BOURBONNAIS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RECORD OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS

February 23, 2026

President David Stejkowski called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bourbonnais Public Library District at 7:01 p.m. on February 23, 2026.

Trustees Present Mary Kay Blankestyn, Kate Burgess, Jen Corke-Kafer, Laurie Hofman, Jessica Prentkowski, Ellen Stringer, and David Stejkowski.

Also Present Library Director Kelly McCully and Stacey Van Kley

Introduction of Visitors and Public Comment None

Review Agenda for Additions/Changes None

Consent Agenda- Action

Approve January 26, 2026 minutes

Approve Financial Report and payment of bills for January 2026

Approve check registers

Hofman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Blankestyn seconded the motion. Burgess, Corke-Kafer, Prentkowski, Stringer, and Stejkowski voted in the affirmative.

Officer's Reports None

Correspondence & Communications None

Director's Report

4/30/2026 Last day for filing Statement of Economic Interest with the Kankakee County Clerk.

The Finance Committee met on Monday, February 23, at 6:30 pm to discuss financial projections and sustainability for the District. The Library is currently working with financial advisor Jamie Rachlin to develop a sustainable funding plan that addresses the challenges of limited resources and funding.

Children's Services Supervisor Rory Parilac has left the library to pursue a career in academic librarianship. Rory has been with the library since 2016. The Children's Services position has been posted on the RAILS job board and on the library's LinkedIn page. Adult Services Supervisor Becca Maree has given their notice. They will be leaving the library to work at a public library in the Chicago suburbs. We thank both Rory and Becca for their dedicated service and leadership with BPL and wish them success in their new employment.

In partnership with the United Way of Kankakee, the Marketing Department celebrated Library Shelfie Day and promoted the Imagination Library. Imagination Library is a program that provides free books to children under 5 living in Kankakee County.

What a celebration of library love, collaboration, art, oh, and there were Girl Scout cookies! The response to our event with Electric Lady Lounge was the largest flash sale in the shop's history. Over 50 library enthusiasts showed up to get tatted, and we raised $140 for the library. We raffled off a fantastic prize basket to folks who participated in a short survey about library services and the value of libraries in communities. Of the 34 participants, 100% felt that libraries are essential or very important. Among Bourbonnais patrons, when asked what they would want from a library with more funding, the top three answers were greater access to books through digital platforms, more and quieter third spaces for reading and gathering, and a larger children's play space. Other answers included being fine free, more physical materials, and a makerspace. These survey results are a small snapshot that will help the library as we think and plan for our future and sustainability.

We have submitted a service request to Friendly Signs for maintenance on the outdoor digital sign. The data transponder might need replacement. The sign was originally installed in 2017.

Check out the ILA iLead Trustee Training Calendar for upcoming trustee trainings and registration. Some noteworthy trainings include: The Trustee Budgeting Toolkit on Saturday, March 7, and Empowering Patrons Through AI Literacy on Sat., April 4.

On Friday, February 20, staff members had their annual training day. Community Director Taylor from Harbor House shared information on Domestic Violence and the resources available to support library staff and patrons. Ashley Stewart from EveryLibrary introduced library staff to the process of conducting a community information campaign for the library. Bryan Jones from Outsource Solutions Group (OSG) responded to staff questions and concerns about Artificial Intelligence in a public library environment. We send a big thank you to OSG for catering the staff lunch.

Committee Reports

Finance Finance Committee met at 6:30 pm. The committee reviewed wage projections for FY2025-2030 and budget projections.
Personnel None
Policy None
Building & Grounds None
Long Range Planning None

Old Business None

New Business

Discussed Strategic Planning Goal 1: Financial Sustainability. Discussed the results of wage projections and budget projections/sustainability. No action was taken.

Discussed Personnel Updates. Exit interviews indicated that the two beloved staff members who resigned did so voluntarily for personal reasons. No action was taken.

Public Comment None

Adjournment: Hofman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Blankestyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with the present trustees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Burgess
Secretary