State of Louisiana
Parish of Lafourche

August 24, 2026
Lockport, Louisiana

The Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 5:00 pm with the following:

PRESENT: Bennie Smith, President
Teddy Collins, Jr., Vice-President
Courtney Hubbell
Ruby LeBlanc
Linda Eymard entered at 5:04pm

ABSENT: Tonya Hearns
Mitch Orgeron, Parish President & Library Liaison

Also present in the meeting: Laura Sanders, Library Director; Sherry Lucas, Finance/HR/Operations Manager; and Dana Clement, Administrative Assistant for the Library.

Ms. Smith stated after roll call, "We have a quorum and can move forward with our meeting."

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited together.

A motion to accept the LBC agenda was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2026 Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc and carried unanimously.

Public Wishing to Address the Board: Robert Theriot, 414 Eagle Dr., Raceland, LA offered to donate a custom seafood stirring paddle as a door prize that will include the library logo and his name as a contributor. The Board and Mrs. Laura thanked Mr. Theriot and look forward to receiving his generous donation.

Finance Report:
Mrs. Lucas reported that the Library's fund balance at the end of July was $6.8 million and today is currently $6.5 million. Mrs. Lucas informed the Board, "we were finally approved for $51,062 in internet discounts from E-rate for the funding year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027." Mrs. Lucas noted, "Parish Finance took our amendments to our 2026 Budget, and those of other departments, to Council as a Supplemental Appropriation. The Council approved the changes in July. As a reminder this Board did not increase expected 2026 expenditures but instead moved some funds between categories to better meet anticipated needs." With no other discussions, a motion was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, to accept the Finance Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Report:
Mrs. Sanders reported managing the daily operations of the library system and attending quite a few meetings over the last several months. Mrs. Sanders stated, "I've applied for the Etouffee Grant, with State Library for free Apple products for in house programming." Mrs. Sanders also stated, "Let's talk about our upcoming millage election, Dec 12, 2026, I do plan to attend the Council meeting to help explain library services and governmental accounting. All of our building projects are on pause, due to the millage renewals failing in the May 16th election." She also explained that Brody Williams, the Assistant Principal at South Lafourche High School, the Library, and Parish President are working together to create an MOU so that the South Lafourche building can serve as an emergency evacuation site." A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded Mrs. Middleton, to accept the Director Report. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL

New Business:

1. Discussion and recommendation on Memorandum of Understanding between the Lafourche Library and National Park Service to the council for approval. Mrs. Sanders explained, "This is a 5-year continuation of the agreement between Headquarters and the National Park Services to allow staff access to the building during government shutdowns. There are were no changes made to the document since the last time you saw and voted on it". A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell and seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc to approve and recommend the Parish Council's approval of the MOU. The motion carried unanimously: 6-0-1-0.

2. Discussion and approval of annual computer purchases for lab upgrades: Mrs. Sanders stated, "attached are the quotes for our annual computer purchases for our scheduled lab upgrades. Although we have budgeted $60,000 for this expense we are only spending what is needed right due to the pending millage renewals". A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, to accept the Complete Network Management low quote of $27,347.58, to purchase 26 all-in-one desktops. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Eymard yes, Mrs. Hearns absent, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mr. Collins yes. The motion carried 6-0-1-0.

3. Discussion and approval on Thibodaux Branch continuous roofing issues: Mrs. Sanders explained, "We've continued to have roofing issues at Thibodaux. Ever since install in 2014 we've had numerous visits by manufacturer authorized roofing companies to troubleshoot but we are still experiencing repeated leaks. We've done everything we can to solve these issues. Our roof is now graded as a C, meaning it only has five to seven years of remaining life, when it should have lasted thirty years. It was a bad install, and we're getting no further meaningful assistance from the manufacturer. I spoke to Parish President Orgeron about this, and he agrees it is time to move forward with a roof replacement. Currently, I'm proposing we hire GFP Somdal, LLC to develop a sloped roof project. A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Eymard, to hire GFP Somdal, LLC to develop a roof replacement project for the Thibodaux Library. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Eymard yes, Mrs. Hearns absent, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mr. Collins yes. The motion carried 6-0-1-0.

4. Discussion of the May 16, 2026 millage election results for LPPL: Mrs. Sanders stated, "Obviously, I was just as upset with the loss on our millage renewals as you and our patrons were. I've done some cutting back on spending, such as reducing the copies of books and the number of hotspots we would normally purchase." Mrs. Sanders explained, "provided to you is a worksheet of estimated annual costs by location." Mrs. Sanders also stated, "I attended a State Library millage seminar, spoke with other directors in the state, and we have a pretty good plan for our Dec. 12, 2026 election. With that being said, we'll have to spend some money, possibly out of our reserve funds. We also need to start thinking about some tough decisions if our millages don't pass. Additionally, our Parish is looking at tax reform. I believe we need to look at possibly changing our By-Laws to reflect 6 months' worth of reserves instead of an entire year, which could allow us to roll back our millage when we reach that goal. We also need to think about what we can do to create savings within our Library system, including possibly closing low performing branches. I do not have you voting on anything tonight, but we as a group need to start thinking about these tough decisions so we can make changes in the future." After some discussion, the item concluded.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control was adjourned at approximately 5:50pm.

APPROVAL