

**Rapides Parish Library
Board of Control
May 19, 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. Donna Rivers Doyle, Ms. Irene Hobbs, Dr. Christina Hurd, Mr. James Morgan, and Ms. Jackie Wilson. Ms. June Arrington and Ms. Dana Cox were absent. Also present were Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, six members of staff, two members of the library's auditing firm, and six members of the public.

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

Agenda

Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Wilson. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Minutes

Ms. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes of the March meeting, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

1,000 Books Before Five Award Recognition

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby and Youth Engagement & Literacy Manager Craig Jones presented the 1,000 Books Before Five Award to Liam L., who was present with his family.

Financial Reports, Auditor's Report, and Revised Budget

Mr. Lee Willis of Rozier, McKay, and Willis reported that no issues or concerns were found during the 2025 audit and that the financial condition of the library is strong. Ms. Hobbs motioned to accept the auditor's report into record, seconded by Dr. Hurd. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Business Manager Stacy Dubrock presented the December financial report. Mr. Morgan motioned to approve the report, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Ms. Dubrock presented the 2025 final year-end report, which matches the final audit reconciliation. Additional e-rate revenue combined with unspent budget portions resulted in a \$1.4 million surplus, which will be moved into the construction budget to fund upcoming projects. Ms. Wilson motioned to accept the year-end report. Dr. Hurd seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Dubrock presented the January financial report, highlighting vehicle maintenance costs. Ms. Doyle motioned to accept the January report, seconded by Mr. Morgan. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

The previously approved 2026 budget was revised to include additional vehicle purchases authorized by the Board at the January meeting. Ms. Hobbs motioned to approve the revised budget. Ms. Wilson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The February financial report was presented, which showed receipt of the majority of the year's ad valorem revenue. Dr. Hurd motioned to approve the report, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the motion passed.

In the March financial report, Ms. Dubrock highlighted security equipment replacements and a donation for large print books by the Lions Club. Ms. Wilson motioned to approve the March report, seconded by Ms. Doyle. On vote, the motion unanimously passed.

Director's Report

Library Director Celise Reech-Harper reported on library business, including progress on the Westside land sale and the potential purchase of Braille flags with possible grant monies from LEH in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States. She also informed the Board that the Properties Committee will meet soon to discuss several upcoming building projects.

Direct Services Report

Ms. Reech-Harper announced that major staffing changes will be put into place on June 1 and was pleased to announce that several new Floating Circulation/Reference Clerks have been hired.

Human Resources Report

No report.

Programming & Outreach Report

Programming & Outreach Supervising Librarian Karla Kirby reported on RPL's attendance at Alexandria River Fete and other local events. The Summer Reading Program will begin on June 1.

IT Report

No report.

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Manager Sandie Buller highlighted April's National Library Week and National Volunteer Week media engagement, and promoted May's campaign, "Get Caught Reading." She also informed the board that the Check Out Louisiana program has added state park passes that patrons can now access.

New Business

Ms. Reech-Harper requested that the previously approved closure date for Staff Training Day be changed from October 12 to October 19. This change is to allow representatives from the Parochial Retirement System to attend and provide retirement information to staff as part of the training curriculum. Mr. Morgan motioned to approve the revised date for the training day, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On vote, the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Reech-Harper requested that the Board consider adjusting the leasing agreement of the Johnson Branch Library, located inside the Old Lecompte High School Building, to a month-to-month agreement. This arrangement would allow for the opportunity to find an alternate location for RPL to continue to serve the Lecompte community. Ms. Wilson motioned to approve the month-to-month lease proposal for the Johnson Branch Library, seconded by Dr. Hurd.

Before the vote was called, the Board heard from Mr. Steven McKay of Rozier, McKay, and Willis who expressed the town's willingness to ensure continued library service to the area. With a motion and second in place to approve the leasing agreement, Ms. Mickey called for a vote. With all present members in agreement, the motion passed.

Ms. Reech-Harper informed the Board that the Rapides Parish Police Jury has approved an Act of Donation of Immovable Property from the Martin Family Foundation. The Foundation agrees to purchase, clear, and donate the parcel of land next to the Martin Branch Library and work with RPL toward the goal of expanding the Martin Branch. Mr. Morgan motioned to accept the Act of Donation of Immovable Property, seconded by Ms. Wilson. On vote, the motion unanimously passed.

The next Library Board of Control meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at the Westside Regional Library.

Mr. Morgan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Suelynne Mickey
President