

**JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**June 16, 2026
MINUTES**

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Gordon Wadge

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

OTHER PARISH STAFF: Assistant Parish Attorney Meredith Hearn

GUESTS: Sarah Babcock, Technical Advisor to Parish President; WBR Manager Daniel Cangelosi; Information Specialist Christie Cognevich; and Friends President Marie Orth

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

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- West Bank Regional Manager Danny Cangelosi was introduced as Library Supervisor of the Quarter. Comments from staff nominating him were that Danny listens to staff and patrons and that he cares about the responses he gives. Danny countered he is glad and happy that staff enjoy working at WBR. The staff there are doing a terrific job with the Summer Reading Challenge event and doted on how their circulation has increased in comparison to last year's. He added the staff is excited about the upcoming renovation.
- Our May Employee of the Month, Information Specialist Christie Cognevich, was responsible for initiating poetry events and events around Taylor Swift programs. She was recently promoted to our Marketing team as an Information Specialist. She's a writer and a fun and energetic person. Christie stated she has a PhD in English Literature and was a teacher before coming to JPL. She loves getting people interested in poetry through music. In her new role as Information Specialist she plans to build bridges and communicate more with staff and the public.
- Sarah Babcock, Technical Advisor to Parish President and Jessica have been working together on ways libraries can be used to address public health, community care, housing and homelessness, and accommodating Jefferson Parish's aging population. Sarah announced upcoming ventures that include *Baby Café* where a breast feeding support group will meet at Rosedale library every third Thursday; a partnership with LA Department of Health to enroll families in the WIC (Women, Infants & Children) program to help them increase their enrollment in Jefferson Parish; working on an agreement with the American Heart Association to provide blood pressure cuff readers in the libraries for patrons to use in the library and to check out for at-home use; and also a separate agreement with them on providing telehealth booths at Grand Isle and Lafitte libraries for patrons to use for virtual medical visits and

interviews for social services. The booths are sound proof to provide privacy. Another venture she's working with the library on is the Dolly Parton Foundation program where children age 0-5 years that sign up for the program receive a book through the mail every month for free until they reach age 5. Books are available in English, Spanish, and Braille. Right now Sarah and Jessica are seeking funds to get the program started at JPL. The estimated cost to offer this program is \$250,000 for the first two years. Sarah mentioned Jefferson Parish is the only parish in Louisiana to not offer this program.

Friends President Marie Orth and Patricia discussed how the Friends of Jefferson Public Library receive funds in accordance with their Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with Jefferson Parish. Their CEA gives them permission to accept the library's discards (books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, etc.) to sell to the public. In return, funds are donated to library to enhance the library system. The Friends also raise funds for the library by operating a gift shop in EBR.

Bob announced he spoke with Jessica on efforts of starting a seed library at some of our branches, as it's a national trend. Jessica reported JPL is working toward offering this program and hope to have some movement on this by the end of year. The Burpee Foundation is an organization we can use as a funding source for seeds; we just have to reach out to them. It's likely we can have our Teen Volunteers organize and package the seeds.

Jackie announced her voter registration initiative. Irene coordinates with the Registrar of Voters office annually for them to set up tables in our regional libraries annually. Jackie was informed to reach out to Irene to coordinate voter registration events she'd like to host at JP libraries.

The next Library Board meeting is July 21, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.