

JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

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

May 19, 2026

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jackie Jones

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT: Irene Lunkin and Melissa Muhoberac

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: Marketing Manager David Johnson

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

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

Melissa announced Jessica is at a conference in Utah.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Melissa introduced EBR Reference Librarian Michelle Ochillo who started with the Library in 2021 and Rosedale Manager Regina Stewart who started in 2022. These ladies have been stars lately; we've received quite a few positive comment letters praising and thanking these ladies for all they do. Michelle commented she is happy to be working in EBR Reference and enjoys helping patrons, adding that it is exciting. A lot of families, children and homeless patrons come into the library and she loves helping them along with her great co-workers. It's fulfilling when patrons walk out happy they have been helped. Regina mentioned she enjoys interacting with the teens at Rosedale. At this moment the *Teen Tuesdays* program is taking place at Rosedale; the event consists of teens enjoying snacks while playing games and interacting with their peers. The staff at Rosedale also provide a lot of assistance to the elderly that visit the library. She mentioned the staff is so helpful and patient with the elderly and that they love providing assistance to them. At Rosedale, staff are focusing more on health programs such as *Movement Monday* where they dance, stretch, and do chair exercises, *Tai Chi and Tea*, and *Wellness Wednesday* to name a few. She and her staff love helping the community and making Rosedale a community hub for patrons.
- April Employee of the Month Heidi Austin, was not able to make this meeting, but will be introduced at next month's meeting.
- Facilities Report: Lakeshore is closed through May 29 while the A/C is disconnected to complete the roof installation. We've made a selection from one of the three designs presented for the

WBR renovation project; the architect is finalizing the designs which will include a second floor. Plans for a library in the South Kenner area are moving along.

- Marketing Manager David reported he has two new employees to help promote the library and that they have been very busy. We are continuing to expand our social media presence. You can now view our lecture programming events at [YouTube.com/@jplweb](https://www.youtube.com/@jplweb). We are debuting a small marketing magazine about the library which will be handed out at the upcoming Sr. Expo at the Alario Center. Adult patrons can now apply for library cards online, children must continue to register for library cards in person with their parent. The Parish PIO invited us to use their JP Studio and we hope to expand on that in the future. David announced the *Summer Reading Challenge (SRC)* runs May 30 – July 31 and invited members to attend dinosaur themed kick-off events at EBR and WBR on May 30. A 90's themed kick-off event for adults will be held June 5 at EBR and June 6 at WBR. The event will consist of Karaoke, a nacho bar, and other fun activities. The SRC guide listing summer events at the libraries will be available soon.

Bob mentioned he spoke with his grandkids and was informed gift certificates to stores like Barnes & Noble and Target would make great prizes for reading. He reported he reached out to four stores and two community places and got positive feedback for them to donate prizes to the Friends for the SRC program. He said he spoke with the Friends about the request for obtaining the donations and can't imagine why the Friends, a 501 (c) organization, was not able to provide the requested letter to obtain the donations. Patricia explained the reason and the process for accepting donations. Bob said he just wants to make sure the transition is done properly. Meredith said she would bring the Friends Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to the next meeting to go over it. Debra mentioned she may be able to obtain prizes from west bank rotary clubs for next year's SRC program.

The next Library Board meeting is June 16, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM.