

Washington Parish Library
Library Board of Control
Bogalusa Branch
Thursday, January 15, 2026, 5:30pm
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to order by Ms. Emma Ross at 5:32pm.
- II. Roll Call by the Director, Mrs. Sonnet Ireland
Board Members Present: Ms. Emma Ross, Ms. Penny Moses, Mr. Nathan Pierce, and Mr. Perry Talley.
Board Members Absent: Ms. Kewanda August, Mr. Derek Dantin
Guests: Mrs. Abigail Kemp
Special notes: Zoom and its call-in feature were used for accessibility purposes.
- III. Invocation by Ms. Penny Moses.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Penny Moses.
- V. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to add a discussion about creating a board meeting attendance policy to the agenda; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Mr. Talley.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

- VI. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, October 2, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at the Franklinton Branch; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

VII. Old Business

A. Update Holidays & Closures - MCCA Parade Closure

When the 2026 Library Holidays and Closure schedule was created, Mrs. Ireland neglected to include the regular closing of the Bogalusa Branch on the day of the MCCA Parade (the Saturday before Mardi Gras). This day is a closure and will not result in holiday pay. Staff will work their weekly hours that Monday through Friday instead.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to update the 2026 schedule to include the closure of Bogalusa for the date of the MCCA Parade (Saturday, February 14, 2026); seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

VIII. New Business

A. 2026 LBOC Officers

1. Election for President of the LBOC for 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to nominate Mr. Pierce for the position of Board President; seconded by Ms. Ross. Mr. Pierce accepted the nomination. Having no other nominations, a vote was taken.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

2. Election for Vice President of the LBOC for 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to nominate Ms. Ross for the position of Board Vice President; seconded by Mr. Talley. Ms. Ross accepted the nomination. Having no other nominations, a vote was taken.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes
Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes
VACANT

Motion passed.

3. Standard motion appointing the Library Director as Secretary
A motion was made by Ms. Moses to continue the appointment of the Library Director, Mrs. Ireland, as the Secretary for the Board; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent
Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent
Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes
Mr. Perry Talley: Yes
VACANT

Motion passed.

B. Resolution 2026-001: Approve Payment of Bills
This is a standard resolution that was recommended to Mrs. Ireland in 2025. It reaffirms the Director's authority to approve the payments of Library bills on behalf of the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to approve Resolution 2026-001; seconded by Ms. Moses.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent
Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent
Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes
Mr. Perry Talley: Yes
VACANT

Motion passed.

C. Surplus Items for Discard
The Library has defunct hotspots that have been obsolete and out of service for years now. Mrs. Ireland requests permission to dispose of them.
A motion was made by Ms. Moses to approve the surplusing of items in the attached report; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent
Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent
Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes
Mr. Perry Talley: Yes
VACANT

Motion passed.

D. Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Friends of the WPL)

Every April, the Friends of the Washington Parish Library host a luncheon in honor of the staff. Historically, the Board has closed all of the branches 11am-2pm during that day to allow everyone to attend. Ms. Moses recommended that all branches of the library close at 11am on that day and remain closed for the rest of the day to allow for some type of professional development session.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to allow every branch to close at 11am on a date in April to be determined by the director with the Friends of the Washington Parish Library for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon and remain closed for the rest of the day for continuing education; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

E. Director Evaluation

The Ad Hoc Director Evaluation Committee, comprised of Mr. Dantin, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Talley, has not yet met. Since Mrs. Ireland did not include herself in the pay scale adjustment, she has requested that the committee review her salary and recommend to the board an adjustment to bring it more in line with the salaries of Library Directors at similar library systems. She provided state statistics verifying that her salary is below the average for systems with similar budgets and/or similar populations served.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to adjust the Director’s salary effective immediately to \$74, 000 a year to bring it closer to the starting salary of Library Directors at similar systems in the state; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: No

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

F. Open Board Position

Mrs. Ireland brought up the recent candidates for previous openings as an option to fill Mrs. Betts’ position on the board. Previous candidate Mrs. Abigail Kemp was discussed, as she has regularly attended board meetings as a member of the public. Mrs. Kemp expressed enthusiastic interest in joining the board.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to recommend Mrs. Abigail Kemp to the Washington Parish Council as a new member of the Library Board of Control; seconded by Mr. Talley.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

G. Policy for LBOC Attendance

The Board discussed the quorum issues they had and how that limited what could be done. Mrs. Ireland informed the board that every canceled meeting was on the LBOC page of the Washington Parish Library with a note that it was canceled for quorum issues in order to be transparent with the community. In 2025, five board meetings were canceled due to the lack of a quorum.

Ms. Moses requested that Mrs. Ireland write up an attendance policy for the LBOC. The policy should explain that the board will reach out to the member's councilperson for a replacement after three consecutive meetings have been missed. She also requested that the procedure include monthly notifications about missed meetings to ensure that any member in danger of being replaced is fully aware of their status.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses that such a policy be written by Mrs. Ireland and presented to the board at the next meeting; seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Absent

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

VACANT

Motion passed.

IX. Correspondence and Communications - none

X. Director's Report - See attached.

The Board requested information about the Angie Branch, which is included in the Director's Report. The architect has visited the location and is now working on a report with his recommendations. From there, Mrs. Ireland will work with him to complete a scope of work that can go out for bid. It will take time, but she is confident that the project is on the right track.

There was also a request to look into the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Ms. Moses has seen something on the news about it. Mrs. Ireland and Ms.

Mathews explained that they had both attended an event about it in Baton Rouge a couple of years ago; to their understanding, an issue of funding and a years-long backlog have delayed the program coming to Washington Parish. Mrs. Ireland is happy to reach out to the community partners also involved in that meeting to verify the status of the program in Washington Parish.

XI. Public Comment - none

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Talley. All present Board Members agreed. **Motion passed.**
Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.