BOURBONNAIS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECORD OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS

March 16, 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 March 16, 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 February 23, 2026, minutes

Approve Financial Report and payment of bills for February 2026

Approve check registers

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

Presentation – Jaimie Rachlin – Question and answer session for long-range financial planning

Presentation Summary: The library has not had a significant increase in tax revenue in over 40 years. The current library building has an estimated repair cost of 550,000 dollars over the next 5 years. The library does not receive tax revenue distributions until 1-2 months after the start of the new fiscal year. If revenue does not increase, the library will struggle to keep up with the rising costs.

Officer's Reports None

Correspondence & Communications None

Director's Report

This May will mark the launch of our Love Your Library marketing and outreach initiative. We will partner with key organizations and businesses to create a community scavenger hunt. The goal is to celebrate community connections and to make the Bourbonnais Public Library —and

the community's appreciation for it—widely recognized throughout the area. More details coming soon!

The Library will work with Mallory Edgar from 5th Star Collective on a data-gathering project. Mallory will partner with the Administration and Marketing teams to design and administer surveys to our community members. She will then analyze the responses and provide us with relevant qualitative and quantitative findings. This project will provide us with valuable insights for storytelling and understanding our community's needs.

Welcome, New Supervisors! We are happy to announce that we have filled both vacancies on our leadership team! Elizabeth Lamore accepted the Children's Services Supervisor position. Liz was the Youth Services Outreach Coordinator for the New Lenox Public Library. She has a wealth of experience working as a librarian in youth services and library outreach. She will start with BPL on Monday, March 23. Briana Schott accepted a promotion to Adult Service Supervisor. Briana has worked with BPL for nine years as a Reference Assistant, Marketing Assistant, and Adult Program Assistant. She brings a wealth of institutional and departmental knowledge to the position and will start on Monday, March 23. With Briana Schott's promotion to supervisor, we plan to hire an Adult Services Program Assistant. Recruitment for that position will begin soon.

I was appointed to the RAILS Resource Sharing Committee. The RAILS Resource Sharing Committee is comprised of two members of the RAILS board and representatives from RAILS member libraries. The goal is to ensure equitable representation among libraries across type, size, funding, and geography. The committee investigates and recommends ways to improve and increase resource sharing in Illinois, particularly among member libraries in RAILS, to provide the best library services to Illinois residents and optimize the use of tax dollars. My term will begin in June 2026.

Affordable Lawn Care & Landscaping performed a seasonal landscaping bed clean-up on March 10, 2026. They plan to prepare an estimate to trim the overgrown hedges and remove volunteer mulberry trees along the edge of the property behind the library.

Annual fire alarm testing was performed by Protection Associates in accordance with NFPA 72 standards. Standby batteries were replaced due to age and condition. A record of the inspection is kept next to the fire panel in the boiler room.

RAILS has several trainings available that discuss artificial intelligence and its impact on library services and collections: Foundations of AI Safety & Short-Term Risk: Explore issues like bias, misinformation, and surveillance, while reflecting on how these risks already appear in work and daily life. Developing AI Polices & Principles with Dr. Brandy McNeil: Dr. McNeil discusses the key ethical and operational considerations in AI use. Generative AI and the Library

Collection: Examine AI's impact on our collections and explore strategies for how libraries can respond. Integrating AI Into Your Library: This session explores the impact of AI on libraries and offers practical guidance on detecting and evaluating AI-generated content.

It is vitally important that libraries provide access to online information and resources. Not only do users expect to access content and information from their libraries digitally, but e-resources also often offer more accessible options for individuals with disabilities. Providing access to e-resources is fraught with challenges - from vendor and provider fees, to publisher embargoes, to limits on who can access what content where and when. These restrictions, coupled with increasing demand for e-resources, undermine a core value of librarianship: equitable access to information. In 2026, Illinois Representative Tracy Katz Muhl introduced the Digital Library Protection Act, also known as House Bill 5236. This bill aims to prevent publishers from imposing unfair restrictions on libraries when licensing e-books, digital audiobooks, and other electronic literary materials. You can find a comprehensive overview of HB5236, advocacy resources, and action steps on the ILA website. Watch Ready, Set, Advocate: eBook Legislation hosted by RAILS and the ILA Advocacy Committee.

Committee Reports

Finance None

Personnel Meeting April 20, 2026

Policy None

Building & Grounds None

Long Range Planning None

Old Business Discuss long-range financial planning

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

New Business ACTION: Approve Schematic Design & Probable Construction Cost Proposal from Carlile Group

The Schematic Design & Probable Construction Cost Proposal from Carlile Group was tabled until April to give the Carlile Group more time to finish the proposal.

Public Comment None

Adjournment Blanketyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Hofman seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote of the present trustees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Burgess
Secretary