

# Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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## APPROVED

### MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 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)

#### OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director  
Sierra Nafziger, Collection Specialist

Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director

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#### 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, April 27, 2026 at 3:00 PM, at the Nelson Memorial Library (8521 Thomas Nelson Highway, Lovingston, VA 22949), and live streamed using videoconferencing software. (A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVoxwEXhAtE>.) Trustee Hemenway moved to approve the minutes for the February 23, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Hemenway moved to approve the minutes for the March 23, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Plunkett informed the Board that Siri Russell has stepped down as the City of Charlottesville Trustee. City Council will be naming a new Trustee to the Library Board on May 18, 2026, who will attend Library Board meetings beginning in June 2026. Director Plunkett announced that Yulita Ellis, Nelson Memorial Library Branch Manager, will be available after the Board meeting to give a tour of the Nelson Memorial Library for those interested. No public comments.

#### TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

NA

#### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

##### *1. Policy Committee Report*

Trustee Powers reported that the Policy Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed a group of thematically related policies related to Board governance, which will either be consolidated into a single policy or consolidated with other existing policies. The Policy Committee will meet again in June.

##### *2. Five-Year Plan Committee Report*

Trustee Cole reported that the Five-Year Plan Committee met last week and reviewed the goals, strategies, and objectives of the JMRL Strategic Implementation Plan and discussed what has been accomplished and what is still in process. Progress updates of the JMRL Strategic Implementation Plan were included in the Board handouts. Clarification of JMRL's stakeholders will be added to the JMRL Strategic Implementation Plan.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### *1. FY27 Budget Update*

Director Plunkett reported that the reduction in the requested FY27 Budgets for Greene, Louisa, and Nelson has been communicated to the corresponding jurisdictional partners. Director Plunkett reported Charlottesville and Albemarle have

adopted their FY27 Budgets, which includes Capitol Improvement Plan funding for the design phase of Central Library's renovation project. Louisa County will vote on their FY27 Budget this evening. Greene County will vote on their FY27 Budget on May 12, 2026. Nelson County will vote on their FY27 Budget on June 9, 2026. The Budget/Finance Committee will meet Wednesday this week to discuss JMRL's FY27 Equipment Budget, which will be presented to the Board next month.

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

Policy 2.9 (Volunteers) was presented to the Board for a second reading. Trustee Polanowski moved that Policy 2.9 (Volunteers) be approved as written. Motion passed unanimously.

3. *Potential Vote on FY27 Schedule of Library Closings*

Director Plunkett presented the FY27 Schedule of Library Closings to the Board, which included JMRL closing at 12:00pm on Thanksgiving Eve, giving JMRL 13.5 paid holidays for eligible staff. Trustee Ledford moved to approve the 2026-2027 Schedule of Library Closings as presented today. Motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. *Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) Virginia Touring Grants*

Trustee Polanowski moved that JMRL accept the Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Grants allocation of up to \$5800 and authorize the expenditure of that funding for the support of library services. Motion passed unanimously.

2. *Annual Mission Statement Review*

The Board conducted an annual review of JMRL's mission statement.

3. *FY27 Board and Budget Schedule Discussion*

Director Plunkett presented the FY27 Board and Budget Schedule to the Board. All proposed meeting dates will remain unchanged. Director Plunkett will add an annual endorsement of the JMRL Employee Handbook to the schedule in either June or July. The FY27 Board and Budget Schedule will be posted on the Board of Trustees page on the JMRL website (jmrl.org).

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Plunkett thanked President Childs and Sylvia Elder, from the Charlottesville Albemarle NAACP, for serving as the Scholarship Committee for the annual Internship/Scholarship. There were 11 applicants for the NAACP Internship/Scholarship this year. Zaharra Colla is this year's winner and will be interning at JMRL this summer. Lillian Hawley will also be interning at the Louisa County Library this summer, thanks to the Louisa County High School Apprenticeship Program. Director Plunkett updated the Board on JMRL's Fine Free status, starting July 1, 2026. JMRL staff have been preparing for the financial impact of going Fine Free. JMRL's Budget/Finance Committee will meet this week to discuss the first step in the three year plan to replace the ~\$100,000 funding of fine revenue for going Fine Free. JMRL will also be prepped and ready to talk with patrons about going Fine Free by FY27. The JMRL Friends of the Library had another record breaking Spring Book Sale, raising \$187,641. Special thanks to Friends staff Peter Manno and Austin Conner, and all the Friends volunteers.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Director Plunkett announced that the Board will need to put together a Nominating Committee who will vote on officers for FY27 at the June Board meeting.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Possible future agenda items include committee reports from the Technology Committee, the Budget/Finance Committee, and the Nominating Committee, and a closed session for the Director's Evaluation. The next Board Meeting will be May 18, 2026 at the Gordon Avenue Library.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.

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