

Minutes  
Bartholomew County Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
BCPL Downtown Columbus  
February 16, 2026  
Board Meeting 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by President Gron.

Present on site: Monta Frazier, Gary Gron, Dawn Doup-Pandit, and Mike Wilkerson. Library staff: Jason Hatton, Director; Mike McIver, Attorney.

Present via Zoom: Vern Jorck

Absent: Laura Hack, Susan Finke Scott

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 29, 2026 regular and Board of Finance meetings were reviewed. Doup-Pandit noted that she was in attendance at the January meeting. Wilkerson moved and Doup-Pandit seconded approval as corrected. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report and Approval of Claims

A. Claims 69 through 135 in the amount of \$500,933.06 were reviewed. Hatton made note of some of the claims. Hack moved and Scott seconded approval to pay claims as presented. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

A. Hatton presented two claims from 2024 that were still outstanding. After 2 years, we must cancel these warrants. Frazier moved and Wilkerson seconded the motion to cancel both. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

A. Liz Cleland, Communications and Engagement Manager, discussed her role and the aims of the department. She is about collecting and connecting dots between staff and departments with each other and the public. Cleland also discussed how she is promoting continued growth through best practices in organizational effectiveness.

B. Legislative Update- Vanessa Martin gave a legislative update on the continued battle against legislation giving fiscal bodies control over library budgets.

C. Director's Report- Hatton gave an overview of the 2025 statistics and discussed the first session of the work on the Next Chapter Action Plan.

Public Comment – 3 minutes per speaker

Audience member mentioned the Library After Dark fundraising event conducted by the Friends of BCPL will be April 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. The theme, tying into the Summer Reading Program theme of Reading Roadtrip, will be Coast to Coast- Route 66.

Board member Frazier stated that she was so proud of the library and what we have in the community. This was prompted by reading the library collection policy and the mission statement that influences it.

New Business

None

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. by President Gron.

Attested:

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Dawn Doup-Pandit, Secretary

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Gary Gron, President