

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – March 25, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Plaza Branch, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64112.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne, President
Reid Day
Laura Dominik
Claudia Oñate Greim
Susan Kenney
Michelle Smirnova
Elizabeth Warwick
India Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Jonathan Kemper

STAFF PRESENT: Abby Yellman, Chief Executive
Candice Butler-Titus, Executive Services Senior Manager
Melissa Carle, Director of Information Systems
Trina Duncan, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Qun Fang, Senior Director of Finance / Chief Finance Officer
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement
Sharla Harris, Administrative Officer
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy
Amanda Quance, Manager of Special Projects
Kaite Stover, Director of Reader's Services
* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

Brown Introduced Butler-Titus, who joined the Library as the New Executive Services Senior Manager.

Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Second by Day. Approved unanimously.

(Note: As a matter of Board convention, the Chair votes only when his/her vote would affect the outcome of the vote. In all "recorded" votes, the vote of the Chair appears only when it has actually been cast and when it has had an effect on the disposition of the motion. Notations of "approved unanimously" mean all members, other than the Chair, voting affirmatively.)

Request by Dominik to consider the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Dominik to consider items 4.1 and 4.2 separately.

Discussing the authorization of expenditures (LBM 4749), Yellman highlighted two items: the payment to the Moran Company LLC, for executive search services related to the Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer (COO) recruitment, and the payment for the Staff Enrichment Day, that was held on February 28, 2025, at the Plaza Branch.

Discussing the financial reports (LBM 4750), Yellman invited Fang to discuss the financial reports. Fang presented a financial summary, highlighting the end-of-month account balances, the property tax revenue received to date, the expenditure categories, and the percentage of the budget spent for each. Yellman noted Fang has been handling forecasting and providing updates to the Executive Team, including impacts of proposed state legislation related specifically to property tax.

Approved unanimously by the voting Board members. The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the following expenditures for February 2025: Payroll (2/6/25 net cash \$400,206 plus taxes \$143,435) and (2/20/25 net cash \$382,239 plus taxes \$132,023) in the total amount of \$1,057,903; General Expense Payments including Checks (16011-16201) in the amount of \$1,197,430. (LBM 4749)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for February 2025. (LBM 4750)

Discussing the Nonbinding Tax Levy (LBM 4751), Yellman shared the importance of the Library setting the nonbinding tax levy by the April 8, 2025, deadline. Fang then shared his recommendation to the Board to keep the nonbinding tax levy rate the same as the current fiscal year 2024-2025. The nonbinding tax levy will be reevaluated and finalized in September 2025 following additional property tax valuations (i.e., personal property, new construction) made available by Jackson County.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to approve the Nonbinding Projected Tax Levy for Tax Year 2025. Second by Warwick. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4751)

Discussing the Surety Bond (LBM 4752), Yellman shared that in accordance with state statute, the Library is recommending that a surety bond be obtained for the Board Treasurer. This is to ensure compliance with state regulations and should match the coverage amount currently provided for other employees under the existing surety bond.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to approve the Surety Bond for the Board Treasurer. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4752)

Discussing the American Library Association (ALA) Trustee travel expenses (LBM 4753), Yellman discussed the approval of travel expenses for the Board related to the upcoming ALA annual conference in Philadelphia, PA, while adding the importance of early registration and the coordination of booking hotels and flights.

Day also shared that Mayor Quinton Lucas is working to bring the ALA conference to Kansas City in the future.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize travel for Trustees to attend the American Library Association (ALA) conference, held from June 26, 2025, to June 30, 2025, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in total amount not to exceed \$2915 per person in accordance with Library Board Policies 031 and 032. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4753)

Smirnova left the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Discussing the Director's Report (LBM 4754), Yellman provided an overview of the Director's Report, highlighting an update on the strategic plan review process. Five (5) consultants have been identified for interviews, and the Library is still on track to bring the recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the Regular Board meeting scheduled for April 15, 2025.

Yellman requested Duncan and Faris to provide an update on Staff Enrichment Day. Both highlighted the event's success, noting that there were 265 attendees. Duncan mentioned that the Library is considering holding another Staff Enrichment Day in September 2025 and encouraged ideas from the Board to be sent to Harris. The Board then discussed potential venues for future events and emphasized the importance of the connections between staff and the Board members.

Yellman provided an update on the Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer position, noting that three candidates were selected for finalist interviews, which took place on Monday, March 17, 2025. Dominik inquired about the start date for the position, Yellman mentioned that the starting date would likely be April or May depending on the selected candidate.

Yellman provided an update on the Legislative Bill Tracker, highlighting that the Library is currently tracking 35 bills, with House Bill 903 being the most significant. The estimated fiscal impact to the Kansas City Public Library (KCPL) is \$4 million from 2026-2028.

There was no old business for discussion.

Discussing New Business. The April Board meeting will be held at the Annex, and the May Board meeting will be held at the Waldo Branch.

Motion by Dominik to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously.

The Board was in closed session from 5:31 p.m. until 6:36 p.m. No action was taken.

Motion by Dominik to adjourn. Second by Kenney. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Secretary

Date