

**Kankakee Public Library April 21st, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting of the Kankakee Public Library Board of Trustees began at 5:30pm. Two new board members were announced, Dennis Saulsberry and Gerri Suddeth.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Vena Burkes, Mike Gall, Bruce Conway, Bonnie Brewer, Elizabeth Barbosa, Geraldine Adams, Dennis Saulsberry, Gerri Suddeth

Absent: Ruth Hatcher

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

Review of Minutes: The February minutes were reviewed, due to no quorum for March there were no March minutes to review. Gall made a motion to approve the minutes and Burkes seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Communications: Director Beasley presented the February and March statistics to the board. Assistant Director Rose presented the February and March Lions Pride staff newsletters. Director Beasley presented a thank you letter given to Youth Services Supervisor Mary Bass, a congratulations letter for winning 3rd place in the Gallery of Trees, and an email from Normal Public Library thanking Kankakee Public Library for assisting Red Cross with book donations. Director Beasley also mentioned the Storm Lost and Found founded by Assistant Director Forquer, who explained the idea and that Channel 2 news did a news story on it. The Library also received a RAILS grant for \$1,500 to host a presentation from the Corporate Mystic for library continuing education.

Bills and Invoices and Financial Report: The library bills and invoices for February and March were presented to the board. Director Beasley noted that most of the income has been brought in, library did go over budget but it was expected due to the costly elevator repairs. Budget was over by about \$18,000, at just about 100% through the fiscal year. Burkes motioned to approve the bills and invoices for the library in February, Adams seconded. The board approved the February bills and invoices unanimously. Brewer motioned to approve the bills and invoices for the library in March, Burkes seconded. The board approved the March bills and invoices unanimously. The January-April Kankakee Events Partnership bills and invoices were presented. Director Beasley noted that the account sees mainly QuickBooks charges until summer months when events start. Barbosa motioned to approve the bills and invoices for the Events Partnership, and Gall seconded. The board approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Director Beasley reported the following: Library is nearing end of fiscal year, exceeding budget due to unprecedented expenses. Library elevator doors will need to be replaced, estimated cost around \$30,000. Youth Services craft room floor was professionally stripped and waxed, all floors carpets will be cleaned, and reading garden project will soon begin. A staff in-service training day was held April 10th, with library software and app training, Code ADAM training, and a presentation by Corporate Mystic. National Library Week started April 20th and Circulation is giving out magnet bookmarks to patrons. Summer Reading prep has begun for Youth Services and Adult Services. Merchant Street MusicFest planning has begun and KEP summer events are underway as well.

Unfinished Business: Burkes reminded that the CAM needed to be emailed to board members and the February KEP checks. Spill kits were also to be purchased for the library. Director Beasley stated the checks were included in this board packet and Supervisor Darnell would be notified about the spill kits.

New Business: A request to make Amnesty Month every April was presented. Suddeth motioned to approve and Brewer seconded. The board approved unanimously. Surplus items were presented, Assistant Director Rose noted that the items were primarily outdated electronic equipment. Gall motioned to approve, and Barbosa seconded. The board approved unanimously.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Barbosa motioned to adjourn at 6:16pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Shanelle Robinson.