

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 22, 2025 MEETING OF THE LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

President Aleta Childs (Nelson)
Meredith Cole (Charlottesville)
Tony Townsend (Albemarle)
Michael Powers (Albemarle)
Anne Hemenway (Charlottesville)

Vice President Brandy Polanowski (Louisa)
Peter Morville (Albemarle)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Martha Ledford (Greene)

Siri Russell (Charlottesville)

OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director

Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director

CALL TO ORDER, REMOTE PARTICIPATION CONFIRMATION, & DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library's (JMRL) Board of Trustees was convened on Monday, December 22, 2025 at 3:09 PM, at the Northside Library (705 West Rio Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22901), and live streamed using videoconferencing software. (A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://youtu.be/6CxX8cGdfKY>.) Trustee Powers moved that Trustee Brandy Polanowski and Trustee Peter Merville's requests to attend today's meeting of the JMRL Board remotely due to a personal matter, specifically travel and illness respectively be approved. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Powers moved to accept the minutes as drafted for the November 17, 2025 Board Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

No Continuing Education this month.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Policy Committee Report

The Policy Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed Policy 5.7 (Audio-Visual Equipment Use), Policy 5.1 (Meeting Room Use) and Policy 4.21 (Availability of Library Services) which will all be presented to the Board for a first reading in New Business. The Policy Committee also discussed Policy 2.9 (Volunteers).

OLD BUSINESS

1. Potential Vote on Endorsement of JMRL Employee Handbook

As the Continuing Education at the November Library Board meeting Director Plunkett reviewed the history of the JMRL Employee Handbook and any changes that have been made since the Board last endorsed the Handbook. Trustee Hemenway moved that the Library Board endorse the changes to the JMRL Employee Handbook. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Update on Library Director's FY26 Goals

Director Plunkett reviewed and updated the library board on the status of the Library Director's FY26 goals.

3. *FY27 Budget Update*

The Library's FY27 Proposed Budget has been approved by the Library Board and Director Plunkett and Trustees are now meeting with JMRL jurisdictional partners to review the budget requests. Vice President Polanowski, Director Plunkett and Louisa Branch manager Ophelia Payne met with the Louisa County administration and then also with the Louisa Library Foundation. Trustee Townsend and Director Plunkett met with Albemarle County administration. Albemarle recommended the Library be at the County Board meeting when Capital Projects are discussed. A meeting with the City of Charlottesville is scheduled; meetings with Greene County and Nelson County have yet to be scheduled. Final healthcare costs have not been determined but the current 15% increase estimate is expected to be accurate.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *First Readings of JMRL Policies 5.7 (Audio-Visual Equipment Use), Policy 5.1 (Meeting Room Use) and Policy 4.21 (Availability of Library Services)*

Policy 5.7 (Audio-Visual Equipment Use), Policy 5.1 (Meeting Room Use) and Policy 4.21 (Availability of Library Services) were all presented to the Board for a first reading.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Plunkett shared JMRL's 2025 rewind including statistics and most checked out titles for the year. This information can also be found on the JMRL website, social media and the JMRL blog. Director Plunkett is happy to announce that in partnership with the Festival of the Book, JMRL's 2026 Same Page title is "The House of Eve" by Richmond author Sadeqa Johnson. The City of Charlottesville has made changes at two major downtown parking garages (Market and Water St. garages). Central Library patrons can still have up to 3 hours of parking validation thanks to the JMRL Friends of the Library. If Trustees get questions from patrons, send them to Director Plunkett and he will send comments along to the City. Information about the new parking system is on signage at the Central Library and on the Central Library website. In March 2024 Director Plunkett told the Library Board that UVA Health was providing Blood pressure monitors for each JMRL location. Louisa library recently reported that a couple in the library used the blood pressure machine, found one of them to have alarmingly high blood pressure and credits Louisa library with saving their life that day. This library service was assumed to be educational at the time, but is now life saving. Greene County Branch Manager EJ Dowling has been selected to present at the 2026 SE Collaborative Online Conference on the highly successful Greene Branch Community Cookbook program.

OTHER MATTERS

N/A

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include second readings and potential vote on Policy 5.7 (Audio-Visual Equipment Use), Policy 5.1 (Meeting Room Use) and Policy 4.21 (Availability of Library Services); a budget update and a potential committee report from the Budget/Finance Committee. The next Board Meeting will be January 26th, 2026 at the Northside Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm.