

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – April 21, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Branch, Annex Board Room, 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne, President
Laura Dominik
India Williams
Reid Day
Dennis Dobbels

MEMBERS NOT
PRESENT: Claudia Oñate Greim
Susan Kenney
Elizabeth Warwick
Jonathan Kemper

STAFF PRESENT: Abby Yellman, Chief Executive
Pritha Hariharan, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer
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
Jerry Houchins, Director of Operations
Kaite Stover, Director of Reader's Services

* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

**Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of March 24, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.
Second by Williams. 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 (LBM 4834), Fang noted that there were no vendor payments to highlight and all payments were made according to the budget.

In discussing (LBM 4835), Fang reported that the Library had received approximately \$28.3 million in tax revenue (93%). Fang explained that in addition to the property tax credit, Jackson County voluntarily issued refunds of approximately \$470,000 to commercial real estate owners who experienced property value increases greater than 15%. Yellman shared that the communication at the recent Jackson County meeting was not ideal, and the Library is estimating a commercial property tax claw back in this fiscal year of about \$1 million. Yellman advised that they continue to watch for updates and adjust projections accordingly. Fang advised that because of these changes, the Library may not meet the revenue budget.

On the expenditure side, salaries and benefits totaled just over \$14.1 million (67%) which is under budget due to several open positions. Library materials expenditures were approximately \$1.8 million (62%) and are expected to increase next month. General operating expenses were a little over \$3.4 million (67%). Building maintenance expenses were \$2.4 million (73%), and Capital Outlay totaled \$622,000 (47%). In total, expenditures to date are approximately \$22.3 million (67%). Lastly, a \$1 million transfer was made to the Capital Development Fund. Trustee Dominik asked whether the Library would consider transferring that money back, and Yellman advised that staff would like to keep options open until there is a clearer picture of overall finances to support more informed decisions. Trustee Dominik also asked whether any of the expenditure categories that are currently under budget are expected to increase significantly or exceed current projected amounts and Fang confirmed that salaries, benefits and materials are being kept in line and that unexpected expenses under building maintenance were managed using Capital Outlay funds. If needed, the Library can delay a couple of projects to remain within budget.

Fang reported that gifts and grants revenue exceeded the budget with just over \$2 million, which includes \$500,000 investment income with Swanson Fund. The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation has since revised the report and it has dropped to \$300,000, therefore revenue total will be adjusted down next month and the cash balance for Swanson will also decrease. On the expenditure side, the Library has spent \$1.1 million. Parking garage revenue totaled \$443,000 (66%), with \$526,000 in expenditure (66%), which includes the garage repairs of \$140,000. Cash on hand totaled approximately \$48.1 million, including \$30.2 million in the UMB checking account with a 3.7% interest rate, \$10.8 million in the UMB investment account, and \$7.1 million in the Swanson Fund. Fang also highlighted three major grants: KCMO Navigators (\$16,620), Blue Cross Blue Shield (\$5,000) and State of Missouri (\$15,036). Fang noted that this month marks the quarterly reporting for MBE (Minority Business Enterprise) and WBE (Women's

Business Enterprise) spending. Fang reported that expenses with WBE vendors are 24% of total expenses, including payroll and library materials, exceeding the Library's goal of 20%.

Motion by Williams to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Dominik. 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 March 2026: Payroll in the total amount of \$1,165,830 and General Expense Payments in the amount of \$1,209,233. (LBM 4834)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for March 2026. (LBM 4835)

In discussing the contract with Crystal Clear Enterprise, Houchins highlighted that the vendor won the bid from our current vendor Millicare and is an MBE vendor.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to contract with Crystal Clear Enterprise to provide carpet cleaning for the Kansas City Public Library's branches and Annex building at an annual cost not to exceed \$73,505. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4836)

In discussing janitorial services with City Wide Maintenance, Houchins noted that, for the first time in several years, the Library will have the same janitorial vendor serving the entire library system, streamlining operations and supporting more consistent services across branches.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to contract with City Wide Maintenance to provide janitorial services for the Kansas City Public Library's branches and Annex building for a total of \$580,000. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4837)

In discussing the contract with Omega Door and Hardware, Houchins explained that very few companies currently make bronze doors. The Library initially received a bid that expired because prices are only held for up to 20 days. When the project was rebid, the selected vendor's price increased by about \$18,000 therefore the Library would like to move forward before this becomes a larger expense. Houchins noted that the existing ADA doors are in very poor condition, requiring padlocks at night, and that replacing them with non-bronze doors would be inconsistent with the historic feel of the Central Library. Trustee Browne also noted that some of this expense will be paid with the Jackson County grant which the Library received a couple of months ago. Houchins also advised that an MBE contractor also made a bid but was approximately \$9,000 higher than the chosen vendor.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to contract with Omega Door and Hardware to repair the doors of the ADA-compliant entrance at Central

Library for a total cost not to exceed \$82,026. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4838)

In discussing the renovation of the public restrooms at the Waldo and Southeast branches, Houchins explained that since bids came in higher than anticipated, the project was reduced to focus on these two branches and defer Trails West to a later time. To control costs and streamline design, staff will adopt the Northeast branch restroom design.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to renovate the public restrooms at Waldo and Southeast at a cost not to exceed \$269,535. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4839)

In discussing the Directors' Report (LBM 4840), Yellman provided an overview of the updated heat map, highlighting progress on major strategic initiatives. Yellman noted that the attention is shifting toward people and culture work, with some timeline adjustments due to the upcoming budget cycle and other priorities. In response to a question from Dominik about the new leadership organizational chart and structure, Yellman explained that implementation is currently on hold until the Board's discussion of the compensation study.

Yellman invited Hariharan to give an update on both the Strategic and Comprehensive Facilities plans. Hariharan noted that the next step is to complete foundational work with staff on Staff Enrichment Day, which will serve as the official launch of the strategic plan implementation. There will be an inventory of current work to which staff advisory groups will be formed to use the stop/start/continue exercise to determine what is in alignment with the Library's strategic priorities.

Yellman also discussed the compensation study noting the next step is for CBIZ to present to the Finance & Audit Committee and full Board in May at which point Board direction will be needed on whether to implement the recommendations and if so, whether to phase them in. CBIZ will apply that direction to develop detailed financial outlook so the Library can implement it as part of the budget in June.

Yellman briefed the Board on state property tax proposals and advised that the primary bill of concern would not directly cut library funding; however, it could significantly change the structure of property taxes, potentially subjecting new construction to the Hancock rollback, and further complicating long-term forecasting for the Library. Yellman noted that staff, with support from lobbyist Chris Roby, are closely monitoring the legislation through the May 15 adjournment and are pursuing a bill sponsored by Senator Patty Lewis to give the Board flexibility to change the Library's fiscal year if needed. Dominik asked if there was anything that the Board could do to provide support, and Yellman advised that she would seek guidance from the lobbyists and report back to the Board.

Yellman highlighted work from Digital Literacy and Tech Access teams, noting 988 interactions and emphasizing their critical, often unseen role in supporting patrons. Yellman also recognized

Readers Services for being recognized nationally as experts in their field and for being asked to help develop standards for readers' advisory and reader services.

Lastly, Dominik asked about FIFA and if the Library had any concerns. Jones outlined preparations for the World Cup, noting that most themed offerings will be integrated into the Summer Reading Program, and that staff are exploring pocket translator devices to support visitors in multiple languages. Jones added that the Library is considering unadvertised watch parties (pending cost and licensing) and is planning operationally for increased use of restrooms, parking, and security at Plaza and Central, including coordination with KCPD and contract security. Jones also noted the main concern is potential longer police response times if resources are concentrated near World Cup venues and shared that Executive staff expect to be available in branches on Fan Fest days to provide additional support. Overall, increased traffic is anticipated, but the Library does not foresee major security issues.

There was no old business for discussion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Secretary

Date