

**Kankakee Public Library September 15th, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting of the Kankakee Public Library Board of Trustees began at 5:33pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Dennis Saulsberry, Mike Gall, Gerri Suddeth, Bruce Conway, Ruth Hatcher, Vena Burkes, Elizabeth Barbosa

Absent: Geraldine Adams, Bonnie Brewer

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

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

Public Comment: None.

Communications: Director Beasley presented the August statistics and the Lions Pride staff newsletter to the board. A letter announcing the retirement of Assistant Director of Library Engagement Camille Rose was presented to the board. A patron request submitted to the board was also presented. Patron inquired about upgrading chairs for third floor computers and renaming the library to include "Resource Center". Director Beasley stated that a chair upgrade would need to come out of the building supply budget line, and that all 10 chairs would need to be replaced. Suddeth inquired about the cost per chair, Beasley stated it was last priced around \$100-150 per chair.

Bills and Invoices and Financial Report: The library bills and invoices for August were presented to the board. Director Beasley stated that the library is 42% through the fiscal year so far and property taxes have been coming in. Library has received about half of the expected amount so far. Conway inquired about the budget outlook with the retirement of Assistant Director Rose, Beasley stated that it has been accounted for in the updated budget that was previously presented. Burkes motioned to approve the August bills and invoices for the library, and Suddeth seconded. The board approved unanimously.

The August Kankakee Events Partnership bills and invoices were presented to the board. Gall inquired if there are any outstanding donations still from MusicFest, Beasley stated there is only one left and they are waiting for the final receipts from the KDC Director. Beasley's goal is to have an MSMF retrospective to present to the board and city by October. Gall motioned to approve the August bills and invoices for the events partnership, and Burkes seconded. The board approved unanimously. Burkes inquired about a monthly report from pre-Covid to now showing attendance statistics. Beasley stated it will be included in next month's Director's Report.

Director's Report: Director Beasley reported the following: Second property tax reimbursement received for \$400,000.00. The newly designed Reading Garden space has been a great boost for community and staff. Support Services Supervisor Davis has hired a new staff member. Lots of fall programming going on building wide including events planned for Hispanic Heritage Month by committee. Youth Services will host annual Spooktacular in October.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Director Beasley requested that the library close early at 4pm on Friday, October 30th in preparation for Youth Services' Spooktacular event that evening at 6pm. Suddeth motioned to approve the early closing, and Burkes seconded. The board approved unanimously.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Burkes motioned to adjourn at 6:23pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Shanelle Robinson.