

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

Board members present were Ms. Mickey, Ms. June Arrington, Ms. Donna Rivers Doyle, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Mr. James Morgan, and Ms. Jackie Wilson. Ms. Dana Cox joined the meeting at 3:41 p.m. Dr. Christina Hurd was absent. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, ten members of staff, and three members of the public.

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

**Agenda**

Ms. Arrington motioned to advance item **10a. Young reader 1,000 Books Before Five award** forward in the agenda to directly follow the call for public comments. Ms. Hobbs seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Hobbs motioned to table item **14b. 2026 Committee assignments** until the January regular meeting. Ms. Arrington seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the agenda as amended by the Board, seconded by Ms. Wilson. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

**Minutes**

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

**Programming & Outreach Report**

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported on holiday events then introduced Westside Regional Manager Pam Martin and Youth Engagement & Literacy Manager Craig Jones to present the 1,000 Books Before Five Award to two-year old Jeremiah who was present with his family.

**Financial Reports**

The November financial report will be presented at the regular meeting in January.

**Direct Services Report**

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton thanked Ms. Mickey and her husband, George, for acting as this year's Santa and Mrs. Claus; they will visit all branches for photos and Christmas activities. She also expressed appreciation to the PR Department for planning and promoting charity collections at each library location.

**Human Resources Report**

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown collected completed evaluation forms to be compiled ahead of the Director's performance review in January.

**IT Report**

Ms. Reech-Harper reported that the IT team is completing year-end tasks.

**Public Relations Report**

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller expressed gratitude for the success of the Unwrap the Gift of the Library charity campaign across all branches.

**New Business**

Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the 2026 budget, which had been reviewed by the Finance Committee in November and brought before the Board in December. Ms. Cox seconded, and on unanimous vote the motion passed.

Ms. Mickey encouraged Board members to visit their community library branches.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Arrington motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Celise Reech-Harper  
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey  
President