

JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

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

April 21, 2026

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jackie Jones and Gordon Wadge

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi, Outreach Librarians Skye Cornelia, Brittany Hart, and Bridget Johnston, and Special Programs Manager Brigid Laborie-Castro

Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Jessica announced Jesse Hunt, our second tallest employee within JPL, was our March Employee of the Month. Jesse was very helpful during Hurricane Francine.
- Special Programs Manager Brigid Laborie-Castro was introduced and congratulated for being selected as the *Library Employee of the Year*. Brigid recently returned from the Public Library Association 2026 Annual Conference where she shared what we do here on a national platform.
- Today is National Library Workers Day.
- The Friends book sale went well. Jessica and Friends President Marie interviewed with Wild Bill who did a broadcast there. Patricia added there were 437 people waiting in line for the doors to open the first day of the sale.
- A resolution renewing our EBSCO databases will go before council for approval at tomorrow's council meeting.
- Early voting will be held at EBR and WBR May 2 – 9. Lakeshore Library will be closed for library use on May 16, election day. Lakeshore closed this afternoon due to the disruptive noise from the roof and HVAC work being done over the public area. The library will reopen tomorrow when the contractors have moved to another section of the roof.
- The WBR community input sessions and focus discussion groups with the Dallas, TX architect went well. Jessica and the architect met with local community organizations and had focus group sessions with teens, homeschool moms, JEDCO, and YMCA staff.

- In response to the comment letters regarding it being “too cold” in EBR, the AC here is on an automated control system which makes it hard to keep a consistent temperature throughout the building. Adjusting the temperature in one area may cause it to be too warm or too cold in another area.
- Terrytown will be installing a quail cam in their garden area to record the hatching of quail eggs. An eagle scout built a hutch to protect the eggs.
- Two Information Specialists were hired for Marketing to help promote library events.
- Our total library usage is up 6% from last year.
- Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi did a presentation on this year’s Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) event, formally known as Summer Reading Program (SRP). This year’s theme is *Dig Discover Grow*. The challenge is open to people of all ages and runs May 30 – July 31. Last year about 5,000 people registered with nearly 3,000 completing the challenge. Participants will be able to log their books on a paper form or online via the Beanstack software to win prizes donated by the Friends. Erin thanked the Friends of JPL for their generosity. Kick-off events at EBR and WBR will be held May 30 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. North Kenner and River Ridge libraries will have a kick-off event of their own and an afterhours event exclusively for adults will be held June 5 at EBR and June 6 at WBR from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Brochures advertising events at each library will be printed and distributed June 1; a PDF version will be available on our website.

At our last meeting, Gordon asked if we could discuss how we partner with JP Schools. Outreach Librarians Skye Cornelia, Brittany Hart, and Bridget Johnston reported on how they made contact and engaged with 125 public and private schools in Jefferson Parish and 16 private schools in Orleans. Their tasks of engaging with the schools includes sharing information about library services and upcoming library events and programs, providing students with library card applications, and attending school events such as Family Literacy Night. They also perform in-school field trips where they do STEM and STEAM programs at schools, perform storytimes to Head Start pre-K and kindergarten students, and do a monthly storytimes at YMCA. Skye announced their future goals are to encourage our branch managers and teen librarians to establish connections with schools near their branch and to revitalize the *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten* program. A brochure highlighting Library Outreach was distributed.

Debra commented that summer programs in the schools have been cut and thinks the SRC will be great for students. She added she will reach out to school administrators to share contact information for our Outreach team.

Jessica and the Friends will be meeting with the Dolly Parton Imagination Book group to bring the program here. Members of the board are welcomed to attend this exciting venture.

Patricia announced the Friends sales was a success, they made \$58,000 with expenses totaling under \$12,000.

The next Library Board meeting is May 19, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.