

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
26 AUGUST 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 Emily Stanley, Heather Van Otterloo, Jennifer Baldwin, Lisa Erickson, Jean Coltharp, Andrea Cullers, and Diane Reid Adams, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Veda Boyd Jones.

BOARD EDUCATION: Youth Services Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson provided an overview of the 2025 all-ages Summer Reading Program. Among the talking points:

- Approximately 800 free meals were distributed in partnership with Joplin R-8 Schools.
- There were 69 Children's programs, 17 in Teen, and 10 in Adult, plus intergenerational and all-ages programs.
- Teen participation was much higher this year.
- The Library partnered with various organizations: Joplin schools, Spiva Center for the Arts, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

MINUTES: Minutes from the July 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Van Ottlerloo. Motion passed. 7/0 Minutes from the July 2025 closed session were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Cullers to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Erickson. Motion passed. 7/0

VOUCHERS: July non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$46,696.07 were approved. (Cullers/Erickson) 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Budget and Finance.** Dr. Cullers, Chair, reported that the committee met July 25. The tax levy has been rolled back a bit, but property assessments are higher. Revenue will increase slightly in FY26, by 3%. The subsidy from the City will be \$25,000 less, per the agreement it holds with the Library. State aid and Athletes and Entertainers money were left in the budget, but it's ultimately up to the Governor if libraries will receive the funds. A 5% raise for employees is requested to remain compliant with the state minimum wage requirements. The Board will review the final proposed budget at next month's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Director's Goal Setting.** President Gaarder presented a list of proposed annual goals for the Director for the Board to consider. Members discussed them. There was a motion by Ms. Baldwin, with a second by Ms. Stanley, to select the following goals:

- a. Develop a multiyear building and maintenance plan so that computers, furniture, heating and air units, etc., will be bought and replaced on a rotational basis. Budgeting decisions can be made to work around this plan.
- b. Expand the Library of Things to include more children's toys and other educational items.
- c. Scrutinize the budget for possible areas of savings and develop outside funding sources through businesses and grants.

The motion passed. 7/0

2. **Change in Meeting Date.** Dr. Reid Adams has a conflicting meeting and has requested that the Library Board meeting day be changed so that she can continue to serve on the Library Board. The Board discussed whether to change the meeting day, but there was no motion proposed. At this point, Dr. Reid Adams submitted her resignation from the Library Board to the Board President.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Tax Levy Hearing.** The City Council set the Library's tax levy at its meeting last night. There was a motion by Ms. Baldwin to set the levy at .2382, with a second by Ms. Stanley. The motion passed. 7/0
2. **Renewal of the Ethics Policy.** The Library is required to renew its ethics policy every two years. There was a motion by Ms. Stanley to approve the ethics policy, with a second by Dr. Van Otterloo. The motion passed. 7/0
3. **Security Camera Recording Policy.** The Director has drafted a new policy so that the Library can properly provide footage to law enforcement and other individuals. There was a motion by Dr. Van Otterloo, with a second by Ms. Erickson, to accept the policy as presented. The motion passed. 7/0

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- 2025 Writers' Faire
 - On August 2, [KZRG](#) shared a story.
 - On August 19, [KSMU](#) aired a story.
- On August 5, Lori Crockett shared about the Library of Things on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- On August 14, Lori Crockett shared about summer reading, programming and Library of Things on [KOAM](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- On August 22, [The Joplin Globe](#) published an article about the tax levy hearing.

Programs

- On July 17, Marketing/PR Assistant Lori Crockett and Circulation Manager Eden Kendall represented the Library at an Incoming Student Resource Fair held at KCU Medical. During the outreach event they signed up 74 students for library cards!
- The Summer Reading Program wrapped up on July 20. Here are some of the statistics from the eight week program.
 - Participants: 1460
 - Gameboard completions: 840

- Minutes read: 753,255
- Programs: 100
- Program attendees: 2,920
- The overall completion rate was between 57 and 61% which is on par with most years.
- Summer Meals, a partnership with the Joplin School District's Nutritional Services department, ended on August 8, with 760 children being served meals.

Building & Grounds

- In March, Satterlee with guidance from TMI replaced our entire Heat Pump 1 system - Three condensers and six compressors. In July two compressors failed. They replaced the two units on August 21, with TMI visiting the next day to check the installation.
- Several exterior lights were out so Justin Kelly, our IT & Facilities Manager, created a listing showing what needed replaced, however, when the vendor came onsite to do the replacement they discovered the original fixtures had been installed incorrectly, so they are working on another plan that does not involve removal of the soffit.

Personnel

- Brian Brown was hired as a full-time Custodian. His first day was July 17.

STATISTICS: The Board and Director discussed Hoopla and Overdrive numbers, as well as Makerspace statistics.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

STAFF COMMENTS: There were no Staff Comments.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Dr. Reid Adams provided a Friends of the Library report and shared a flier for the trivia night fund-raiser happening in September.
- President Gaarder thanked Board Members for all their hard work and time this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.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, September 16, 2025.