

MINUTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – June 23, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, June 23, 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
Claudia Oñate Greim
Dennis Dobbels
Reid Day

MEMBERS' NOT
PRESENT: Jonathan Kemper
Susan Kenney
Elizabeth Warwick

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
Kim Angotti, Sugar Creek Branch Manager

* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:43 p.m.

Motion by Dominik to approve the minutes of May 19, 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, 3.2 and 3.3 separately.

In discussing (LBM 4845), Yellman highlighted summer reading expenditures as well as payment to Walter Crawford for an ongoing leadership development series, which has received great feedback from staff. Fang noted there were no additional expenditures to highlight.

In discussing (LBM 4846), Fang reported that the Library has received approximately \$28.6 million in tax revenue (94%) which is below expectation due to the tax credit and refunds to taxpayers. It is anticipated that tax revenues will be under budget for the remainder of the year. The total revenue is \$30.4 million, representing 94% of the budget.

On the expenditure side, salaries and benefits are close to \$17.7 million (85%). Library materials expenditure was approximately \$2.2 million (76%) and is a little below budget due to publisher backlogs following the disruption caused by Baker & Taylor's closure, resulting in some physical materials not being received until the next fiscal year. General operating expenses were \$3.8 million (76%). Building maintenance expenses were \$2.9 million (87%), and Capital Outlay totaled \$716,000 (54%). In total, expenditures to date are \$27.3 million (82%). Fang expects the Library will likely end the fiscal year around break even, before the \$1 million transfer to capital development. Dominik asked whether the ADA door project would be an expenditure in the next fiscal year. Fang explained the project would instead be funded through a grant.

Fang reported that gifts and grants revenue is about \$2.2 million, which includes over \$500,000 investment income with Swanson Fund. On the expenditure side, the Library has spent \$1.3 million exceeding the budget due to accelerated spending of older grants and expenditures associated with newly awarded grants. A budget amendment will be forthcoming after the fiscal year closes for that fund. Parking garage revenue totaled \$515,000 (72%), with \$600,000 in expenditure (77%), which included approximately \$140,000 in garage repairs. Fang noted that without the repairs it would have been a net profit of \$50,000.

Cash on hand totaled approximately \$44 million, including \$25 million in the UMB checking account, \$11.4 million in the UMB investment account and \$7.2 million in the Swanson Fund. Fang also highlighted this month's contributions and grants: Joan M. Bruderer Trust (\$12,245), Missouri DigitalCorps (\$23,550), Dollar General Literacy Foundation (\$10,000), 15 and the Mahomies (\$15,000), Missouri A&E Tax (\$80,000) which is the second payment for the year and Missouri Humanities- Heartland Book Festival (\$13,500).

In discussing (LBM 4867), Fang explained that each fiscal year the Library has payment obligations that do not require contracts, such as annual pension payments and utilities. Estimated payments exceeding \$50,000 without contracts would be presented to the Board each June for the upcoming fiscal year. Any new contracts exceeding \$50,000 would continue to be presented to the Board for approval in accordance with Board policy. Yellman explained that the revised format

excludes expenditures already covered under existing Board-approved contracts, making the annual exempt expenditure list shorter than in previous years.

Motion by Dominik to approve the Consent Agenda items before the Board. Second by Oñate Greim. Approved unanimously by the voting Board members. Oñate Greim abstained from the vote for LBM 4847.

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 May 2026: Payroll in the total amount of \$1,058,965.45 and General Expense Payments in the amount of \$1,439,817.01. (LBM 4845)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to accept the attached financial reports for May 2026. (LBM 4846)

Move approval of the recommendation of the Chief Executive to authorize payment to the attached list of vendors in amounts not to exceed those detailed in the attached list of vendors for FY 2026 – 2027. (LBM 4847)

In discussing the preliminary annual budget (LBM 4848), Yellman commended Fang for his work in preparing a transparent and easy to read budget report for the Board and community members.

Fang provided a high-level summary of the Library's budget, comparing operating revenues from the previous fiscal year, current fiscal year, and upcoming fiscal year. He noted that tax revenue is projected to increase approximately 15% over the current year due to the recruitment tax, which is estimated to generate more than \$4 million. To prepare for this impact, Fang noted that the Library anticipates setting aside approximately \$2 million over the next two fiscal years to help offset the impact. Fang also highlighted other revenues, noting a reduction in grant contributions due to decreased state funding.

In operating expenditures, Fang noted that library materials, general operating expenses, building maintenance, and capital outlay generally remain consistent year over year, with minor changes. General operating expenses are projected to decrease due to reductions in professional services associated with consulting fees for the strategic plan and facilities plan. Building maintenance and capital outlay are also expected to decrease due to prior-year emergency repair expenditures and deferred computer purchases. Payroll and benefits are projected to increase due to several factors, including an increase of approximately 1.4 FTEs, bringing the total budgeted staffing level to 250.4 FTEs, with the additional positions allocated to the Security and Safety departments. The increase also includes \$700,000 budgeted for pay scale adjustments, a 3% merit increase, and an estimated 3.5% increase in health insurance costs. Board Member Williams asked whether the pay increase included the compensation study recommendations, and Fang confirmed that the pay scale adjustment was included in the budget. Fang also noted that in this current fiscal year the payroll

is below budget about \$1 million due to several open positions so the increase from this year to next year appears to be much larger at 17.5%. The total operating funds projection is \$34.7 million and that is close to a 9% increase.

In discussing all funds, including Gifts and Grants, Fang reported estimated revenues of \$1.6 million. Expenditures, including payroll, benefits, and programming, are projected at approximately \$2.4 million which includes both new and existing grants. The Endowment Fund cash balance is approximately \$3.3 million, with interest income transferred annually to support the Gifts and Grants Fund. Interest income for the upcoming fiscal year is estimated at \$200,000. Capital development is budgeted at \$680,000 which includes bathroom remodeling and roof replacements. The Parking Garage Fund is budgeted at \$907,000 and includes \$130,000 in projected repairs.

In reviewing the projected cash balances by fund for the upcoming fiscal year, Fang reported the following estimates: General Fund at approximately \$17.8 million; Capital Development Fund at approximately \$9.47 million; Gifts and Grants Fund at approximately \$8.6 million, including approximately \$7 million from the Swanson Fund; Endowment Fund at approximately \$3.3 million; and Parking Garage Fund at approximately \$555,000. Fang clarified that these figures represent cash balances on hand and do not include capital assets.

Yellman invited Hrenchir to briefly discuss implementation recommendations regarding the compensation study if the budget was to be approved. Hrenchir noted that, if approved, the Library would adopt the new pay schedule effective July 1. Phase one would include placing new hires at the new rates and bringing current staff up to the established minimum rates. Communications to staff are already planned to inform them of what those adjustments are. Hrenchir explained that phase two of the implementation would occur following the Fall budget discussions to evaluate continued financial sustainability and determine next steps for completing the compensation study recommendations. This phase would focus on compression adjustments to address internal equity considerations, with a target implementation date of January 1, 2027. Hrenchir noted that compression adjustments would be reviewed individually based on factors such as an employee's hire date, time in position, and other relevant circumstances, rather than being applied solely by grade level.

Board Member Williams asked how staff would be informed of their placement within the new pay structure. Hrenchir explained that Human Resources would provide letters to affected employees and work with supervisors in advance to prepare them for conversations with staff. Williams also asked how employees currently above the new pay ranges would be addressed. Yellman confirmed that approximately 17 employees currently above the new pay ranges would be frozen at their current rate, with future merit considerations addressed through a lump sum process to be communicated to staff.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to adopt the Preliminary Annual Budget for FY 2026-2027. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4848)

General Fund: \$34,789,120 plus a transfer-in of \$360,135.

Gifts & Grants Fund: \$2,400,000 plus a transfer-in of \$250,000 and a transfer-out of \$360,135.

Capital Development Fund: \$680,000.

Parking Garage Fund: \$907,185.

In discussing the Ewing Kauffman Book Fund and Ingram Literacy for Life Fund Distributions for FY 2026-2027 (LBM 4849) Yellman provided background on the annual distributions from the Ewing Kauffman Fund and Ingram Literacy for Life Fund. She commended Debbie Stoppello for developing a thoughtful plan for the use of the Ewing Kauffman Fund distribution and noted that significant consideration is given to determining the best use of these funds. Yellman noted that Jones was available to answer any questions regarding the proposed distributions.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to Request a Distribution of \$270,967 from Ewing Kauffman Book Fund and \$14,169 from Ingram Literacy for Life Fund for FY 2026-2027. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4849)

In discussing the Helen Nelson Fund (LBM 4850) Yellman provided background on the fund and noted that, following the acquisition of the Kansas City Call archives and photo collection, the Library had committed to advancing the cataloging and preservation of the collection. Yellman invited Jones to provide an update on the project.

Jones reported that Phil Dixon, who joined the Library earlier this year, has been leading the cataloging effort. Phil is a former employee of the Kansas City Call and has cataloged over 5300 photographs and projected to surpass 6000 by the end of the month. Jones mentioned this project is still in the early stages as Phil is currently working on box 4 of 144, noting there is plenty of work still left to do. Jones also highlighted several notable discoveries within the collection, including photographs and documents related to Bishop John P. Gray, Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. John Hope Franklin, an extensive collection of African American contributions during WWII, and history related to Historic Black Colleges (HBCUs) as well as the University of Kansas.

Board Members discussed the long-term nature of the project, including future digitization and exhibit opportunities. Yellman noted that this distribution helps the Library sustain the ongoing cataloging work.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to Request a Distribution of \$61,348 from Helen Nelson Fund for FY 2026-2027. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4850)

In discussing the contract with Automated Control Systems, Yellman noted that the Library would be replacing three rooftop HVAC units at the Ruiz branch and invited Hariharan to provide further details of the project. Hariharan noted that \$60,000 of the costs will be covered by Jackson County rent and also that the Library received three bids, including one from MBE and selected the most cost-effective option after reviewing the proposals.

Yellman noted that although Ruiz was in a different phase in the facilities plan, these improvements needed to be made and the funding to help offset the cost is helpful.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to contract Automated Control Systems to replace the HVAC system at the Ruiz branch at a cost not to exceed \$101,625. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously. (LBM 4851)

In discussing the Library's insurance renewal, Yellman noted that the renewal period begins July 1 and emphasized the importance of completing the process. The Library reviewed several areas of coverage and, despite current market conditions and increasing insurance rates, is resulting in an overall 7% increase, which was considered favorable. The Library also increased cyber coverage due to the growing frequency and cost of cyber incidents and transitioned several policies from Travelers to Chubb after determining that Chubb provided stronger coverage.

Motion by Dominik to approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive to contract Chubb and Lloyd's and pay premiums and fees to Lockton Companies LLC. Second by Williams. Approved unanimously by the voting Board members. Oñate Greim abstained from the vote. (LBM 4852)

In discussing the Director's Report (LBM 4853), Yellman provided brief updates noting progress on several strategic initiatives. Hariharan reported that the implementation team has begun meeting and is working on data cleanup, noting that the Directors will be engaged as an advisory group, followed by staff advisory groups, to support the start, sustain, and stop exercises. Yellman emphasized the importance of incorporating change management into the process and developing a repeatable framework for future organizational evaluation efforts.

Hariharan invited Hummel to discuss the garage banner project. She reported that the Library is working with ISOM Collective to develop a process for replacing the existing banners while engaging the community in the project. The Library plans to put out an open call to local artists to submit ideas related to knowledge, curiosity, personal growth and community. Finalists will be brought to the Board for consideration later this year.

Faris provided an update on the Summer Reading Program, reporting that to date there were 9212 participants registered for the program, significantly passing last year's number of 7002 participants. She highlighted successful kickoff events, including first-time lobby stop events held at senior citizen facilities. Yellman commended the whole team for their great work. Faris also highlighted the great work of the summer assistants who are majority young people in their first jobs for ten weeks.

Yellman also highlighted the social media engagement for the month, and an employment resource created by staff to help teens and young people get jobs and it’s related to the Library’s Carnegie grant. The resource was piloted with teens at Bluford and will continue to be adjusted based on feedback before a broader release. Yellman also provided additional updates, including upcoming community events, the Central library window replacement project and the Library’s CFO recruitment efforts.

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 5:53 p.m.

Signed by:  FCED7E4CCF614F9...	7/24/2026
Secretary	Date