

Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
From Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Type of Meeting: Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Jenni Swanson

Invitees: Deborah Freiburg, Nick Hammond, Jacki Nelson, Jo Noon, Aleatha Quarles, Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh, Elizabeth Russell, Shelly Johnson; Eudell Watts III (Emeritus Board Member); Angela Campbell, Library Director; Daniel Cuneo, Business & Facilities Director; Lisa Lockheart, Marketing Manager; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director.

I. Call to Order: President Swanson called the meeting to order at 5 P.M.

II. Attendance: Only Trustee Aleatha Quarles was absent.

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Approval of Minutes –

- Trustee Nelson moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on October 21, 2025. Trustee Noon seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via voice vote: all ayes.

V. Board Education – Illinois Public Library Standards –

- Governance and Administration Action Plan:
Director Campbell gave a brief overview of the rubric for both categories. She believes that RIPL displays excellence in both. RIPL makes good use of the City Attorney as a screener for many of its decisions, though she did ask if the Board interfaces with state government officials. Several trustees said they do whenever the opportunity presents itself.

President Swanson asked if there was a succession plan in place for Director Campbell, who confirmed that, yes, there is.

VI. Correspondence –

- The Board offered their thanks to patrons Fuller and Watts for their kind words and contributions to the Library.

VII. Committee Reports –

A) Finance – Jenni Swanson

- President Swanson moved to approve the monthly bills for October in the amount of \$46,457.30. Trustee Freiburg seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes; no nays.
- Director Campbell offered a final update on the CY 2026 budget, stating that it's on track with increases as planned based on a standard tax levy. She noted that not knowing the actual tax levy numbers until after the budget is due is a perennial issue.

- Director Campbell explained that she and Director Cuneo are actively tracking the Library budget lines as they close out the fiscal year. Everything appears on-track thus far. Also, both directors are proud that the final version of the CY26 budget is balanced.

B) Art & Facilities – Jacki Nelson

- CDBG Bathroom Remodel: Director Cuneo walked the Board through ongoing issues the Library is having with Valley Construction. The HVAC system has been re-integrated and is up and running again, but he's concerned about several change orders that seem inflated or should otherwise be included in the scope of work for the project. He's communicating with Jeff Laxton and Nichole Mata at the City to work out next steps.
- Trustee Swanson said that the Library shouldn't hesitate to get the City Manager involved, as the City has had other issues with Valley in the recent past.

C) Personnel & Policy – Debbie Freiburg

- Trustee Freiburg said that the committee met with Director Campbell for her annual performance review prior to the night's meeting, and that there would be a closed session later to discuss more.

D) Planning & Community Relations – Dr. Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh

- Trustee Grandberry-Pugh had no updates.

E) Technology Ad-hoc Committee – Nick Hammond

- Trustee Hammond said that he'd made no headway with the City IT department on getting color printing and faxing at the Southwest Branch Library because of the turnover in the IT department. He will keep working on it.

VIII. Foundation Updates – Kathy Lelonek

- Foundation President Lelonek detailed the Foundation's final meeting of the year, which was focused on the Downtown Facilities Master Plan and introducing it to the Foundation Board and select local stakeholders—including John Philips from the Day Foundation, Mark Schweibert, and State Senator Mike Halpin. Director Campbell gave a presentation on the details of the plan, and Foundation President Lelonek thought it was very well-received. The Foundation is looking into its unrestricted holdings to see what it might offer as a lead gift.
- The next Library Foundation meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026

IX. Administrator Reports –

- Director's Report: Director Campbell explained the migration of RAILS' digital collection and the possibility of getting Libby and eRead into the Palace Project app.
- Statistics: Director Campbell offered a heartfelt thanks to her staff for their amazing work this year. As a result, RIPL statistics are up in nearly every category, and she's immensely proud.

- Milan Blackhawk Area Public Library District: The MBAPLD Board is on winter break until the new year. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2026 at 4pm at the Southwest Branch

X. Unfinished Business –

Trustee Russell noted a discrepancy in the minutes that were approved at the previous meeting: the motion read that October was approved, but the text included in the packet was for September. Director Cuneo explained that his file was incorrectly named after he misread the numerical date code in haste. He apologized and will provide the correct text for the next meeting. Meanwhile, the versions on the City and RIPL websites have since been confirmed correct—so there isn't a compliance issue.

XI. New Business –

1. Trustee Russell moved to approve the 2026 Library Board of Trustees meeting schedule. Trustee Nelson seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed via voice vote: all ayes.
2. Trustee Freiburg motioned to approve closing all library locations on Thursday, April 23, 2026, for an all-staff in-service day [in partnership with the Davenport Library]. Trustee Russell seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed via voice vote: all ayes.
3. Gate count and hours discussion: Director Campbell said that recent gate counts accurate and, accordingly, could find nowhere the Library could cut staffing or operating hours. However, she noted that there are potential safety issues on Saturdays because of low staffing levels. She may start asking managers to work one Saturday per month. Trustee Freiburg and President Swanson want to revisit the issue in April, and Director Campbell agreed.
4. The motion to approve the annual performance appraisal of the library director, and any associated changes in compensation, were postponed until after the imminent executive session.

XII. Information Sharing –

- Board Terms: Director Campbell reminded everyone that Trustees Nelson and Russell are terming-off in April. She urged everyone to consider who might be good successors and ask them to apply.

XIII. Executive Session –

President Swanson moved to enter closed session, per 5 ILCS 120/2c Exception 1: Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee of the public body. Trustee Russell seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes; no nays.

XIV. Announcements –

- Next Board Meeting – December 16, 2025 at 5pm, Downtown Library

XV. Adjournment –

Trustee Russell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 P.M. Trustee Grandberry-Pugh seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via voice vote: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Cuneo
Business & Facilities Director