

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
18 NOVEMBER 2025**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Board President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Heather Van Otterloo, Lisa Erickson, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, Emily Stanley, and Andrea Cullers, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Jennifer Baldwin.

BOARD EDUCATION: IT and Facilities Manager Justin Kelly provided an overview of the Computer Lab and introductions to the Lab staff.

MINUTES: Minutes from the October 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Boyd Jones. Motion passed. **6/0**

VOUCHER: October non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$88,633.70 were approved. **(Stanley/Van Otterloo) 6/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Foundation Update.** Jeana explained that the Foundation has two different accounts at TrueNorth: the investment account and the cash management account. Financial Advisor Troy Stovern has recommended moving money out of the cash management account to lower the total to \$60,000. The Board directed Jeana to ask a few more questions of Mr. Stovern and suggested moving the excess money into a money market account. There was a motion by Dr. Cullers to move excess cash over \$60,000 into the Vanguard money market account. Ms. Boyd Jones seconded. **(6/0)**
2. **December Board meeting.** President Gaarder queried Board Members about if they wish to meet in December. The Board discussed and agreed to meet Dec. 16 for the regularly scheduled meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- On November 4, Jeana Gockley shared about the notary services and International Games Month on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- On November 6, [KOAM](#) aired a story about the Library warning residents of passport scams.
- On November 13, [KZRG](#) aired a story about the “Culture in Color: Native American Heritage Through Art” art exhibit.

Programs

- Teens created and enjoyed tiny food at the Tiny Food Party on November 5; 14 people attended.
- Book Swap was November 8, at the Library; 60 people attended.

Training

- The Library's Staff Training Day was held on November 11. The board game "Clue" served as the inspiration for the themed day and the Staff Day planning team coordinated break-out sessions, team-building activities and a host of other training opportunities. To end the day, Youth Services Assistant Kelsey Phipps was named Employee of the Year.
- The Library Marketing & Communications Conference was held in St. Louis on November 12 & 13. Two Library staff members attended - Jeana Gockley and Lori Crockett.
- The BOLD Women's Summit was held in Joplin on November 18. Three staff members attended - Eden Kendall, Lori Crockett and Jeana Gockley.

Personnel

- Collection Development Librarian Linda Cannon passed away on November 1. Ms. Cannon had worked for the Library since 1988. She will be greatly missed.

Collections

- The Youth Services Library of Things collection launched this month. This collection includes almost 20 puzzles and games for kids between the ages of 3 and 12. They check out one at a time for three weeks.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of circulation numbers, patron registrations, and study room and meeting room use.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ms. Boyd Jones reported on the Friends of the Library annual membership meeting, held Oct. 23:

- Approximately 25 people attended.
- Youth Services Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson presented about the Children's Department's new Library of Things.
- FOL Vice President Alice Snodgrass provided an overview of the group's contributions over the past year: helping fund 2025 Joplin Reads Together, providing the homebound delivery program, donating money for new library furniture, hosting a trivia night fundraiser, and continuing to organizing book sales.
- Kathy Lazenby and Matt Cline were re-elected to the Board.
- The new budget was passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57p.m.

Written by

Administrative Assistant

Approved by

Library Director

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joplin Public Library will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, December 16, 2025.