

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – March 24, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the Plaza Library, Cohen Conference Room, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City Missouri.

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

MEMBERS NOT
PRESENT: Jonathan Kemper

STAFF PRESENT: Abby Yellman, Chief Executive
Qun Fang, Senior Director of Finance / Chief Finance Officer
Candice Butler-Titus, Executive Services Senior Manager
Sage Lore, Administrative Officer
Joel Jones, Deputy Director for Library Services
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement
Jami Hrenchir, Chief People Officer
Courtney Christensen, Interim Philanthropy Deputy Director
Coletta Hummel, Interim Public Affairs/Community Engagement Deputy Director
Kim Giles, Branch Services and Engagement Director
Melissa Carle, Director of Information Systems
Amanda Quance, Manager of Special Projects

* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026, Regular Board Meeting and March 10, 2026, Building Oversight Meeting Second, by Kenney. 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 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 3.1 and 3.2 separately.

In discussing the financial reports (LBM 4826), Yellman noted that there were no vendor payments to highlight during the period.

In discussing (LBM 4827), Fang reported that the Library had received approximately \$25.4 million in tax revenue (84%), which is \$3.3 million less than last year. Last year's total included a \$1.7 million tax settlement and a \$1.4 million replacement tax received in February. This year, the replacement tax was delayed and was received in March. Other revenues are approximately \$1.2 million, which is consistent with last year's amount, with total revenues of \$26.6 million (82.4%).

On the expenditure side, salaries and benefits totaled just over \$12.6 million (61%). Library materials expenditures were approximately \$1.7 million (59%). General operating expenses were a little over \$3 million (61%). Building maintenance expenses were \$2.3 million (98%) and included unbudgeted emergency repairs related to flood damage to Mobile Services and elevator repairs at Central Library. Capital outlay remains under budget and when combined with Building maintenance, overall expenditure is expected to remain under budget for the fiscal year. Dominik asked whether the Library would receive an insurance settlement for the emergency repairs, to which Fang explained that flood coverage applies after the deductible and that payment was issued last year to cover repairs for the Central Library elevator repairs. In total, expenditures to date are approximately \$20 million (62.6%). A transfer of \$1 million was made from Operating Fund to Capital Development Fund.

Fang reported that gifts and grants revenue totaled \$1.8 million with \$1 million in expenditure. Parking garage revenue totaled \$382,000 (57%), with \$449,000 in expenditure (57%). Cash on hand totaled approximately \$47.9 million, including \$29.7 million in the UMB checking account, \$11.17 million in the UMB investment account, and \$7 million in the Swanson Fund. Fang also highlighted two major grants: KCMO Navigators (\$20,528) and AmeriCorps (\$9,420).

Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second, by Williams. Approved unanimously by the voting Board members, Oñate Greim abstained from the vote for LBM 4827.

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 2026: Payroll (2/5/26 net pay \$414,436 plus taxes \$141,182) and (2/19/26 net pay \$400,731 plus taxes \$132,637) in the total

amount of \$1,088,986; General Expense Payments (check#17521 – 17563/ACH#1071-1213/Autopay) in the amount of \$1,335,026.46. (LBM 4826)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for February 2026. (4827)

In discussing the projected nonbinding tax levy, Fang advised that 2026 is not a reassessment year and therefore includes no changes to personal property assessments. Real property assessments were updated and reflected a 6.7% decrease, with an overall total assessment decrease of 5.4%. As a result, the regular tax levy remains unchanged at \$0.4733. Jackson County plans to issue tax credits to households that experienced assessment increases greater than 15% in 2023, which will require revisions to the 2023 and 2024 assessments. Due to these revisions, a rollback adjustment is anticipated. Based on the preliminary data which will not be final until September, an additional estimated \$0.08 levy is expected. Combined with the regular levy, the nonbinding total tax levy was set at \$0.5556. Yellman and Fang discussed various approaches to setting the levy and determined this approach prioritizes transparency and minimizes potential surprises for residents. Board members were supportive of this approach, and Browne reminded the group that the levy remains within the statutory limit. Overall, the Library was commended for being responsible stewards of public funds.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to informally project the Library's nonbinding tax levy for tax year 2026 at 0.5556 per \$100 assessed valuation pursuant to the provisions of Section 137.243(1) RSMo. Second, by Kenney. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4828)

Fang provided an overview of the annual budget cycle and key upcoming processes. The cycle begins with setting up the nonbinding tax levy and collecting departmental budget requests, followed by preliminary reviews with the Chief Executive and management. The Finance and Audit Committee then reviews the budget and submits it for Board consideration. After receiving final assessment information from the County, a public hearing is held, and the final budget and tax levy are adopted and certified, completing the annual budget cycle.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to adopt the 2026 Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Second, by Day. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4829)

In discussing the purchase of computers from SHI International (LBM 4830), Carle noted that this year's purchase will address staff computers that were not replaced last year and include a refresh of public computers at the Plaza Library and Central 3 South. Carle further noted that despite challenges with rising costs, pricing increased by only 5% compared to last year. Williams inquired about how the Library recycles old laptops, and Carle responded that laptops are replaced once they've reached the end of their lifespan, usually after four years or more. The Library partners with MRC Midwest Recycling Center, a local company, to recycle these retired devices.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize the purchase of computers and peripherals from SHI International Corp. (“SHI”) at an amount not to exceed \$160,000. Second by Day. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4830)

Motion by Browne to take the agenda out of order and discuss item 4.5.

In discussing Trustee travel expenses for the American Library Association Annual Conference (LBM 4832). Yellman noted the ALA conference will be held in Chicago and that the travel process has been revised to be more structured and to establish clearer expectations. This updated process applies to both staff and Board members and is intended to manage costs while continuing to support professional development.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize travel for Trustees to attend the American Library Association (ALA) Annual conference, held from June 25, 2026, to June 29, 2026, in Chicago, Illinois in total amount not to exceed \$2,500 per person with Library Board Policies 031 and 032. Second, by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4832)

Browne invited Matthew Kruntorád, Principal Architect with MSR Design, to present the Library’s Comprehensive Facilities Plan (LBM 4831). Kruntorád expressed appreciation for Library staff and leadership, noting a strong organization and collaboration across the system. The plan includes a detailed analysis of the Library’s facilities, performance data, and community input, with a focus on prioritizing needs and supporting data driven decision-making. Kruntorád explained that the plan serves as a flexible short- and long-term guide for capital improvements, allowing the Library to respond to opportunities as they arise. It is not intended to be a final decision document, but rather to initiate continued planning and provide guidance on sequencing. The plan also outlines systemwide needs, with cost estimates presented as indicators rather than commitments, and is intended to align with and support the Strategic Plan.

Kruntorád explained how the Comprehensive Facilities Plan evaluates all library locations and establishes a tiered framework (A, B, C, and D) to guide future investment and decision making. Highly used branches, such as Waldo, were identified as operating at capacity with site constraints, requiring careful consideration of expansion, reconfiguration, or potential relocation to achieve the greatest impact.

- Framework A recommendation focuses on strengthening core neighborhood libraries by improving functionality, meeting space, and operational efficiency.
- Framework B recommendations build on this foundation by adding enhanced programming space, partnerships, and services tailored to neighborhood needs.
- Framework C recommendations describe culture hubs offering multiple unique programs and spaces that attract a wide range of visitors for major events.

- Framework D recommendations describe program focused innovation libraries that differentiate services based on facility or neighborhood needs while addressing space constraints.

Next steps include adopting the Comprehensive Facilities Plan, continuing Strategic Plan implementation, supporting phasing and funding, and advancing detailed project development, supported by renewed community engagement at the neighborhood level. Yellman emphasized that engagement is ongoing and will intensify as individual building decisions are considered. Yellman also noted the need to pause and balance workload, particularly as a forthcoming compensation study will require Board consideration before advancing funding discussions. Overall, the plan was described as a strong, validating roadmap that confirms existing strengths, identifies clear priorities, builds momentum, and supports long term, multiyear decision making.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to adopt the 2026 Comprehensive Facilities Plan. Second, by Kenney. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4831)

In discussing the Directors Report (LBM 4833), Yellman invited Hummel to give a brief overview of the in-service sessions which represent the first phase of the strategic plan. Hummel advised that the sessions focus on building a foundation by embedding the mission, vision, values statements and strategic priorities into daily work. The sessions are conversational, encouraging staff to discuss the plan, what it means to them, and how their roles connect to it. The initiative has been well received with staff expressing excitement about having clear framework, shared language and better alignment across the library system.

Yellman advised that the Library is hosting its second annual Staff Enrichment Day on April 23 at the Plaza library branch. The day will focus on the “start, stop, continue” framework, particularly the stop phase, to assess current work and ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan. The keynote speaker will be Walter Crawford, an executive leadership coach recommended by the Kauffman Foundation, who will focus on conflict resolution, communication, and organizational culture. He will also lead a breakout session, alongside other library-focused and interactive sessions. Yellman also noted that in other staff development, a new leadership program (KLC) has been launched, emphasizing that leadership exists at all levels. Demand has been strong, with 40 applicants for 18 spots, and two cohorts are planned this year. The program is grant-funded and has received very positive feedback from participants.

Yellman advised that legislatively, significant attention is being paid to property tax bills, many of which are revenue-neutral but could affect assessment practices, payment timing, ballot language requirements, and distinctions between residential and commercial property. Key concerns include potential changes to how new construction is treated under rollback and the Hancock Amendment, which could limit future revenue growth. The legislative landscape is narrowing, allowing leadership to better assess potential impacts, though some details still require clarification from lobbyists.

There was no old business for discussion.

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

The Board was in closed session from 5:58 p.m. until 7:08 p.m. No action was taken.

Motion by Kenney to adjourn. Second, by Warwick. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Secretary

Date