

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 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)
Peter Morville (Albemarle)
Anne Hemenway (Charlottesville)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Siri Russell (Charlottesville)

OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director
Sierra Nafziger, Collection Specialist
Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director

EJ Dowling, Greene County Library Branch Manger
Cathy Schafrik, Greene County Administrator
Barry Trott, Adult Services Consultant, Library of Virginia

**NO QUORUM WAS OBTAINED FOR THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2026.
THE MEETING CONVENED BUT NO BUSINESS WAS TRANSACTED.**

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, March 23, 2026 at 3:00 PM, at the Greene County Library (222 Main Street Suite 101, Stanardsville, VA 22973), and live streamed using videoconferencing software. (A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMijdM7ZWKA>) No quorum present. In the absence of a quorum, no action was taken on remote participation confirmation or on the minutes of the previous meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Plunkett introduced EJ Dowling, Greene County Library Branch Manager, who welcomed all in attendance and announced there would be a tour of the Greene County Library after the Board Meeting. No public comments.

TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Barry Trott, Adult Services Consultant from the Library of Virginia, presented to the Board information on Virginia Writes: Indie Author Project. The Virginia Writes: Indie Author Project, launched in February 2026, provides access and tools, for all Virginians, to self-publish ebooks. More information can be found on JMRL's website (jmrl.org/digital-library).

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Technology Committee Report

Trustee Morville reported that the Technology Committee met earlier this month. JMRL Collections & Technology Manager, Jeremy Ljunggren, gave a project update to the Committee. Director Plunkett presented to the Committee a draft timeline for JMRL website enhancements planning. Director Plunkett will make revisions based on feedback. The Technology Committee will meet again late April or early May to review revisions and will bring a recommendation to the Board during the May 18, 2026 Board Meeting. The Technology Committee also discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI).

OLD BUSINESS

1. FY27 Budget Update

Director Plunkett reported that all County and City executives' recommended FY27 Budgets are turned in to their elected officials throughout JMRL's five jurisdictions. Full funding for JMRL is recommended regionwide, except for Charlottesville and Albemarle whose FY27 Budget does not include funding for the two new JMRL part-time position requests: 20-hour Web Content Specialist and 20-hour Branch Specialist for Northside. The proposed FY27 Budgets from all five jurisdictions represents a significant commitment from JMRL's partners in supporting the Library Board's Budget priorities. Director Plunkett's recommendation is that JMRL explore alternate methods and workflows to meet needs for FY27 and revisit the two position requests for FY28. Director Plunkett stated that there would potentially be a JMRL budget reduction for Greene, Louisa, and Nelson counties due to the regional part-time position not being included in the City of Charlottesville's and Albemarle's proposed FY27 Budgets. The Budget and Finance Committee will begin discussing JMRL's FY27 Equipment Budget soon.

2. Second Reading and Potential Vote on JMRL Policy 2.9 (Volunteers)

Trustee Powers suggested tabling the second reading of JMRL Policy 2.9 (Volunteers) until next month.

3. Potential Vote on FY27 Schedule of Library Closings

Director Plunkett shared with the Board two drafts of the proposed FY27 Schedule of Library Closings. One draft of the proposed FY27 Schedule of Library Closings includes JMRL potentially closing at 12pm on Thanksgiving Eve to align with four of the five jurisdictions; this would increase the total of paid holidays for JMRL from 13 to 13.5. The FY27 Schedule of Library Closings will be brought to the Board next month for a potential vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Self Evaluation

Director Plunkett presented to the Board the results of the Board Self Evaluation.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Plunkett reported that the Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale is April 4-12, 2026 from 10am-7pm, with members' only night being April 3, 2026. JMRL's Poem in Your Pocket Day will be April 23, 2026. The Central Library will be hosting jazz music by the Bob Benetta Trio on the front steps to promote National Poetry Month on April 26, 2026. JMRL's fourth annual Teen Poet Laureate Contest is open and runs until April 1, 2026. JMRL gave away over 900 copies of "House of Eve" by Sadeqa Johnson, this year's Same Page read. The Same Page author event was last Friday at the Jefferson School and had 85 attendees in person and 115 virtual. Over 100 patrons attended the Same Page book club groups across all JMRL branches. Director Plunkett gave an update on JMRL's book purchasing since the closure of JMRL's primary book vendor Baker & Taylor.

OTHER MATTERS

Trustee Townsend reminded the Board that April's meeting will be at the Nelson Memorial Library and that May's meeting will be a week early due to Memorial Day.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include a second reading and potential vote on Policy 2.9 (Volunteers), a potential vote on FY27 Schedule of Library Closing, and committee reports from the Policy Committee, the Five-year Plan Committee, and potentially the Technology Committee. The next Board Meeting will be April 27, 2026 at the Nelson Memorial Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:22pm.
