

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2026 MEETING OF THE LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

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

Vice President Brandy Polanowski (Louisa)
Martha Ledford (Greene)
Anne Hemenway (Charlottesville)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Siri Russell (Charlottesville)

Peter Morville (Albemarle)

OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director
Sierra Nafziger, Collection Specialist
Dylan Padilla, Public Communications Specialist
Maggie Bond, Adult Programming and Reference
Services Manager

Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director
Jeremy Ljunggren, Collections and Technology
Manager
Camille Thompson, Bookmobile Manager
Ophelia Payne, Louisa County Library Branch Manager

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, February 23, 2026 at 3:00 PM, at the Louisa County Library (881 Davis Highway, Mineral, VA 23117), and live streamed using videoconferencing software. (A recording of the meeting is available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RItL6Y_yNsk.) Trustee Polanowski moved to accept the minutes for the December 22, 2025 Board Meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously. There were no minutes to approve for January 26, 2026 as the JMRL Board of Trustees meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ophelia Payne, Louisa County Library Branch Manager, welcomed everyone in attendance to the Louisa County Library. Director Plunkett recommended the Board see Louisa's new meeting room space after the meeting, which was funded by the Friends of the Library endowment fund. Director Plunkett welcomed back Sierra Nafziger as the Board notetaker and thanked JMRL's Krista Farrell and Meredith Dickens for taking the Board minutes while Sierra was on leave. Director Plunkett introduced the two newest members of JMRL's management team: Maggie Bond, Reference and Adult Services Manager, and Jeremy Ljunggren, Collections and Technology Manager. No public comments.

TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dylan Padilla, JMRL's Public Communications Specialist, presented to the Board information on JMRL's Public Relations duties, reports, and projects.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Policy Committee Report

The Policy Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed Policy 2.9 (Volunteers). Policy 2.9 (Volunteers) will be presented to the Board for a first reading in New Business. Trustee Powers reported that the Policy Committee looked at a group of related policies on how the Board conducts business, which will be discussed at the April Policy Committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. FY27 Budget Update

Director Plunkett reported that JMRL has presented the FY27 Budget to all five jurisdictions and also concluded meeting with elected officials and/or staff from all five jurisdictions. The Louisa Board of Supervisors have indicated that they will

include JMRL's requested amount in their proposed budget for FY27, with some additional support for books and materials from the Louisa Library Foundation. Albemarle County executives' proposed budget discussion will be February 25, 2026. On March 2, 2026, the Charlottesville City Manager will present their proposed budget for FY27. Director Plunkett announced that he would be available for the Albemarle and City of Charlottesville work sessions for the Central Library CIP requests.

2. *Second Reading of JMRL Policies 4.21 (Availability of Library Services), 5.1 (Meeting and Conference Rooms), and 5.7 (Audio-Visual Equipment Use)*

Policy 4.21 (Availability of Library Services), Policy 5.1 (Meeting and Conference Rooms), and Policy 5.7 (Audio-Visual Equipment Use) were presented to the Board for a first reading in December. Trustee Hemenway moved to adopt Policy 4.21 (Availability of Library Services) and Policy 5.1 (Meeting and Conference Rooms) as written and discussed today. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Hemenway moved that the Board delete Policy 5.7 (Audio-Visual Equipment Use). Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *First Reading of JMRL Policy 2.9 (Volunteers)*

Policy 2.9 (Volunteers) was presented to the Board for a first reading. Policy 2.9 (Volunteers) will be presented to the Board next month for a second reading and potential vote.

2. *FY27 Schedule of Library Closings*

Director Plunkett presented to the Board the FY27 Schedule of Library Closings draft, which contains three paid holidays that fall on Saturday. Discussion ensued, and Director Plunkett will bring a proposal back to the Board in March after soliciting feedback.

3. *One Small Step StoryCorps Grant*

Trustee Polanowski moved that JMRL accept the StoryCorps' One Small Step Initiative granted allocation of up to \$500 and authorize the expenditure of that funding for the support of library services. Motion passed unanimously.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Plunkett shared with the Board JMRL's volunteer book repair statistics for 2025. Over 3,000 books were returned to the collection after repair by JMRL volunteers, with an estimated value of \$45,000. Director Plunkett reported that the JMRL/NAACP scholarship is now open and accepting applications until March 27, 2026. Information can be found on JMRL's website (jmrl.org). President Childs has volunteered to serve on the review committee for the JMRL/NAACP scholarship again this year. Director Plunkett recently gave a tour of the Central Library to Charlottesville City staff, including their Capital Development Manager. The City has assigned two project managers to the Central Renovation project. Members from the City Attorney's office also toured the Central Library and are working on a memorandum of understanding between Charlottesville and Albemarle regarding the Central Renovation project. JMRL was closed for three days in January due to inclement weather, with the Bookmobile unable to travel for two weeks. Physical circulation of materials was up over January 2025 as patrons geared up for the weather. JMRL received an anonymous gift of \$40,000 to support the purchase of digital materials, which will be distributed in four installments over the calendar year. This year's Same Page Community Read is "House of Eve" by Sadeqa Johnson; JMRL has 750 free copies to give away.

OTHER MATTERS

Trustee Hemenway moved that JMRL accept the Virginia Commission for the Arts Art in Practice granted allocation of up to \$5,200 and authorize the expenditure of that funding for the support of library services. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Plunkett reminded the Board that the Library Board Self Evaluation is scheduled for next month.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include a FY27 Budget update, second reading and potential vote on Policy 2.9 (Volunteers), a Technology Committee report, a discussion and potential vote on the FY27 Schedule of Library Closings, and a potential Continuing Education on JMRL's involvement with the Virginia Festival of the Book. The next Board Meeting will be March 23, 2025 at the Greene County Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:23pm.
