the committee reviewed the material and agreed that it meets the criteria for sexually explicit material according to standards set by LA R.S. 25:225. On behalf of the Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee, Ms. Hobbs recommended that this title and any previous or forthcoming additions to its series be labeled as "Restricted" in the library's catalog. Ms. Arrington so moved, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The library sought Board approval to dispose of a large laminating machine at the next available Parish auction. Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the auctioning of the laminator, seconded by Ms. Wilson. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Arrington motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Thomas. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Celise Reech-Harper  
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey  
President