

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE KING WILLIAM COUNTY
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2025 6:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees of King William County, Virginia, was held on the 25th day of June 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building and via live stream. Due to technical difficulties the first 15 minutes of the meeting were not recorded.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Call to Order The Chair called the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Electronic Participation Approval (if needed) None

AGENDA ITEM 3. Roll Call

Ms. Byrne - District 1 - Absent
Ms. Carlton - District 1 - Present
Ms. Herndon - District 3 - Present
Ms. Washington - District 4 -Present
Ms. Price - District 5 - Present

AGENDA ITEM 4. Review and Adoption of Meeting Agenda The Chair called for discussion: The Board requested removal of ll(a), adding ll(f) Appointment of a new Director and ll(g) Update on the 1st District seat; the Clerk requested removal of the Draft Minutes of April 22, 2025. There were no other amendments for this Agenda.
The Chair asked for a Motion, Ms. Carlton made a motion to accept the agenda as amended, the motion was seconded by Ms. Price, the Chair polled the members finding that all were in favor, none opposed.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Invocation/Moment of Silence The Chair called for a moment of silence.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Pledge of Allegiance The Chair led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Consent Agenda

The Chair asked for discussion and finding none; the Chair asked for a motion, Ms. Washington made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Ms. Price. The Chair polled the members. All members were in favor and no members were opposed.

a. Approval of Minutes:

- i. **Draft Minutes from April 22, 2025 - Removed at the request of the clerk**
- ii. **Draft Minutes from May 20, 2025 Approved**

AGENDA ITEM 8. Presentations None

AGENDA ITEM 9. Citizens Comment Period The Chair opened the Public Comment period.
Speakers:

Sharon Landrum - District 5
Judith Mendoze - District 5
Dorothy Wassenburg - District 4

Alexandra Hurley - District 5
Suzi Sherman - District 5
Kayla Sherman - District 5
Fran Freimarck - District 4

There being no further speakers, the Chair closed the Public Comment period.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Unfinished Business

a. KWCLS Logo

The logo contest had 50 participants, and the winning design was created by Tracey Carlton and the members discussed the logo for the KWCLS and its future purposes.

AGENDA ITEM 11. New Business

a. Survey Removed from the Agenda

b. Community Survey The purpose of the Community Survey was not just the logo, it was supposed to encompass multiple questions to get community feedback. The Chair stated that "we, as a board, would like to implement another survey that reflects some questions of actual substance". This matter will be addressed with the new County Administrator.

c. RFP Update County Administrator Clarence Monday briefed the Board on the current RFP and the pending IFB for the construction of the UKW Library Branch. "Under the Virginia Procurement Act, we have to do an invitation for bids. It's an IFB instead of an RFP and what we'll do is we'll get the draft working internally as fast as we can. We'll let the county attorney look at that and make sure it's in proper form, and then we will rebid that and then get the bids back and follow the procedures that we're required to follow under state code, so we'll fast track that get that done as fast as possible".

d. Website Discussion Sue Considine provided an update. "The website that we launched on the 15th was a promise that we had made to the county and to the citizens at the town halls, that we would have the website up and available for patron registration and for sharing information. By the 15th however, the website would not be fully populated and go live until our 1st day of operations on July first. In the meantime we have been working diligently to put together a summer reading program for your community, and I shared the calendar of events and the flyers with those who I communicated with last night. So you have all of those we're looking forward to having all of that added to our website. We're looking forward to have our e-content subscriptions, Canopy, Hoopla and Libby all live on July first, and we will also have Beanstack, the online interactive reading challenge resource that happily is made available to the library system free of charge through the State Library. So that is where we're at. Now that we have the logo, we were able to update the website, the flyers, the promotional assets, all with the library, logo".

Chair Herndon and Sue Considine discussed the process and the delay on registering the

juvenile cards.

- e. Upper King William Branch Update** Staff updated the Board that this matter is still under negotiation, and we are trying to find a solution.

Chair Herndon provided an update to the community that the MOU was endorsed and PRL had an end date of 6/30/2025, and that KWC and LS&S were going to be able to have access to the locations prior to June 30 and as of tonight's meeting KWC and LS&S do not have access.

Sue Considine stated that LS&S will have the West Point Library open to the public on July 1. The Board discussed creating a social media page to promote the library.

f. Appointing a New Director - Cat Rashid

The Chair asked for discussion on formally appointing LS&S employee Cat Rashid as the Library Director of the KWCLS effective July 1, 2025..

Per Sue Considine, "Cat Rashid" will fully collaborate and work in partnership with the county and the Board of Trustees, but she is an LS&S Employee. "And it's understood that Cat reports to LS&S, and she is under all of our personnel policies, and that Cat is a full employee of LS&S."

The Board recognizes Cat Rashid as an employee of LS&S but she is also the county's point of contact for its Library System.

Sue Considine: You (LBOT) aren't responsible for hiring, and the rest of that with our director. However, as with any director, it is anticipated that the board chair would be the person who communicates directly with the library director on behalf of the board and the community interfaces directly with Cat and the staff. Cat is responsible on the ground for the staff. And then I'm responsible for Cat. That's how this structure works."

The Chair called for a vote:

Ms. Washington Yes

Ms. Byrne Absent

Ms. Price Yes

Ms. Carlton Yes

Chair Herndon Yes

Cat Rashid is named the Library Director of the KWCLS.

g. Update on the District 1 seat.

Ann Byrne has resigned from her seat effective today on this Board. The Board will notify the BOS about the vacancy, and they will appoint a new member at their next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Director's Report

a. Introduction of the Library Director, Cat Rashid

Sue Considine introduced Cat Rashid to the Board.

b. State Aid Update

State Aid was awarded to the KWCLS in the amount of \$173,516.00 for FY '26

Ms. Washington asked how this money is used. Ms. Considine stated that "the lion's share will be used for materials, but the county will determine with its Finance Department.

Mr. Zhang and Mr. Monday addressed the Board: This money will go into Revenue and will be used to cover expenses.

c. West Point opening timeline

The West Point (WP) will open on July 1 and all but 1 vacancy has been filled. The workers in the libraries are employees of LS&S. Laptops are currently in route to the WP branch. Other IT hardware is in process and will be delivered upon agreement of the county and the vendor. Due to Summer Reading already starting the Grand Opening will be August 9th, 2025.

d. Summer reading program update and plans

LS&S will post a calendar of events on the webpage for residents. A full-time Youth Services Programmer has been hired; LS&S has specialized training for each specific department; deliverables are due on July 1 and any time that they have provided to KW is to prepare for the opening.

e. Courier update

Several couriers have been contacted and provided quotes. This will be revisited once the UKW branch is open.

f. Reciprocal borrowing partner updates.

At the moment there are no other libraries interested in working with KWCLS. The Chair would like to revisit this topic at a later date.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Board Comments

The Chair opened the floor to the members for their comments:

Ms. Washington - "just wanted to start off by thanking everyone who has come out and everyone who spoke. I really do value your opinions. I think that to do the best job for our community. We need to hear everybody's voice. And so I appreciate you coming out and speaking. And I appreciate all of the people who have emailed us. There are people in need and the library provides the services they need and due to the closing of a branch, their needs are not being met. We are all frustrated with this process. The speakers who read excerpts from books tonight, there's like shocking and jarring and hard for me to listen to as a person, so I understand why you might be upset by them. But what I would also like to say is that when things are taken out of context, they sometimes lose their greater literary value. I completely agree that parents have every right to control and approve what their children read and view, and the music that they listen to as does every other parent. So some parent's rights to not want their kids to view, listen to read something should not trump other parents' rights to have access for their children. And so I think that the library's policy of establishing a

2 part system is a good compromise. It's a good start because it allows parents to have a say in what their children check out. And I think this is something we've talked about as a board."

Ms. Price - "I really do also appreciate everyone coming out tonight to support us, the library, the county. We appreciate all of your comments, and we do take them to heart. We want to make sure we provide the best library for our community possible. I really appreciate you ladies, and being able to be open and discuss topics like that. We just discussed, and I'm really excited to work with our new county administrator accounting attorney and Christa, thank you so much for all of your hard work throughout all of this. I hope we have better news, and more progress.

Ms. Carlton: I do appreciate. As Miss Washington stated, everybody's viewpoints, and we do need to into account all of them. We also want to make the best use of everyone's tax dollars. And sensitive subjects are something that each family need they need to address. Each family needs to address sensitive subjects. However, I think : I believe the concern is about the explicit treatment of said sensitive topics and the graphic nature of them and how there are handled in the organization of where they are in the library. We do not want to ban books. We do not want to burn them in a barrel somewhere outside the library. It's not that at all, but we will discuss as a board how we're going to handle the organization of those materials and the display of materials in the libraries. Parents do have a right to be able to present materials to their children, but they also have the right that they don't. The children do not stumble across such graphic content. And so I just want to reiterate. It's hard to look on Facebook, but that's really where I can find people's comments. I appreciate that people are bold enough to go online and speak, but also it does. It's very saddening and frustrating that it's become such a divisive topic when it really shouldn't be. And so, in any event, thank you for that, and want to reiterate that we're not trying to ban books, keeps here. And seeing that word, hearing that word on Facebook, and that's not what we want to do. Thank you.

Ms. Herndon: "Well, I found my fellow board mates expressing my extreme level of gratitude. I don't believe we all need to think the same way. Look the same way. Be the same way to have a beautiful society. I hope. In our work that we deliver something that represents our community as a whole. I have not been quiet about the fact that I'm a mother of 3 young children. I have other life experiences as well that I don't necessarily feel the need to share. But I have a lens of viewpoint that I, you know, as a woman in the world, you know, hearing those things were challenging for me as a 40 year old woman sitting here, a growing woman, and so I can't. My children are young. I can't even fathom having those conversations with my children right now, but I understand how quickly they grow. And my son is reading very similar to yours, and he's going to be reading better and better every month. It's going to get to a point very soon. I won't be able to pre read every book he wants to read like I can right now. To ensure that it meets our families moral understanding or exposure that I choose to give my child and children and that's not right as a parent, and that parental. I never want to restrict someone's parental rights when I hear that it really upsets me. Obviously as a mom, I'm not trying to take anyone's freedom away from raising your child how you deem necessary. However, this is a tax funded payer funded library. This is a community library and some of those visual, and it's sexually explicit content, in my opinion, as a tax paying citizen

has no space in a children's section. I have not been quiet about that. But I do hope we can come to a resolution that represents our whole community as a whole. And again, I have no plans or intentions to ban books from the facility. It's again, specifically the placement of these books within the children's section. To me it seems like common sense. But again, I'm not. I am not wanting to ban books or restrict books. It's just that I don't personally want them. In front of my 6 year old, my 4 year old and my one year old, who are going to be perusing through the Children's section. So you know we we've got some work to do. But I I am very grateful for everyone coming out and delivering their viewpoint and their lens tonight. I assure you it's something I take to heart, and something I will be thinking through. Join up, you know, have some different opinions, but we've had some really amazing conversations together that really, I think, shine the light for her and shine the light for me. And that's the point of this process. And the point of our role here is to not just stylistically think about ourselves and what we want. We represent the community. And that's what we're trying to do. So I want to eliminate the fear that we are trying to ban these books and all of these things, and I know things spread like wildfire, and people can take one thing and turn it into something. But we're not trying to to burn books. Be very clear and-. And obviously, you know, we built things into the policy document wherever that may be, or to hopefully help with access to children's parent to help parental parents and their choices that they deem are working. So I say all this. I also, too, I think it's abundantly clear. I am not by any means a poker player, but I also do not have much of a poker face. I think it's pretty obvious that I am beyond frustrated as a board member at some lack of communication, fully understanding our roles and our governing authority with the makeup of LS&S. And how to navigate our governance to a point where we feel we have a voice and say in this process, and I hope that by the next July meeting we will be able to have a little more clarity on those roles. So again, I very much appreciate your time writing us emails and coming here and expressing your concerns. And I enjoy it. And I hope to have more opportunities throughout this process for community involvement."

AGENDA ITEM 14. Next Meeting July 15, 2025 at 6:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 15. Adjourn or Recess

The Chair called for a motion, Ms. Carlton made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Ms. Washington. The members were polled, all were in favor and none were opposed.