

**ANDERSON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 14, 2025 | 5:30 pm | Meeting Room ABC**

Present: Chair Wendy Tucker, Andrew Cacossa, Nicole Davenport, Angela Dixon, Jimmy Johnson, Pinkey Rinnix, Frances Saville

Absent: Albert “Howie” Howard, Kelly Moon

Staff Present: Annie Sutton, Library Director; Jane Cornelius, Head of Finance; Miranda White, Administrative Assistant

Also Present: Eleanor Walters, Friends of the Library Chair

CALL TO ORDER & INVOCATION

Chair Tucker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm, and Angela Dixon gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Andrew Cacossa motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2025, as written. Nicole Davenport seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Jimmy Johnson motioned to approve the Called Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2025, as written. Pinkey Rinnix seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard as follows:

1. Laura Lander [2]: concern over distancing from ALA; Library is for everyone, policies must be too
2. Andrea Draisen [1]: severing ties with ALA; censorship and political views; community responsibility
3. Dr. Ernest E. Mackins [5]: Libraries are inclusive and for the public; freedom of choice; against censorship
4. Mary Gilstrap [4]: attack on freedom to read; new policy changes are vague and broad
5. Susan Melvin [5]: clarification for Collection Development Policy; provide specific instruction for staff
6. Kari Jones [5]: the Library provides a safe space; young people need access to Library resources
7. Mary Kay [?]: SC Therapy Dogs, recognized staff member and Library; concern over removal from ALA.
8. Kevin Hardy [4]: thanked new members for service; ALA pushes immoral behavior on children
9. Robert Mecke [2]: Policy changes are vague; staff deserve clear guidelines; all children/families matter
10. Cynthia Baker [2]: distancing from ALA; read ALA Library Bill of Lights
11. Mona Fleming [4]: thanked Librarians; policy changes are unlawful
12. Kathy Sparace [4]: family enjoys programs & non-traditional items; USA is unique in inclusion/diversity

FRIENDS REPORT

New brochures are available for those interested in joining the Friends of the Library. Friends Board Chair, Eleanor Walters, reported on upcoming book sales at the Powdersville and Main branches, and highlighted some new gift options available in the Gift Shop. The Prickly Fingers Quilt Guild has donated two handmade, themed quilts to the Friends for a raffle fundraiser. Raffle tickets will be available September 10th through December 8th.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report: Jane Cornelius presented the Financial Report for month ending June 30, 2025. The Library came in under budget for the FY24-25 fiscal year due to capital spending spilling over into the next year, as usual. The County approved the Library’s FY25-26 Budget, including a 3% raise for all full-time employees. The employer portion for insurance/health benefits is increasing to \$200 per employee per month.

Capital Projects Update: Director Sutton shared slides of the completed Iva Branch Library and the new Book Vending Machine at the SC-24 Food Lion grocery store.

FY 25-26 State Aid Forms: Director Sutton presented the FY25-26 State Aid Forms and memo from the State Library. The Board agreed to move forward with Chair Tucker signing the forms for state aid.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Facilities Update: Director Sutton reported on the condition of the Main Library's roof, recent plumbing issues at Main, and HVAC repairs at Belton, Piedmont, and Main. Two VAV boxes need replacement at the Main Library.

Marketing/Programming Update: Director Sutton gave updates on Summer Reading, the Volunteer Fair, additional story times at Honea Path and Piedmont, and the opening of a new LEAP station at Powdersville. The theme for Library Card Sign-Up Month in September is "Choose Your Library," with an emphasis on promoting parent choice for new and updated Library cards.

A 10-year comparison of circulation and attendance stats was presented and discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nicole Davenport suggested a tour of the branch libraries. Members will be emailed a survey to determine best dates for a tour.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Request for Reconsideration Form: The Board reviewed the current Request for Reconsideration Form [approved 2022] in comparison to the previous form [approved 2005]. After discussion, Andrew Cacossa motioned to move the item to the next Regular Meeting. Pinkey Rinnix seconded. The motion passed with 6 voting in favor. Director Sutton will gather feedback from Library staff about their experience using the current form.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tucker asked for a motion to adjourn. Angela Dixon so moved, and Andrew Cacossa seconded. The motion passed and Chair Tucker declared the meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Cacossa
Board Secretary/Treasurer