



Minutes

Oconee County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, County Administration Bldg., 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC

Members present: J. Adams, M. Ellison, P. Holcombe, K. Jackson, K. Knapp, C. Powell, V. Smith

Members absent: N. McKinney, T. Weekes

Staff: Blair Hinson, staff liaison

Press: none. Agenda posted at County Admin. Building and at the Walhalla Library.

- I. **Call to Order:** meeting called to order at 5:30 PM
- II. **Approval of minutes:** May 27, 2025 regular meeting: motion to approve by M. Ellison, seconded by J. Adams. Minutes approved unanimously.
- III. **Public Comment:** Limited to 4 minutes per person, 30 minutes in total. None.
- IV. **Introduce Library Resources Associate to Board:** Kerry Leeper Brock addressed the Board to highlight her role at the library, the type of things she can help with, and addressed why libraries having a social worker is important.

IV. **Friends' Report:** Director provided a report on Friends' activities and their success in fundraising to date. Friends assisted with the dedication of the Macaulay Conference Room at the main library in Walhalla in July. They received a large donation of 150 boxes from an estate.

V. **Committee Reports** (if submitted)

A. Finance: none.

B. Policy/Personnel: none.

C. Building and Grounds: none.

D. Community Relations: Community Relations committee met at the Walhalla Library on June 17, 2025. They presented a synopsis of their meeting to the full board. Subjects covered at their meeting included library safety for children, meeting room use, social worker advocacy, fundraising, and establishing a formal liaison to the Friends of the Library. K. Knapp will serve as liaison.

VI. **Chair's Report:** none.

VII. **Director's Report:** Director reported that YS Librarian Emily Johnson started with the library on July 14. Also discussed Summer Reading programs and the End-of-Summer Bash at South Cove County Park.

VIII. **Old Business**

- A. Continue discussion of updating the library strategic plan – Director present one-page document to Board for their input and comment.

Library Board-Judith Adams, Mandy Ferguson-Ellison, Paul Holcombe, Kim Jackson, Kay Knapp, Nick McKinney, Clifton Powell, Vicky Smith, Tara Weekes

Library will also create a public survey to capture input on what the library should strive for going forward.

- B. Update building projects – Macaulay Conference Room is now available for use. The Seneca parking area has not progressed. The next step is a meeting with the City of Seneca to get approval for the plan to add spaces to the front.

IX. **New Business**

- A. Report on Budget and State Aid funding for Fiscal Year 25-26 – Director presented the local and State Aid budget to the Board. Discussion ensued about PT salaries. A question was asked about increase in local wage and benefit category, which we believe will fund a 2% cost-of-living raise for FT employees at some point.
- B. Discussion of changes to regular meeting agenda – discussion ensued about adding Board member comments to agenda. K. Jackson added a comment thanking sponsors for 2025 Summer Reading. C. Powell made a motion to add Board member comments to each agenda before Executive Session, K. Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

X. **Executive Session**

[upon reconvening the Board may take a Vote and/or take Action on matters brought up for discussion in Executive Session, if required]

For the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

Discussion regarding release of an employee

Motion to enter Executive Session made by K. Jackson, seconded by M. Ellison. Vote was unanimous. Board entered Executive Session at 6:28.

Upon return, motion made to exit Executive Session by C. Powell, seconded by J. Adams. Vote was unanimous. No action or vote was taken in Executive Session.

- XI. **Adjourn** – motion to adjourn by K. Jackson, seconded by J. Adams. Meeting adjourned at 6:47.