

**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, August 24, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The Library Board meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Ruth Warren, Library Board President.

PRESENT

Ruth Warren - President
Nicole Garcia – Vice President
Alan Feldbaum – Secretary
Hilary Barker – Member
Marvin Curtis – Member
Christine Pochert Ringle – Member
Rhonda Richards – Member

ABSENT

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Stephanie Murphy - Executive Director
Onjanette Dancier - Chief Financial Officer
Lisa O'Brien - Director of Special Projects
Daniel Lichty – Communications Senior Manager
Myra Reid – Legal Counsel

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of the Library Board meeting and Library Board Finance meeting minutes of the meeting held on July 27, 2026
- b. Declare Excess Withdrawn Library Materials & Computers donated to the Friends of the Library
- c. Personnel Changes
- d. Bill List

Ms. Pochert Ringle moved to approve the Consent Agenda including the bond payments within the agenda. Ms. Barker seconded the motion. Dr. Warren polled the Board for the vote: Ms. Barker – Aye; Dr. Curtis – Aye; Mr. Feldbaum – Aye; Dr. Garcia – Aye; Ms. Pochert Ringle – Aye; Ms. Richards – Aye; Dr. Warren – Aye. The motion carried.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Stephanie Murphy gave the director's report. Ms. Murphy began her report by sharing about the success of the Seed Library. Ms. Murphy shared that 40,000 seeds were donated by Unity Gardens, and 10,000 seeds by the library. She moved on to share that she attended the County's Municipal Unit Strategic Task Force meeting. Ms. Murphy shared that the committee will make recommendations regarding Local Income Taxes for 2029; and was primarily an informational meeting. Ms. Murphy moved on to share about the celebrity card collaboration with Laufey for "A Very Laufey Day" in which patrons were able to replace or obtain a special edition card. Ms. Murphy shared that there were 18 new cards, including two PLAC cards, and 95 replacement cards. She then moved on to share that the Summer Reading program has officially wrapped up and had over 9,800 people who participated. Ms. Murphy closed her report by sharing the patron engagement stats. Those included door count and circulation are up while computer usage is slightly lower. Digital circulation is up 4% and Kanopy is up 16%. New patrons are rising 4%, and the most popular check out item was The Whistler by Ann Patchet.

Dr. Curtis moved and Dr. Garcia seconded to approve the Director's Report. Dr. Warren polled the Board for the vote: Ms. Barker – Aye; Dr. Curtis – Aye; Mr. Feldbaum – Aye; Dr. Garcia – Aye; Ms. Pochert Ringle – Aye; Ms. Richards – Aye; Dr. Warren – Aye. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Onjanette Dancier gave the financial report. Ms. Dancier began her report sharing that the that we are currently 58.8% through the year, and are on track with the budget at 43% spending overall. Ms. Dancier shared that the TrustIndiana yield is currently 3.69% and is status quo.

Ms. Pochert Ringle moved to approve the Financial Report. Ms. Barker seconded the motion. Dr. Warren polled the Board for the vote: Ms. Barker – Aye; Dr. Curtis – Aye; Mr. Feldbaum – Aye; Dr. Garcia – Aye; Ms. Pochert Ringle – Aye; Ms. Richards – Aye; Dr. Warren – Aye. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

a. LaSalle Change Order

Ms. Stephanie Murphy presented the LaSalle change order. Ms. Murphy shared that this is the fifth change order, and should be the final. Ms. Murphy shared that this change order is for a total increase of \$3,178.04. Ms. Murphy shared that this brings the project under budget.

Dr. Curtis moved to approve the LaSalle Change Order. Ms. Richards seconded the motion. Dr. Warren polled the Board for the vote: Ms. Barker – Aye; Dr. Curtis – Aye; Mr. Feldbaum – Aye; Dr. Garcia – Aye; Ms. Pochert Ringle – Aye; Ms. Richards – Aye; Dr. Warren – Aye. The motion carried.

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b. Budget Review

Ms. Onjanette Dancler presented the 2027 budget review to the board. Ms. Dancler asked the St. Joseph County Public Library Board to vote in support of forwarding a favorable recommendation to the South Bend County Council for approval of the St. Joseph County Public Library budget.

Dr. Curtis moved to approve the recommendation to the South Bend County Council for the approval of the St. Joseph County Public Library budget. Ms. Pochert Ringle seconded the nomination. Dr. Warren polled the Board for the vote: Ms. Barker – Aye; Dr. Curtis – Aye; Mr. Feldbaum – Aye; Dr. Garcia – Aye; Ms. Pochert Ringle – Aye; Ms. Richards – Aye; Dr. Warren – Aye. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for the Board.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

Mr. Daniel Lichty presented on the Summer Intern Program to the board.

HEARING OF VISITORS

There were no visitors to address the Board.

NEXT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING DATES:

- Library Board Meeting, Monday September 28, 2026, 4:15 p.m. St. Joseph County Public Library Community Learning Center, 2nd floor, Beutter-Kernan Hall, 305 S. Michigan Street, South Bend IN 46601.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Board. Mr. Feldbaum moved and Dr. Curtis seconded to adjourn the Library Board meeting. Dr. Warren polled the Board for the vote: Ms. Barker – Aye; Dr. Curtis – Aye; Mr. Feldbaum – Aye; Dr. Garcia – Aye; Ms. Pochert Ringle – Aye; Ms. Richards – Aye; Dr. Warren – Aye. The motion carried. The St. Joseph County Public Library Board meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Ruth Warren, President

Nicole Garcia, Vice President

Alan Feldbaum, Secretary

Hilary Barker, Member

Marvin Curtis, Member

Christine Pochert Ringle, Member

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Rhonda Richards, Member