

Washington Parish Library
Library Board of Control
Bogalusa Branch
Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 5:30pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order by Ms. Penny Moses at 5:41pm

II. Roll Call by the Director, Mrs. Sonnet Ireland
Board Members Present: Ms. Kewanda August, Mr. Derek Dantin, Ms. Penny Moses, Mr. Nathan Pierce, and Mr. Perry Talley.

III. Invocation by Mr. Derek Dantin.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Nathan Pierce

V. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to add the Board officer elections to the agenda; seconded by Ms. August.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

VI. Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Dantin to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on June 4, 2025 at the Franklinton Branch; seconded by Ms. August.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

VII. New Business

A-1. Board Officer Elections

a. President:

With the resignation of Mrs. Betts from the Board for health concerns, the Board needs to elect a new Board President. The Board Vice President, Ms. Ross, expressed interest in serving as the President.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to elect Ms. Ross to the position of President; seconded by Ms. Moses.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

b. Vice President:

With Ms. Ross' election to President, the Board needs to elect a new Vice President.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to elect Ms. Moses to the position of Vice President; seconded by Mr. Dantin.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

A-2. FMLA Remote Work Accommodation

Mrs. Ireland detailed the need for an FMLA Remote Work Accommodation for the Head of Technology. The Board questioned if this was something that the Director could approve on her own. Mrs. Ireland said she opted to err on the side of caution in the matter for transparency.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to approve this accommodation; seconded by Ms. August.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

B. 2026 Holiday and Library Closure Schedule

Mrs. Ireland presented the Board with the proposed 2026 Holiday and Library Closure Schedule. The schedule leaves two days for staff training—one in the spring and one in the fall.

A motion was made by Ms. August to approve 2026 Holiday and Library Closure Schedule; seconded by Mr. Talley.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

C. 2026 LBOC Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Ireland presented the proposed Library Board of Control Meeting schedule for 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to approve the 2026 LBOC Meeting Schedule; seconded by Ms. August .

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

D. Tech Associate Position

Mrs. Ireland explained the difficulties the Library is facing with limited technology assistance. The Library previously had a full time Head of Technology and a full time Technology Associate. Looking at the budget, Mrs. Ireland believes there is enough money and enough of a need to justify changing the part-time Tech Associate position into a full time position.

A motion was made by Ms. August to approve changing the Technology Associate position from part-time to full-time; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

E. Updating the Library Website

Mrs. Ireland is looking into options to update the library website. This will happen at the end of 2025 or early in 2026. The Tech Team is currently reviewing products/services to find something that fits the needs of the library, is easy to use, and is a reasonable price.

F. Resolution re Bill Payment

Mrs. Ireland shared that she had learned many library boards in the state pass a resolution each year that officially designates the Library Director to act on behalf of the Board of Control to pay bills. This is a standard procedure that will begin in January 2026 when elections are held. In the meantime, this resolution covers the current year.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to adopt WPLBOC Resolution 2025-003; seconded by Mr. Dantin.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

G. Budgets

1. 2025 Budget

With all the technology replacements that the Library currently requires, the budget needs to be updated to reflect that. Mrs. Ireland is also asking for an increase in the conference travel fund lines to allow the Tech Team to attend a tech conference in Austin, Spice World. Mrs. Ireland is also asking for money to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference in September, though she has applied for a scholarship and hopes to need no money.

A motion was made by Ms. August to approve the updates to the 2025 budget; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

2. 2026 Budget

Mrs. Ireland provided the proposed 2026 budget for Board members to review. A public budget hearing will be held in August, and the Board will vote on the 2026 budget at the September meeting.

VIII. Old Business

A. Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

Mrs. Ireland reminded the Board that they have mentioned reviewing and possibly revising the LBOC Bylaws for the last few years. She recommended that an Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee be created to do this and bring suggestions back to the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to appoint Mr. Pierce to lead the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee and recruit others as needed; seconded by Mr. Dantin.

Mrs. Suzie Betts: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Absent

Motion passed.

B. Budget Technology Replacement

Mrs. Ireland noted that this was on the agenda in case the 2025 budget revisions were not approved; this would have allowed a discussion of how to handle the costs of replacing outdated equipment.

C. Pay Scale Project

Mrs. Ireland presented her pay scale recommendation to the Board. The Board would like to see some more adjustments made by possibly increasing the ranges by 3%. Mrs. Ireland agreed to look into that as an option.

D. Angie Land

Mrs. Ireland shared that there had been questions about what the Library was planning to do with the land where the train depot stands. As the Library is still working out the details of renovating the Angie Branch, the Board asked Mrs. Ireland to reach out to the Town of Angie to start a discussion.

IX. Director's Report - See attached.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Pierce.
All present Board Members agreed. **Motion passed.**
Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.