



MEETING MINUTES

BRUNSWICK COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES

November 24, 2025
4:00 PM

The Brunswick County Library Board of Trustees met for the Regular Meeting on November 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Harper Library located at 109 W. Moore Street, Southport, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Diana Fotinatos, Chair, Trustee At Large
Diana Dornfeld, Vice Chair, Trustee D2
Marlene DeFrancesco, Trustee D4
June Jones, Trustee D3, Harper & Barbee Branches
Emma Myles, Trustee At Large
Marilyn Shapiro, Trustee At Large
Melissa Warren, Trustee At Large
Stephen Zerio, Trustee, D5

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jayne Mathews, Trustee D1

STAFF PRESENT

Patricia Dew, Library Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Harless, Teacher, BCS
Beth Klahre, writer for SPT/OKI Magazine
Cindy Phillips, President FOLSOI
Susann Thompson, President FOL Rourk

Board/Committee/Commission Action, containing all items in this set of minutes, is filed within the Library.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Diana Fotinatos called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Trustee Mathews was absent.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Fotinatos asked for adjustments to the agenda. Hearing none, Trustee Zerio made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shapiro and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes – Sept 22, Annual Meeting

Chair Fotinatos made the motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the September 22, 2025, Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Zerio and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Fotinatos opened the Public Comment period at 4:15 p.m. and introduced guests. Cindy Phillips, President of Friends of the Library Southport and Oak Island, discussed the \$3,000 funding they received from St. James Foundation of North Carolina specifically for the book mobile; Susann Thompson, President FOL Rourk discussed the \$2,000 in funding they received from the Elk’s Club for the benches installed at Rourk’s Learning Graden.

1. Library Director’s Report

Budget

The library is shifting book purchases to Ingram and other retailers as Baker & Taylor closes, while budget season begins with LSTA funding still uncertain.

Staff

Multiple part-time staff have resigned, and hiring is underway, with a new Bookmobile Assistant selected pending a background check and new state fingerprinting requirements now in effect.

Services

The new courier van has arrived, the Bookmobile is expected around Christmas with launch plans forming, and several patron services, including winter reading, Northstar Digital Literacy, and book-club-in-a-bag—are rolling out.

Buildings

FOLSOL and the County are reviewing options to expand meeting room space at Barbee, though the architect’s proposal is costly, but potentially fundable.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. **None.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chair Fotinatos will explore advocacy opportunities to push for e-book publishers to offer discounts for libraries, as the current fees are cost-prohibitive.

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **None.**

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

1. **None**

X. UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. Monday, January 26, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. – Rourk Library, 5068 Main St, Shallotte

2. Monday, March 23, 2026 at 4:00 PM - Southwest Branch Library, 9400 Ocean Hwy W, Carolina Shores
3. Saturday, March 14, 2026, noon to 4:00 PM – Public Library Trustee Training presented by the State Library of North Carolina, New Hanover County Public Library Northeast Regional Library, 1241 Military Cutoff Rd, Wilmington
4. Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 4:00 PM – Leland Library, 487 Village Rd, Leland
5. Monday, July 27, 2026 at 4:00 PM – Barbee Library, 8200 Oak Island Dr, Oak Island
6. Monday, September 28, 2026 at 4:00 PM – Harper Library, 109 W. Moore St, Southport

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fotinatos moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee DeFrancesco and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Diana Fotinatos

Diana Fotinatos, Chair
Brunswick County Library Board of Trustees

Attest:

Melissa Warren

Melissa Warren
Board Secretary