



Minutes

Oconee County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting

Tuesday, November 25, 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, N.

McKinney, C. Powell, V. Smith

Members absent: T. Weekes

Staff: Blair Hinson, Library Director

Press: none.

- I. **Call to Order:** meeting called to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** September 23, 2025 regular meeting: motion by Adams, seconded by Powell, minutes approved unanimously.
- III. **Public Comment:** Limited to 4 minutes per person, 30 minutes in total. None.
- IV. **Board member comments:** K. Knapp requested to add invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the regular agenda for future meetings; also commended the Friends of the Library and mentioned the Volunteer Appreciation event in October 2025.

IV. **Friends' Report:** Director presented sales figures for September and October (included in backup material). Director also mentioned that the Friends had contributed \$1,000 for the Adult Winter Reading program.

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

A. Finance: none.

B. Policy/Personnel: none.

C. Building and Grounds: Chair mentioned the Seneca Library parking lot project. He had spoken to Kyle Reid, Director of Roads and Bridges for Oconee County. The projected completion time depends on the availability of an asphalt crew leader, and the project should commence in the beginning of 2026.

D. Community Relations: none.

VI. **Chair's Report** -chair commented that the library's best asset is people; not only staff, but the Friends of the Library and all volunteers. He also commented on the number of volunteer hours that many of the Friends had contributed, and mentioned the Volunteer Appreciation event in October 2025.

VII. **Director's Report** – Director reported on staffing changes at Walhalla and Salem locations; also mentioned Staff In-Service training in October 2025; commended the Friends; and mentioned seeking grant support to keep Kerry Leeper Brock. Director also mentioned APLA's strategy for the 2026 state legislative term (seeking increase to \$200,000 from \$150,000 for minimum grant counties).

VIII. **Old Business**

- A. Update/ vote on library strategic plan – director displayed draft of strategic plan, and discussion ensued among the members. Discussion particularly focused on Goal 2 in Community Involvement and also Goal 2 in Programming. J. Adams brought up literacy in Oconee County, which was expanded on by K. Jackson. C. Powell mentioned the benefits of having Spanish language programs as a way of promoting literacy and helping patrons learn English. M. Ellison also discussed importance of literacy. Director inserted comments about role School District of Oconee County, and Emily Johnson, Youth Services Librarian. Director also read comments from T. Weekes about her desire to offer bilingual programs and keep the strategic plan as it was presented. C. Powell proposed adding to Goal 2 a separate objective to cover functional literacy. Discussion continued. N. McKinney also spoke to adding an objective in Programming, Goal 2. Director again pointed out that functional literacy programming was more appropriately placed under Emily Johnson and Youth Services (and Brittany Castro and Adult Services). K. Jackson made a motion to change Programming, Goal 2, to strike the wording programs “in Spanish” and replace with “functional literacy,” and make “programs in Spanish” an objective (Obj 1). J. Adams seconded. Motion passed 6-2 (C. Powell and N. McKinney against). C. Powell then proposed tabling strategic plan until January 2026. C. Powell made a motion, seconded by N. McKinney, to table. Motion failed 2-6. (Adams, Ellison, Holcombe, Jackson, Knapp, and Smith against). J. Adams made a motion to add “improving literacy” in the Mission Statement, seconded by V. Smith. Motion passed 8-0. K. Jackson moved to accept amended plan as a whole, seconded by V. Smith. Motion passed 6-2 (McKinney and Powell against).
- B. Update building projects – Director mentioned that County Roads and Bridges removed asphalt drainage “hump” and ground down where the asphalt met the concrete sidewalk. Director also mentioned a landscape planner recently offered his assistance to plan landscaping for libraries.

IX. **New Business**

- A. Vote for 2026 Board meeting schedule – C. Powell made a motion to amend schedule to change November 2026 date to previous week, seconded by K. Jackson. Motion passed 8-0. J. Adams then made a motion to accept full schedule as amended, seconded by K. Jackson. Motion passed 8-0.
- B. Request to close Westminster Library at 4:30 PM on Friday, December 5, for the staff to participate in the 2025 Westminster Christmas parade – Director asked for this to be struck due to staff no longer being able to participate.
- C. Form ad hoc nominating committee for officer elections in January 2026 -C. Powell motioned to accept nominations from the floor in January, seconded by K. Jackson. Motion passed 8-0.

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:

None for this meeting

XI. **Adjourn** – motion to adjourn by N. McKinney, seconded by J. Adams.
Adjourned at 7:15 PM.