

JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

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

February 24, 2026

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Bales, Lisa Conescu, Debra Cooper, Patricia Cox, Jackie Jones, and Gordon Wadge

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Becky Knight

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT: Irene Lunkin and Jessica Styons

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: Lafitte Manager Lauren Clement, Associates Brittany Guillot and Carlie Martinez, Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi, and North Kenner Manager Sarah Schnadelbach

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

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Councilman Lee appointed Jacqueline Jones to the Library Board to represent district 3, at the last council meeting.
- Jessica introduced Brittany Guillot, December's Employee of the Month. Brittany is an Associate at Westwego Library. She presents programs at Westwego and helps with some of our large program events. Brittany stated she has a film degree and may apply for her masters. She added she enjoys working with the library. Westbank Floater Associate Carlie Martinez was introduced as January's employee of the month. Jessica announced Carlie helps with programs at various westbank branches and is appreciated where ever she is assigned to work. Carlie stated she has a degree in education and is known by co-workers to be well organized. She commented she enjoys working as a floater as it allows her the opportunity to meet patrons from the various communities and she gets to meet and work with different staff. She added all of her co-workers are nice and professional and she thinks it great the library is changing to fit the needs of the society.
- In addition to acknowledging staff for "Employee of the Month", this year we started "Quarterly Library Supervisor". Our first Quarterly Supervisor this year is Lafitte's manager, Lauren Clement. Lauren has increased community engagement at Lafitte and is well liked by Lafitte's interim mayor and council and by Councilman Kerner. Lauren announced Lafitte library was recently renamed Ruth Perrin Adam Lafitte Library. Ms. Adam was the first librarian to work at the Lafitte Library; she influenced members of the community to read. Lauren's community engagement, great customer service, and impressive increase of statistics for registrations,

program events, and attendance at programs has gotten the attention of the town's leaders and Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser. It has been found that programming is a big part of the community. Lauren thanked Jessica for opening the door and allowing her the opportunity to build community relationships with local businesses and the schools in Lafitte. This summer the library will offer a few *Writing in Cursive* classes to children in the area; the classes are already full. Lauren said she has a great staff and a great team of floaters that help her to make things happen and she appreciates the opportunity to work at JPL.

- The new manager of North Kenner, Sarah Schnadelbach, was introduced. Sarah's been employed with the library a little over four years. She has helped with the Lego Club at EBR, attended conferences, and did an internship at Loyola University. Sarah commented she is excited to be the new manager, and looks forward to building relationships in the North Kenner community. She added Lauren's work in the Lafitte community is a shining example of what being a manager is about.
- Jessica introduced Jackie Jones, new board member representing council district 3. Jackie visited our meeting at the Avondale library last year.
- We will have two items going before council tomorrow for approval – a Change Order correcting a clerical error and a request to purchase the license *New Orleans Times-Picayune Historical Collection* from NewsBank, which will allow patrons continued digital access to older articles and obituaries. The cost of the digital license is 1/3 the cost from a few years ago.
- Facilities Report: Furniture for the EBR Makerspace is scheduled to arrive later this month. Lakeshore library will close temporarily in March for the roof and HVAC installation project.
- NY & Associates and 720 Designs recently met with the Library team to discuss plans and ideas for the WBR Renovation project. In March a community input meeting will be held for citizens to give input and ideas on the project. Jessica welcomed Jackie and Debra to share the names of educators on the West Bank so they can be invited to the meeting to give input from an educator's view point. Next month, a focus group will be held at the NOLA Night Market in Westwego, where a board displaying a few ideas will be posted for the community to vote on. Jessica will email the dates of the community focus groups.
- On at 6:06 PM last Saturday, Computer Network Specialist Alisha Thomas was working on an IT project and heard the fire alarms go off, which alerted the fire department. She immediately vacated the building and reported the alarm to her supervisor Network Administrator Ricardo, Mesa, who lives close by. Ricardo, along with Library Superintendent Offord Langston and Property Manager Richard Peart assisted the firemen in locating the source and extinguished the smoldering fire on the wiring of a barcode scanner on a vacant desk in Technical Services. Not much was burned, but there was a lot of soot and smoke residue. The remediation team estimates it will take 2-3 weeks to clean the area, including the vents. Jessica was impressed on how IT and Maintenance responded to the alarm and how they were on point Monday morning in getting the Technical Services set up at temporary work stations. This incident may slow down the process of getting new materials out to the branches.
- The Louisiana Library Association is March 5 -7 in Lake Charles. Fifteen people from the Library will be attending in which six will be presenters. Jessica invited the board to attend the conference stated March 6 would be the best date for them to attend.

Bob inquired if the 5% budget increase was due to unspent funds. Jessica informed him the decrease is due to us eliminating subscription services that were rarely used and on a few projects that did not need to happen this year.

Patricia said she enjoyed the AI presentation from the Deputy State Librarian. A recording of the presentation will be shared with the board.

Lisa reported the patron comment letters are wonderful and is glad we have such a great staff.

The next Library Board meeting is March 17, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM.