

**GREENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

March 24, 2025

Present: Mr. Brian Aufmuth, Mr. Kenneth Baxter, Dr. Gene Beckner (via conference phone), Mrs. Elizabeth Collins, Mrs. Stephanie Cunningham, Mr. James Hoard, Mr. Tommy Hughes, Mrs. Marcia Moston, Mrs. Kristen Odom, Mr. Joe Poore, and Mr. S. Allan Hill, presiding.

Library System Managers Present: Don Allen, Accounting Manager; Ray Arnett, Branch Library Services Manager; Michelle Hannon, Communications Manager; Brian Morrison, Access and Discovery Director; Jerry Osteen, Information Technology Manager; Rick Silvers, Facilities Maintenance Manager; Beverly James, Executive Director; and Jill Cornwell, Administrative Projects Manager, acting as Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Allen called the meeting to order at 12:03p.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hill called for the approval of the minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, February 24, 2025. Mr. Hoard moved to approve as written. Mr. Hughes seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

LIBRARY FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

FY26 Proposed Operating Budget

Mr. Baxter reported that the Finance Committee met twice in March to consider a proposed budget. He noted that the first budget contained an overall increase of 13.1% which was reduced to 4.5% following the committee's action. Mr. Baxter stated that the current budget being considered was now down to less than a 1% overall expenditure increase from the previous year's budget. The new budget draft also included a .5 mill decrease request for Council approval, representing an estimated \$1.7M less in tax revenue. Mrs. Moston commented that while she supported a financially sound budget, she wanted to be sure that the materials and salaries amounts being proposed would meet the demands of a growing county.

Mrs. Collins stated that the current budget being proposed included an increase in materials. She noted that while overall increase in the Salaries & Wages line item was now less than the 17.2% originally proposed, it was not a cut from what was paid to employees last year. Mr. Hoard added that the salaries and materials were still being increased over the previous year's budget, but the increases were more modest than the originally proposed budget.

Mr. Poore offered an amendment to reinstate the original proposed compensation adjustment for the Salaries & Wages line item which called for a 4.5% pay increase based on the Employment Cost Index (ECI), then apply the full value of the FY24 Wage Study, and including commensurate adjustments. In response to a question from Mr. Hill, Mr. Poore confirmed that the motion entailed an overall increase over the FY25 budget of 17.2% in the Salaries & Wages line item as originally proposed at the Finance Committee meeting on March 11. Mr. Hill noted the increase in the Salaries & Wages line item in the proposed budget being considered.

Following discussion, Mr. Baxter called the question on Mr. Poore's amendment. With three in favor and eight opposed, the motion failed. Mr. Hill announced that the failed motion did not mean there would be a decrease in existing staff wages.

Mr. Hoard called the question on the *FY26 Proposed Operating Budget Based on Library Finance Committee Actions March 19, 2025*. With all in favor, the motion carried and the budget was adopted as presented.

Requests for Contingency Funds

Ms. James stated that there were two requests: \$14,000 to replace the Bookmobile generator and \$150,000 for the purchase of opening day collection materials for the new Blue Ridge Branch Library. The requests were voted on together. With all in favor, the requests were approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. James called attention to a set of bookmarks and the March/April/May Event Guide provided to trustees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Transfer from Operating Fund Balance

Mr. Hoard moved to transfer \$5 Million for the Library System's Undesignated Operating Fund to the Library System's Capital Fund. Mr. Hughes seconded. With two opposed, the motion carried.

Mrs. Collins moved to take \$5 Million from the Operating Fund, contingent upon legality, and return the funds to County Council. Mr. Hoard seconded. With five in favor and 6 opposed, the motion failed.

APPEARANCES

Mr. Hill announced that several individuals had signed up to appear before the Board. He recognized the following individuals who made comments concerning their recorded Purpose of Appearance:

Name	Purpose of Appearance
Leah Narro	"Speak ab[ou]t salaries for Librarian"
Beth Love	"Speak about cutting funding"
Alyssa Webber	"library funding cuts"
Tracy Philpott	"library funding"
Sheila Kihne	"Spending/Budget"
Kristi Kendrick	"speaking on behalf of families"
Evelyn Nocella	"Speaking for library funding"
Kirbie Crowe	"Speaking on proposed budget"
Stephen Shelato	"workers"
Claire Walsh	"speaking"
Leanne Ramirez	"Speaking"

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Collins so moved. Mr. Hoard seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 2:02p.

S. Allan Hill
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James
Executive Director

Jill Cornwell
Recording Secretary