

Rapides Parish Library
Finance Committee of the Board of Control
November 18, 2025

Minutes

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Rapides Parish Library Board of Control was held at the Westside Regional Library, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria, LA.

Committee members present were Ms. June Arrington (Chair), Ms. Dana Cox, and Board President Suelynn Mickey (ex officio). Ms. Jackie Wilson was absent. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, Business Manager Stacy Dubrock, and Administrative Assistant Kendra Bertrand.

Ms. Arrington called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Ms. Mickey motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Cox seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

2026 Budget

Ms. Dubrock presented the proposed 2026 budget to the committee. In comparison to the 2025 budget, ad valorem revenue and interest earned on CDs are expected to increase. E-rate refunds through July are confirmed, but the budget conservatively does not show e-rate returns for the second half of the year because the filing period has not yet been opened. The library will file for those at the appropriate time.

Expenses include a requested 4% increase in salaries to help offset cost of living increases for staff. Health insurance rates will increase by 9.5%, but the library will be able to absorb the increase this year by decreasing hiring and focusing on staff retention. Property insurance rates, copier and maintenance expenses, and the cost of electronic resources are also expected to rise in 2026, but lowered costs on rent, janitorial staffing, and payroll system software should provide balance.

Ms. Cox motioned for the Finance Committee to present the proposed 2026 budget to the full board for review. Ms. Arrington seconded, and the motion passed.

With no further business before the committee, Ms. Cox motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Arrington. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

June Arrington
Committee Chair