

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
September 16, 2025**

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Rapides Parish Library (RPL) Board of Control was called to order at 3:31 p.m. at the Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria by Vice President James Morgan.

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

Mr. Morgan led an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Ms. Doyle motioned to approve the minutes from the July regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Financial Reports

Ms. Dubrock presented the June financial report, which showed Summer Reading and Juneteenth program expenses. Ms. Cox motioned to approve the June financial report, seconded by Mr. Thomas. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Dubrock then presented the July financial report, which reflected revenue earned from CD interest as well as several donations. Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the July financial report, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Director's Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on library business, including the upcoming 75th Anniversary celebration of the Martin Branch library. The event has been planned in cooperation with the City of Pineville and the Rapides Parish Police Jury. The library's annual Staff Day training event will be held this year on October 13.

Direct Services Report

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton distributed promotional bookmarks for the Martin Anniversary event. Three new floating clerks have been hired to help with year-end branch coverage.

Human Resources Report

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown distributed copies of the Director's Contract to Board members. The Personnel Committee is requested to meet prior to the next regular meeting on November 18 to discuss renewal of the contract and draft their recommendation to the Board.

Ms. Brown requested the ratification of Martin Library Circulation/Reference Clerk Maryna Brazell, who has completed the probationary period of employment. Ms. Cox motioned to approve the ratification, seconded by Ms. Jordan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Programming & Outreach Report

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported that this year's Creative Con was well attended. Upcoming fall festivals will include the annual Tales Along the Bayou event at the Kent House on October 17.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux announced a Sierra system upgrade that will include improved editing and automation features.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller highlighted September's National Library Card Sign-Up Month campaign.

New Business

The Board reviewed a list of proposed 2026 library closure dates for holiday observances and staff training days. Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the closure dates schedule, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Reech-Harper asked that all Board members who are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee speak with Ms. Mickey before the November meeting, when the committee will be formed.

Committee Preference Forms for 2026 were included in all Board member packets. Ms. Reech-Harper asked Board members to return the completed forms to the business office by October 31.

Ms. Le'Anza Jordan was honored for twelve years of service to the Rapides Parish Library Board of Control, and Mr. Morris Taft Thomas for ten years of service to same. They were each commended by their fellow Board members and library staff for their service and dedication to the Board, the Library, and their communities. A reception followed.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Jordan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Cox. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey
President