

**Kankakee Public Library January 20th, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting of the Kankakee Public Library Board of Trustees began at 5:32pm. Conway announced that Michael Costanza has resigned from the board.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Vena Burkes, Bruce Conway, Bonnie Brewer, Geraldine Adams, Mike Gall

Absent: Elizabeth Barbosa, Ruth Hatcher, Michael Costanza

Also present were: Allison Beasley, Library Director, Camille Rose, Assistant Director of Library Engagement, Vicki Forquer, Assistant Director of Library Resources, Shanelle Robinson, Marketing Coordinator/Business Manager

Review of Minutes: The December minutes were reviewed. Gall made a motion to approve the minutes and Adams seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Communications: Director Beasley presented the December statistics to the board, along with the Lions Pride staff newsletter. A donation made on behalf of a family member by a patron was presented to the board in a letter. A page from the Illinois Reporter magazine was presented highlighting Assistant Director Rose in an article from her attendance at a DEI Retreat.

Bills and Invoices and Financial Report: The bills and invoices for December were presented to the board. Director Beasley noted that all Square transactions are now listed individually adding to the length of the transactions report. Assistant Director Forquer stated that the Chicago Tribune newspaper will now be offered to patrons digitally, no longer in print which cut the costs for the print subscription. Library income is doing well 75% of the way through the budget year with 72% spent. Brewer motioned to approve the bills and invoices for the library, Burkes seconded. The board approved unanimously. The December Kankakee Events Partnership bills and invoices were presented. Director Beasley stated that payments are made to music licensing companies SEAC, BMI, and ASCAP by the events partnership that also cover the licensing for the City of Kankakee. The partnership is working on being refunded by the City for those payments. Burkes motioned to approve the bills and invoices for the events partnership, and Adams seconded. The board approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Director Beasley reported the following: Annual budget is doing well, 99% of income brought in for the year. Professional services will be used to wax and strip Craft Room floor. Circulation is hiring for an Outreach position, and Adult Services will be getting ready to hire as well. Monthly Lunch and Learns will resume this month. Library closed for the day after Christmas due to federal holiday announcement, which was approved by board President Conway. Adult Services is holding an Adult Crafting Club and Winter Sowing program. Smooth Fusion program by Darnell Davis returns this month. Taste of Soul Fridays will return for Black History Month programs in February. Along with Get to Know Your Aldermen events happening once a month.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business: New policy proposed to allow library to close due to federal events without board approval. Conway questioned wording of proposed policy, does not give blanket authority. No vote was made, wording will be changed and brought back to board to vote. A review of yearly library partnerships was presented to board, these will continue this year. The hospital name will be updated to say St. Mary's for St. Mary's Nurse in the Library program that was listed under Riverside. With the name change update Burkes motioned to approve, and Brewer seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Burkes motioned to adjourn at 6:07pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Shanelle Robinson.