

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
March 17, 2026**

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. Dana Cox, Ms. Donna Rivers Doyle, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Dr. Christina Hurd, Mr. James Morgan, and Ms. Jackie Wilson. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper and eight members of staff.

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

Agenda

Item 5. *Service Award* was erroneously published on the agenda. Ms. Hobbs motioned to remove the error and approve the amended agenda. Dr. Hurd seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Minutes

Ms. Cox motioned to approve the minutes of the January regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Wilson. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Financial Reports

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock stated that the 2025 final report, along with the January and February financial reports, will be presented with the annual auditor's report at the May regular meeting.

Director's Report

Ms. Reech-Harper reported on library business, including professional development training events for both staff and board members and a return to regularly scheduled policy reviews. She also announced that the State Library Director's Handbook has been updated, and work will soon begin on the next RPL Strategic Plan, which will help guide the library's growth for the next 5-10 years.

Direct Services Report

Direct Services Coordinator Lenna Mouton was pleased to announce that newly hired Floating Clerks are currently being trained. Branches are preparing for the upcoming Summer Reading Program, and everyone is invited to attend the second annual Easter Egg Hunt in Glenmora, hosted by the Glenmora Friends of the Library, which will be held on Saturday, March 28.

Human Resources Report

Human Resources Manager Jackie Brown presented four staff members for ratification: Amy Frank, Dara Kittinger, Tracey Landry, and Katie Vanlangendonck.

Ms. Arrington motioned to ratify the employment of Custodian Amy Frank, seconded by Ms. Wilson. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Cox motioned to ratify the employment of Custodian Dara Kittinger, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Cox motioned to ratify the employment of Floating Circulation/Reference Clerk Tracey Landry, seconded by Ms. Wislon. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Wilson motioned to ratify the employment of Floating Circulation/Reference Clerk Katie Vanlangendonck, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

A full staffing report was provided to the Board detailing recent hires, departures, and other personnel statistics of interest.

Programming & Outreach Report

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported on this year's Easter Basket Read-Off and announced that this year's Summer Reading theme will be "Plant a Seed, Read." Three RPL branches will offer evening entertainment sessions this year.

IT Report

Systems Manager Janie Primeaux reported on the popularity of RPL's internet hotspot checkout program, a new feature of the online catalog which allows patron account linking, and the continued increase in RPL's mobile app usage.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller promoted the Easter Egg Hunt in Glenmora and the Summer Reading Program.

New Business

Ms. Reech-Harper reminded the Board of annual training deadlines and offered to set up a future training workshop with State Library professionals. RPL's Long-Range Planning Committee will begin meeting later this year to start work on the new Strategic Plan.

Ms. Mickey shared her appreciation of the promotional materials and high attendance numbers for the African-American Culture & Heritage Center's 3rd Annual Event. She also praised RPL's work with the Louisiana Library Association at the recent LLA Conference. With the conference scheduled to be held in Alexandria in 2027, and she called for a motion for RPL Board members to make an offer to LLA to host a hospitality station at the event, pending venue permissions and donation of supplies. Ms. Arrington so moved, seconded by Ms. Wilson, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Mickey offered for consideration allowing all RPL staff to attend the conference on Saturday. Ms. Reech-Harper agreed to consider and invited any further suggestions to be sent to her for review.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Westside Regional Library.

Ms. Arrington motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Cox. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey
President