

Minutes  
Bartholomew County Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
BCPL Downtown Columbus  
March 23, 2026; 4:00PM

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, Laura Hack, Susan Finke Scott, Vern Jorck, and Mike Wilkerson. Library staff: Jason Hatton, Director; Mike McIver, Attorney.

Present via Zoom: None

Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 16, 2026, Board meeting was reviewed. Doup-Pandit noted a few spelling changes. Hack moved and Frazier seconded approval as corrected. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report and Approval of Claims

A. Claims 136 through 232 in the amount of \$595,944.89 were reviewed. Hatton made note of some of the claims. Wilkerson moved and Frazier seconded approval to pay claims as presented. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

- A. Hatton presented the Collection Development Policy for second reading. Scott and Hack had some wording suggestions and the suggestion to specify the policy would be reviewed every three years. Frazier moved and Jorck seconded the motion to approve the policy as amended. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Hatton presented the Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives Collection Development Policy and the Deaccession Policy for second reading. Hack moved and Frazier seconded the motion to approve the policies as presented. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- A. Lindsey Bailey, Children's Services Manager, discussed her role and the work of the department. She reported the department held 448 in-house programs; 335 were 0-5/early childhood programs, 7,973 children attended. Planning for the Summer Reading Program is underway. The department recently launched a Learn to Read Collection with decodable books. They just finished inventorying the collection

which has not happened for a long time. She also reported on the continued success of the Growing Readers program. Bailey said that she wishes more staff could be made full-time and that the department will soon get a refresh as other departments have.

- B. Legislative Update- Vanessa Martin, Assistant Director, noted that the legislation that made changes to local income tax was pushed out to 2029. She also reported that the language from a Senate bill that died went into a House bill at the last minute. The law will limit library budgets from growing more than half of the MLGQ unless the library wants to go to their fiscal body (the County Council). If so, then all budget forms need to be submitted by Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> which is about 1.5 months earlier than the normal process timeline. If it's not, then the levy can be cut by 49% from the previous year. This will go into effect on July 1st, 2026.
- C. Director's Report- Hatton presented the draft value proposition written by TenBerke as part of the Next Chapter Action Plan process. The firm will be back in April to gather more information from partners and library staff. He encouraged all board members to attend the Eastside Branch ribbon cutting on Wednesday, April 15th at 4:00pm. Hatton also made the board aware that in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Hospice Concert at the library on September 5 from 4:00pm-8:00pm. The concert was held on the plaza for the first few years of its existence.

Public Comment – 3 minutes per speaker

Audience member commented that he believes the work done by the children's department is awesome. He also noted that the way the library legislation was passed "is disgusting." Lindsey, your dept is awesome; the legislation and how it happened "is disgusting."

New Business

None

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m. by President Gron.

Attested:

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Dawn Doup-Pandit, Secretary

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Gary Gron, President