

Washington Parish Library
Library Board of Control
Franklinton Branch
Thursday, October 2, 2025, 5:30pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order by Ms. Penny Moses at 5:32pm

II. Roll Call by the Director, Mrs. Sonnet Ireland
Board Members Present: Mr. Derek Dantin, Ms. Penny Moses, Mr. Nathan Pierce, Ms. Emma Ross (v), and Mr. Perry Talley.
Board Members Absent: Ms. Kewanda August
Special note: Mr. Nathan Pierce arrived right after the Pledge at around 5:36pm.

III. Invocation by Mr. Derek Dantin.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Perry Talley.

V. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to add updating the 2025 budget to the agenda; seconded by Mr. Dantin.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Motion passed.

VI. Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on July 23, 2025 at the Bogalusa Branch; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

VII. New Business

A. Food For Fines

Mrs. Ireland asked the Board to approve reviving the Food For Fines program for November to help families before the holidays. Historically, a food item was used to waive up to \$3 in fines. Discussion followed about the parameters of the program: nonperishable food items may be used to waive fees for lost books and DVDs and overdue fines for technology but not costs for lost technology.

A motion was made by Mr. Dantin to reinstate the Food For Fines program for the month of November 2025 with the parameters stated above; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

B. Staff Holiday Luncheon

Mrs. Ireland explained that, historically, the library has closed at 11:30am on a designated day in December for a Staff Holiday Luncheon; usually, the staff are allowed to go home, with pay, afterward. This year, the Administration is asking that the staff stay for some mini-training before going home. A date has not been determined yet.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to allow the Director to designate a day in December for the Library branches to close at 11:30am to allow staff to attend a Staff Holiday Luncheon and remain closed for the rest of the day while the staff attends training; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

C. Director Evaluation Committee

Mrs. Ireland asked that the Board President appoint no more than three Board Members to an ad hoc Director Evaluation Committee for her review in January 2026. Ms. Ross asked for volunteers, and Mr. Dantin, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Talley all offered. Mrs. Ireland will send the committee the previously used review, as well as some review forms from other systems for the committee to consider.

VIII. Old Business

A. Budgets

1. 2025 Budget Update - Tax Election Cost

Mrs. Ireland explained to the Board that the estimated cost of putting the millage on the ballot this year was based on faulty information. Instead of \$5,000, it will likely be somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000. She requested the Board increase that line on the 2025 budget to reflect that.

A motion was made by Ms. Ross to update the line for the millage in the 2025 budget from \$5,000 to \$15,000; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

2. 2026

Mrs. Ireland presented the 2026 budget to the Board for approval. The Board reviewed the proposed budget during the July meeting, and a Budget Hearing was held on August 26th. WPLBOC Resolution 2025-004 adopts, finalizes, and implements the proposed 2026 Library Budget.

A motion was made by Ms. Ross to adopt WPLBOC Resolution 2025-004; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Motion passed.

B. 2026 LBOC Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Ireland made an adjustment to next year's Library Board of Control Meeting schedule for 2026—moving the July meeting from the 16th to the 23rd. Since the Summer Reading Program ends on July 16th, this will give Mrs. Ireland a week to collect the statistics for presentation to the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Ross to approve the updated 2026 LBOC Meeting Schedule; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

C. Pay Scale Project

Mrs. Ireland presented all of the pay scale options requested by the Board, including her recommendations. Documents included the updated pay scales under each option, as well as the total cost of each when applied to the actual staff salaries. The option recommended by Mrs. Ireland can easily be used with the approved 2026 budget. WPLBOC Resolution 2025-005 sets the new payscale in effect for the 2026 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Mr. Dantin to adopt WPLBOC Resolution 2025-005; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

D. Executive Session - Staff Accommodations

A motion was made by Mr. Pierce to enter executive session at 6:44pm; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Motion passed.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:51pm.

IX. Director's Report - See attached.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Dantin to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

All present Board Members agreed. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.