

**Rapides Parish Library  
Board of Control  
November 18, 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 President Suelynne Mickey.

Board members present were Ms. Mickey, Ms. June Arrington, Ms. Dana Cox, Ms. Irene Hobbs, and Mr. James Morgan. Ms. Donna Rivers Doyle, Dr. Christina Hurd, and Ms. Jackie Wilson were absent. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, eight members of staff, and one member of the public.

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

**Agenda**

Ms. Mickey confirmed that a quorum was present and called for a vote to approve the agenda. Ms. Arrington so moved, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Minutes**

Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the minutes from the September regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Financial Reports**

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the August financial report. E-rate refunds, tree removal costs, and the cancellation of janitorial services were reflected. Janitorial staff have been hired to replace the previous service provider. Ms. Cox motioned to approve the August financial report, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Dubrock presented the September financial report, which showed donations from the Friends of the Library in support of multiple programs and materials, as well as the purchase of four new library vehicles with money previously set aside for that purpose. Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the September financial report, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Dubrock presented the October financial report, which listed expenses including a new Bookmobile generator and travel mileage payouts that are expected to decrease with the addition of the new library vehicles. Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the October financial report, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on library business, including expansion of Checkout Louisiana's museum and historical site offerings and RPL's attendance at the Louisiana Book Festival in Baton Rouge.

### **Direct Services Report**

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton shared that branches are conducting end-of-the-year cleaning projects after a busy fall season.

### **Human Resources Report**

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown presented two staff members for ratification: Mya Moton and Jace Torres.

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

Ms. Hobbs motioned to ratify the employment of Floating Circulation/Reference Clerk Jace Torres, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Brown then distributed the Director's annual evaluation documents to the Board with instructions that they be completed and returned on or before December 18.

### **Programming & Outreach Report**

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported on upcoming holiday events.

### **IT Report**

Ms. Reech-Harper reported that upgrades to staff computers are in progress.

### **Public Relations Report**

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller announced upcoming December initiatives focused on community partnerships and charitable outreach.

### **New Business**

Ms. Reech-Harper informed the board that the Rapides Parish Police Jury has approved the sale of a parcel of land that is currently part of the Westside Regional Library property pending our board's approval. The land is unused by the library and has been surveyed to prepare it for sale. Advertising and bids will be handled by the Police Jury, and money from the sale of the land will be directed to the Westside Regional Library. Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the sale, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Mickey spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee, which had met previously to nominate 2026 board officers. In committee, Ms. Mickey and Mr. Morgan each expressed interest in the role of Board President, and it was suggested that a ballot vote be put before the board to determine who would serve as President with the runner-up assuming the title of Vice President.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Cox motioned to re-appoint Suelynne Mickey to the position of President without a ballot vote. Ms. Hobbs seconded the motion, which passed by majority vote:

Ayes: Arrington, Cox, Hobbs, Mickey

Nays: Morgan

Abstain: None

Absent: Doyle, Hurd, Wilson

Ms. Arrington motioned to re-appoint James Morgan to the position of Vice President, seconded by Ms. Cox. On vote, the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Hobbs motioned to re-appoint June Arrington to the position of Treasurer, seconded by Ms. Cox. On vote, the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Arrington reported that the Personnel Committee had met to discuss the Director's contract renewal and agreed to bring it before the board for approval without revision. Ms. Brown summarized the contract which had been emailed to the full board prior to the meeting for their review.

Ms. Cox motioned to renew the Director's contract, seconded by Ms. Arrington. The motion passed by majority vote:

Ayes: Arrington, Cox, Hobbs, Mickey

Nays: Morgan

Abstain: None

Absent: Doyle, Hurd, Wilson

With the majority approval, the contract will begin on January 18, 2026 and remain valid for four years.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Arrington opened the floor to discussion of the 2026 budget. Ms. Dubrock distributed the proposed budget and reviewed it in detail with the board; inclusions of note are a 4% salary increase for staff to offset cost of living increases and adjustments in expenses to allow the library to absorb the majority of a 9.5% increase in health insurance premiums. Ms. Dubrock stressed that this coverage must be considered on an annual basis and only implemented as the library's financial health allows. Higher ad valorem revenue and CD returns, along with expected e-rate reimbursements, will balance these expenses for 2026.

It was noted that a 30-day review period in which the budget must be made available for both board and public comment is required. Mr. Morgan motioned to move the December regular meeting of the board from December 16 to December 18 to allow for the full 30-day review period. Ms. Arrington seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

After the 30-day review period, the proposed budget will be presented for public hearing and voted on at the next regular meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Arrington motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Celise Reech-Harper  
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey  
President