

# JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

East Bank Regional Library – Administrative Conference Room  
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA 70001

January 20, 2026

## MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lisa Conescu, Debra Cooper, Patricia Cox, and Becky Knight

**BOARD MEMBERS PERSENT VIRTUAL:** none

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bob Bales, James Simmons, and Gordon Wadge

**LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT:** Irene Lunkin, Melissa Muhoberac, Antoinette Scott and Jessica Styons

**OTHER PARISH STAFF:** Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

**GUESTS:** Children’s Programming Manager Jennifer LaBurre

Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:04PM.

Conescu/Knight made a motion to dispense with the reading of the November minutes and accept them as written. Motion carried.

### **DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

- Jessica intended to introduce Brittany Guillot, December’s Employee of the Month, but she was unable to attend due to traffic. She will be introduced at next month’s meeting.
- Several Library employees were acknowledged for 20 plus years of service at a ceremony breakfast hosted by the Parish President. Library employees acknowledged were: Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi and Property Manager Richard Peart for 20 years of service; Rosedale Librarian I Carlos Martinez, North Kenner Librarian I Laura Pagoaga, and Assistant Public Services Supervisor Elizabeth Reso for 25 years of service; Tech. Services Associate Jacques Abadie, Lakeshore Associate Joseph Anzalone, EBR Children’s Associate Dawn Garton, Public Services Office Support Eileen Noullet, and Retired Librarian I Carolyn Cooley for 30 years of service; Floater Associate Arleen McKay and Retired Business Office Assistant Jeannie Hobbie for 35 years of service; and Interlibrary Loan Associate Cathy Miller Moran and Floater Associate Barbara Peoples Smith for 40 years of service. Cathy Miller Moran will be retiring this spring.
- The board reviewed the approved Library 2026 budget prepared by Library Business Manager Antoinette Scott. The 2026 budget is 5.2% less than last year’s adopted budget. This year we will look closely at expenditures to help keep the budget down.
- Early this month, Maureen Arndt, the library designer working on designs for the WBR Library renovation project, invited the architect, 6 library staff, and our CAA Mario Bazile to tour a few libraries she worked on in the Dallas area. Jessica commented that the sites were impressive including areas such as the pod cast and recording rooms, in house laptop check-out kiosks, a digital media lounge, seed library collections, and the cool performing spaces. Frisco Library

was the most impressive overall and encouraged the board to check them out online. Staff will be meeting with the architects on January 28 at WBR to discuss plans for the renovation project; members of the board are invited to attend a 4:15 session. An invitation will also be extended to the Friends.

- Facilities Report: ADA accessible doors were recently installed at Avondale and Gretna; EBR's LoT Room will likely open in February; Gretna may have to close at the end of the month for HVAC installation; the Lakeshore roof project will commence after the contract is signed; and furniture for the EBR Makerspace is scheduled to arrive next month.
- Our agreement with Jr. League is being finalized. They will be providing personal hygiene products free to library patrons.
- Tax assistance is being offered by AARP at EBR and River Ridge libraries and by VITA at Terrytown library.
- Children's Programming Manager Jennifer LaBurre shared information on upcoming events celebrating Jane Austen's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Seven of our libraries will host events celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jennifer mentioned the Book Edge Painting event at EBR was fun; patrons really enjoyed painting. Right now, a poster is in EBR where patrons can vote for their favorite Mr. Darcy and vote for their favorite costume. Jessica mentioned she and Jennifer will be at WWL tomorrow morning taping a segment about the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration and National Shelfie Day, which is 1/28. Jennifer mentioned the programming team is now focusing on this year's SRP and their workshop this month. This year's theme will be Dig Discover Grow. Also coming up is the Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift dog and cat engagement party in which we will partner with JPAWS. Engagement gifts will be donations to the animal shelter.

Lisa commented on the abundance of comment letters about programs. Jessica mentioned the programming team is working on a survey for patrons to complete.

Becky reported the Nominating Committee would like to keep the current officers in place since they are both eligible to serve another year.

Conescu/Cooper made a motion to accept the report of Nominating Committee with Patricia as President and Gordon as Vice President. All in favor. Motion carried.

Members reviewed the 2026 meeting schedule and noted the February 17 meeting date is on Mardi Gras.

Cooper/Knight made a motion to change the February meeting date to February 24. All in favor. Motion carried.

Conescu/Knight made a motion to accept the amended 2026 meeting schedule. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next Library Board meeting is February 24, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.