

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – August 25, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. virtually.

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

MEMBERS' NOT
PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Abby Yellman, Chief Executive
Pritha Hariharan, Executive Deputy Director
Qun Fang, Senior Director of Finance / Chief Finance Officer
Candice Butler-Titus, Executive Services Senior Manager
Sage Lore, Administrative Officer
Joel Jones, Chief Operating Officer
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement
Jami Hrenchir, Chief People Officer
Courtney Christensen, Chief Development Officer
Coletta Hummel, Interim Public Affairs / Community Engagement Deputy Director

* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and welcomed the new Board of Trustee Jessica Blubaugh to the team.

Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of July 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Second by Day. Approved unanimously.

Browne took the agenda out of order and proceeded to Item 5.1, the presentation of the Annual Financial Report by FORVIS. Yellman introduced the FORVIS team, Jacob Holman, Matt McCall, and Alicia Lillich and invited them to begin their presentation.

The FORVIS team presented the draft results of the Library's annual financial statement audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026. The audit remains in draft form pending receipt of pension information from the Public School Retirement System, which is expected in the fall.

The auditors commended Library management for meeting Missouri's requirement to present draft financial statements within 60 days of year end, noting that this timeline is significantly shorter than that of many other public sector entities.

The Library implemented GASB Statement No. 103 during the fiscal year. The new standard did not have a material impact on the financial statements and primarily resulted in updates to the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section, which auditors found to be compliant with the new requirements.

In response to a question from Dominik regarding audit adjustments, FORVIS explained that certain recorded adjustments exceeded the audit posting threshold but did not exceed overall materiality. Two unrecorded adjustments were determined to be immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, and therefore did not affect the audit opinion.

FORVIS reported that the Library remains in a strong financial position, with net position increasing by approximately \$1.6 million during the year, a governmental fund balance of approximately \$40 million, and an unassigned General Fund balance of approximately \$13 million. Although property tax revenues declined slightly due to the Jackson County tax refund and credit situation, the Library reported a positive operating result.

FORVIS stated that it expects to issue a clean, unmodified audit opinion once the pension information is received and incorporated into the final report. The auditors reported no disagreements with management, no significant difficulties encountered during the audit, no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls, and no reportable findings.

Board members thanked FORVIS and Library management for their work and for completing the audit process within the required timeframe.

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 4859), Yellman highlighted the Sirsi Corporation expenditure of more than \$300,000 noting that it is an annual subscription fee for software services. Fang confirmed that the expenditure was included in the approved budget, and there were no additional expenditures to discuss.

In discussing (LBM 4860), Fang noted that, as it is the first month of the fiscal year, some data may be incomplete and will be reported in August. Fang reported that the Library received approximately \$344,000 in property tax revenue in July, representing about (1%) of the annual budget. This amount included a PILOT payment of approximately \$272,000.

Fang also reported approximately \$290,000 in other revenues (16%). This amount was lower than the prior year due to the implementation of a new point-of-sale system, which resulted in certain revenues, including passport and postage revenues, not being recorded in time for the monthly report. These revenues will be reflected in the August report. Total operating revenue for July was \$633,788, representing approximately (1.8%) of the annual budget.

On the expenditure side, Fang reported that salaries and benefits totaled approximately \$1.3 million (5.7%). This amount was lower than the prior year because it did not include certain insurance payments, which will be reflected in the August report. Library materials totaled approximately \$260,000 (9%). General operating expenses were approximately \$753,000 (16%). Building maintenance expenses totaled approximately \$337,000 (10%), and capital outlay expenditures were approximately \$34,000 (3%). Total expenditure for July was approximately \$2.68 million (7.7%) of the annual budget.

Fang reported that gifts and grants revenue is negative \$26,646, due to a market value adjustment to the investment income from Swanson Fund. Excluding the \$70,000 adjustment, Fang reported that gifts and grants revenue is negative \$26,646, due to a market value adjustment to the investment income from Swanson Fund. Excluding the \$70,000 adjustment, the Library received grant revenue and contributions of approximately \$43,000.

On the expenditure side, the Library has spent \$165,571 (7%). Parking garage revenue was not up to date for July's report and will be reported in August. However, expenses for employee parking are approximately \$19,301 (2%).

Cash on hand totaled approximately \$39 million, including \$23.4 million in the UMB checking account, \$8.4 million in the UMB investment account, and \$7.4 million in the Swanson Fund. Fang also highlighted this month's contributions and grants: Missouri DigitalCorps (\$23,998), City of Kansas City Peer Navigators (\$10,719) Gfiber Digital Inclusion (\$10,000) and also a Ingram Literacy for Life 2026 distribution (\$14,169).

Yellman recognized Christensen for her work in strengthening the Library's relationship with Google Fiber, which contributed to the Digital Inclusion Grant award. Christensen also reported that the Foundation received a \$2 million unrestricted grant from the Sunderland Foundation. Yellman noted that the Library and Foundation leadership are being thoughtful stewards of the

funds while monitoring future property tax and legislative developments. Trustees congratulated Christensen and the development team on securing the grant and recognized their efforts in advancing philanthropic partnerships. In response to a question from Dominik, Abby noted that the Foundation's financial activity will be reported to the Board on a regular basis, with additional updates to be provided in future meetings.

The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

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 July 2026: Payroll in the total amount of \$1,088,734.07 and General Expense Payments in the amount of \$2,227,458.97. (LBM 4859)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for July 2026. (LBM 4860)

In discussing (LBM 4861), Yellman presented the proposed revision to Board Policy 107, noting that the update was placed on the policy calendar in July and included revised language related to the Library's mission statement. The policy was presented to the Board for formal action.

Motion by Dobbels to authorize the formal adoption of the proposed revised Policy 107 in accordance with Library Board Policy 002, as placed on the Policy Calendar in July 2026. Second by Warwick. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4861)

In discussing (LBM 4862) Yellman presented the annual reaffirmation of the Library's Code of Ethics Policy. Yellman noted that the reaffirmation is required by Missouri statute for entities with budgets exceeding \$1 million and allows the Board to collectively affirm its commitment to the policy. Yellman further noted that, following Board action, the reaffirmation would be reported to the Missouri Ethics Commission within the required timeframe.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to Reaffirm Library Board Policy 004 (Code of Ethics). Second by Day. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4862)

In discussing the Director's Report (LBM 4863), Yellman highlighted several organizational initiatives and reported that the fall organizational climate survey was launched on August 21 and will remain open through September 8. The survey is conducted every two years, and results will be reviewed by the Human Resources team, which will identify themes and recommendations for organizational improvement.

Hariharan provided an update on strategic plan implementation. The implementation team has completed its review and coding of staff feedback gathered during Staff Enrichment Day and is moving into the next phase of implementation. Four cross-functional staff advisory groups and one foundational operations group will be established to evaluate programs, services, and operational processes and make recommendations aligned with the Library's strategic priorities.

Staff self-nominations are expected to open in September, with group work anticipated to begin in October and inform the budgeting process for next year.

Yellman introduced Hummel, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications, who provided updates on several marketing initiatives. Hummel announced plans for the fourth annual Heartland Book Fest on October 2-3, presented in partnership with Mid-Continent Public Library. She also shared preliminary plans for a redesigned Library website, implementation of a new events calendar platform, and a pilot targeted email communication program designed to provide branch-specific information to patrons.

Yellman highlighted several recent Library accomplishments and community engagement efforts, including support for a community meeting at the Westport Branch, successful summer outreach programming, and positive community response to programming at the Trails West Branch. Yellman also highlighted upcoming events, including screenings of *The Librarians* documentary, the Making a Great City series, and the upcoming Irene H. Ruiz Branch 25th Anniversary Reception.

Board members commended staff for their work on strategic planning, marketing initiatives, community engagement efforts, and the continued success of the Heartland Book Fest.

There was no old business for discussion.

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

The Board was in closed session from 5:25 p.m. until 6:46 p.m. No action was taken.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Secretary

Date