

Washington Parish Library
Library Board of Control
Thursday, July 23, 2026 - 5:30pm
Franklinton Branch
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order by Ms. Penny Moses at 5:28pm.

II. Roll Call by the Director, Sonnet Ireland.

Board Members Present: Mr. Derek Dantin, Mrs. Abigail Kemp, Ms. Penny Moses, Ms. Emma Ross (*virtual*), and Mr. Perry Talley (*virtual*)

Board Members Absent: Ms. Kewanda August, Mr. Nathan Pierce

Special notes: Zoom and its call-in feature were used for accessibility purposes.

III. Invocation by Mr. Derek Dantin.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance by Mrs. Abigail Kemp.

V. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Talley to approve the agenda; seconded by Mrs. Kemp.

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mrs. Abigail Kemp: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

VI. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, May 21, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Dantin to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; seconded by Mrs. Kemp.

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mrs. Abigail Kemp: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

VII. New Business

A. Welcome New Board Member: Mrs. Abigail Kemp

On June 15, 2026, the Parish Council passed Resolution No. 26-1502, appointing Mrs. Abigail Kemp to serve on the Library Board of Control through December 31, 2030. This was Mrs. Kemp's first meeting.

B. Presentation of the 2027 Budget

Mrs. Ireland presented the 2027 Budget to the Board for review before the Library Budget Hearing on Thursday, August 20, 2026.

C. Approval of 2027 Calendars: Holidays, LBOC

1. Holidays

A motion was made by Mr. Dantin to approve the 2027 Holiday and Closure Schedule; seconded by Ms. Ross.

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mrs. Abigail Kemp: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

2. LBOC Meetings

A motion was made by Mrs. Kemp to approve the 2027 Meeting Schedule for the Library Board of Control; seconded by Mr. Dantin.

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mrs. Abigail Kemp: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

D. Staff Holiday Luncheon

Mrs. Ireland explained that, historically, the branches have closed at 11:30am on a day in December for the Staff Holiday Luncheon, and the Board usually allowed the staff to go home with pay after.

A motion was made by Ms. Ross to close the branches at 11:30am on a day in December (to be designated by the Director) so the staff can attend the annual staff holiday luncheon and take the rest of the day off with pay; seconded by Mr. Dantin.

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mrs. Abigail Kemp: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: Yes

E. Presentation of Policy: Relationship with Supporting Organizations

Mrs. Ireland is presenting this policy for discussion and review. The policy is already posted on the website in the policies section for public review and feedback before the Board approves it in September. The policy can be found: <https://washingtonparishlibrary.info/policies-under-review>

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Updating the 2026 Budget

Mrs. Ireland explained that one of the Bogalusa Branch's air conditioners needs to be replaced. It's about 15 years old. She is requesting \$150,000 from the Fund Balance be placed in line 304–Maintenance for Building. Mrs. Ireland does not anticipate spending anywhere near that amount, but she is requesting a large enough contingency to account for any price fluctuations or unexpected issues. Any funds not needed for the project will remain in line 304 for the larger project of assessing and repairing the two large branches.

A motion was made by Ms. Moses to approve the updated 2026 Budget; seconded by Mrs. Kemp.

Mr. Nathan Pierce: Absent

Ms. Kewanda August: Absent

Ms. Penny Moses: Yes

Mr. Derek Dantin: Yes

Ms. Emma Ross: Yes

Mrs. Abigail Kemp: Yes

Mr. Perry Talley: No

IX. Director's Report

X. General Public Comment

XI. *Next meeting:*

A. *Library Budget Hearing on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at the Bogalusa Branch*

B. *Thursday, September 17, 2026 at the Franklinton Branch.*

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Kemp to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Dantin. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

2026 Meetings

Name	Appointed	1/15	*2/5	3/19	5/21	7/23	8/20	9/17	11/19
Kewanda August	2022	X	P	X	X	X			
Derek Dantin	2025	X	P	X	P	P			
Abigail Kemp	2026	-	-	-	-	P			
Penny Moses	2022	P	P	P	P	P			
Nathan Pierce, President	2025	V	P	P	P	X			
Emma Ross, Vice President	2001	P	P	V	V	V			
Ryan Seal Parish President	<i>ex-officio</i>	X	P	P	X	X			
J. Perry Talley	2023	V	P	X	P	V			
Sonnet Ireland Secretary		P	P	P	P	P			
Aerial Mathews		P	P	P	P	P			
<i>Tech Team Representative</i>		<i>CB</i>	<i>CB</i>	<i>CB</i>	<i>CB</i>	<i>LG</i>			

P = Present in-person V = Virtually present X = Absent - = Position vacant
 * = Special Meeting