

BRUNSWICK COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2025

The Brunswick County Library Board met on January 27, 2025 in the Harper Library meeting room. Chair Jeff Mount called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Members present: Jeff Mount, Diana Dornfeld, Diana Fotinatos, Yvonne Allen, June Jones, Emma Myles, Marilyn Shapiro and Mary Stilwell representing a quorum.

Also present: Patricia Dew Library Director and Ginger Corcoran FOLSOI Board Secretary

Members absent: Barbara Akinwole

A motion to approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2024 meeting was made by Mary Stilwell, seconded by Diana Dornfeld, and carried unanimously.

Director Dew’s Report:

Budget

Presented the Library’s goals for FY26 to the BOCC on Tues, Jan 21. Requested budget is due next week. Highlights of budget asks:

- Replacement courier van
- New staff positions: 2 Assistants, 3 Children’s Librarians, 1 Tech Services Librarian, 1 Adult/Reference Librarian
- Tuition assistance for library staff pursuing their MLS degree
- New signs for Barbee, Leland, Rourk, and Southwest
- Subscription to ABC Mouse (early literacy software)

Staff

Staff development day was a huge success. Plans are already being made for next year’s SDD.

Kristyna Savard, Carrie Higgins, Kate Lenz, Ingrid Squires, Marti Hozey, and Leigh Smith have all moved on to other places. Katelyn Dorsett took Kate Lenz’s spot at Leland; hiring for SWB spot is in process with interviews this week. Forest Schweitzer moved back to full time and filled Carrie’s spot at Rourk. Applications for Branch Manager at SWB have been received and phone screenings begin this week. Karen Register, Stephen Sanders, and C.C. Lilford have been hired for part time with at least one more PT person to be hired soon.

Services

Winter Reading is wrapping up this week. The program was for all ages with prizes for children, teens, and adults.

Harper has Percussion Play equipment ready to be installed in the back garden area. These artful musical instruments will add color, beauty, and learning to the garden for kids of all ages.

Buildings

Southwest is slowly but surely moving towards being our NC Cardinal resource sharing (i.e., shipping) hub and bookmobile office location. Currently, we are waiting for delivery of new

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shelving for the lobby [which is delayed from the factory] to move the FOL books to the lobby, then repurpose the old shelves into resource sharing and bookmobile office.

Barbee, Rourk, and Harper are getting or have gotten new wiring and networking through an E-Rate program that allowed Brunswick County IT to install upgrades at very little cost to the County. Each branch will eventually have fully-modern networking and internal Wi-Fi coverage.

Unfinished Business:

The Voices for Libraries advocacy event in Washington, D.C. will be held March 5 – 6, 2025. Patricia Dew will be attending to represent the Brunswick County Public Library by meeting with our elected representatives, Congressman David Rouzer and perhaps Senator Thom Tillis and/or Senator Ted Budd.

Mary Stilwell reiterated the importance of library advocacy which recently helped the free volunteer library in Boiling Spring Lakes obtain \$250,000 in funding.

New Business:

Updates to the Library Card Policy were reviewed and discussed. A motion to approve the changes presented was made by Diana Fotinatos, seconded by Diana Dornfeld, and carried unanimously.

Construction of the book mobile is in process. Delivery is expected later this year. Routes will be on a two-week schedule with items on the book mobile geared for seniors and very young children. Saturdays will be reserved for special events such as parades, expos, and local festivals. All items included in the book mobile collection will be selected in adherence with the Collection Development Policy.

Jeff Mount, board chair, will be relocating and tendered his resignation from the board of trustees. As a result, officer nominations were discussed to fill the chair position for the remainder of the 2025 term. Mary Stilwell made a motion to nominate Diana Fotinatos as board chair and Yvonne Allen as board secretary. The motion was seconded by Diana Dornfeld. In compliance with the by-laws, the vacancies will be voted on at the next meeting.

Diana Dornfeld discussed the importance of food allergy awareness at library programs for young children. She has expertise in the food and nutrition field and offered to draft a procedure and outreach strategy for consideration by the library leadership and staff.

Public Comments: The contribution from the Friends of the Library Southport and Oak Island for the purchase of the outdoor Percussion Play instruments was acknowledged.

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff Mount at 5:45 PM.

Upcoming meetings:

- Monday, March 24, 2025 at 4:00 PM – Rourk Library, 5068 Main St, Shallotte
- Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 4:00 PM – Southwest Branch Library, 9400 Ocean Hwy W, Carolina Shores

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- Monday, July 28, 2025 at 4:00 PM – Leland Library, 487 Village Rd NC, Leland
- Monday, September 22, 2025 at 4:00 PM – ANNUAL MEETING, Barbee Library, 8200 Oak Island Dr, Oak Island
- November 24, 2025 at 4:00 PM – Harper Library, 109 W. Moore St, Southport

Respectively submitted,
Diana Fotinatos, Board Secretary