

The Special Meeting of the Library Board of Control was called to order on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5:00 pm with the following:

PRESENT: Bennie Smith, President  
Courtney Hubbell, Vice-President  
Teddy Collins, Jr.  
Ruby LeBlanc-entered the meeting 5:03pm  
Francine Middleton

ABSENT: Lauren Bordelon  
Tonya Hearn  
Mitch Orgeron, Library Liaison

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

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 Mr. Collins, and carried unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2025 Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, and carried unanimously.

Public Wishing to Address the Board:

Finance Report: Mrs. Lucas reported a current fund balance of \$4 million. She went on to say that in August, the Parish Council approved putting an assortment of heavy equipment items out to surplus auction, including the Library's three surplus vehicles. "The vehicles have been since sold through Guinn Auction House in Jennings. Net proceeds for the vehicles together totaled \$5,520.00. The funds were posted as a revenue item in October." A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, to accept the Finance Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Report: Mrs. Sanders reported managing the daily operations of the library system. Mrs. Sanders reported, "things are now moving quickly with the South Lafourche Project, and we're so excited with how it's coming along, with design features and beautiful wall graphics to represent our area." November 14 is scheduled for substantial completion, but much work remains to furnish and set up the space. The SL Storefront will remain closed after Thanksgiving while we move. We cannot open South Lafourche until a lift station is installed on the sewer system, and that is on order and should install in December. Thibodaux Branch has a new roof leak, so we've arranged with JM authorized contractor, Roofing Solutions, for annual roof inspections and assessments for preventative maintenance and to preserve the warranty." A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded Mrs. Hubbell, to accept the Director Report. The motion carried unanimously.

### Special Order of Business:

1. Election of Officers for 2026; Mrs. Sanders opened the election for 2026 Officers for the Library Board of Control by asking for nominations for President. Mrs. Hubbell nominated Ms. Smith for President. Mrs. Sanders asked Ms. Smith if she accepted, and she agreed. Mrs. Sanders asked three times if there were any more nominees for President and there were none. Mrs. Sanders announced Mrs. Bennie Smith as the President for 2026. Mrs. Sanders opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President. Mr. Collins nominated himself for Vice President, and Ms. Smith seconded. Mrs. Sanders asked three times if there were any more nominees for Vice-President, and there were none. Mrs. Sanders announced Teddy Collins, Jr. as the Vice-President for 2026. Mrs. Sanders, "Congratulations to Ms. Smith and Mr. Collins as our newly elected officers for the 2026 calendar year. Thank you for your time and support of our Library System."

### Old Business:

1. Update on Gheens Library: Mrs. Sanders updated the Board, "We obtained multiple quotes, and we've hired Foret Contracting as the low quote to repair the flooring, joists, and subfloor. They plan to do half of the building then move everything over and complete the other half. The work should involve 2-3 weeks of Gheens being closed. Foret had been clear that there could very likely be additional costs if they start taking the floor apart and find that rot has gotten into the walls. This would be true no matter who did the work. We trust that Foret will communicate any unforeseen issues to us so that decisions can be made. I'll keep the Board in the loop. We will also look into getting new gutters for the building, but that's further down the road. No Board action is necessary at this time since the amount is currently under \$15,000." There was no further discussion on this item.

Mrs. Sanders requested to deviate from the agenda to discuss New Business, Item #2 and #3 ahead of Item #1. A motion was made by Mrs. LeBlanc, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell. The motion carried unanimously.

### New Business:

Item #2: Discussion and approval of LPPL's cost share for the 2026 Employee Health Insurance Coverage. Mrs. Sanders explained, "Blue Cross is our health provider, and our health premiums have increased by 10% for 2026. Within our budget, we have a few cost share options for the Board to consider." After much discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, to accept Option 4 to pay 88.5% of individual, 82.5% of employee plus spouse, 83.1% of employee plus children, and 82.6% of family coverage." A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon absent, Mrs. Hearn absent, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mr. Collins yes. The motion carried 5-0-2-0.

Item #3: Discussion and approval of LPPL's cost share for 2026 Dental Insurance Coverage. Mrs. Sanders explained, "Delta Dental is our dental insurance provider, and there are no changes to rates for 2026. The Library has always covered the cost equivalent of the individual basic low plan for all employees, with the annual cost expected to be about \$10,883." A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, to keep the cost share for Delta Dental the same. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon absent, Mrs. Hearn absent, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mr. Collins yes. The motion carried 5-0-2-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, to return to Item #1. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #1: Discussion and approval of the 2026 LPPL calendar; Mrs. Sanders explained, "the Parish has added Juneteenth Day, Veterans' Day, and all Federal Elections as paid holidays. The Library already

observes Juneteenth Day, is proposing to add Veterans' Day, and would like input from the Board on any other paid days they wish to add." After much discussion, the Board amended the 2026 calendar to add Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> as a paid day, Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> as an unpaid closure, Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> as a paid day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> as a paid day, and Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> as a paid day. A motion was made by Mrs. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, to approve the amended LPPL calendar for 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #4: Discussion and approval of participating in the Parish's Employee Assistance Program. Mrs. Sanders explained EAP from Hidalgo Health Associates is a confidential counseling program that is offered to all LPPL employees and their dependents to provide almost immediate access to mental health and other counseling services free of charge to the employee. The Library has participated in this Parish-offered benefit for several years now, at a cost of \$3.25 per employee per month. "Usage statistics are group-wide and are already surpassing last year." Mrs. Sanders suggested that "we continue to have this benefit for our employees." A motion was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, to continue participation in the EAP program. A roll call vote was taken; Ms. Smith yes, Mrs. Hubbell yes, Mrs. Bordelon absent, Mrs. Hearn absent, Mrs. LeBlanc yes, Mrs. Middleton yes, and Mr. Collins yes. The motion carried 5-0-2-0.

With no further business to discuss, a motion for adjournment was made by Mrs. Hubbell, seconded by Mrs. Middleton, and carried unanimously. The Library Board of Control adjourned at 6:04pm.