

**ANDERSON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 11, 2025 | 5:30 pm | Meeting Room ABC**

Present: Chair Jimmy Johnson, Andrew Cacossa, Nicole Davenport, Angela Dixon, Albert “Howie” Howard, Kelly Moon, Frances Saville, Wendy Tucker

Absent: Pinkey Rinnix

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

Also Present: Eleanor Walters, Friends of the Library Chair; Ken Meadows, Greene Finney Cauley, LLP

CALL TO ORDER & INVOCATION

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Andrew Cacossa motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2025, as written. Nicole Davenport seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard as follows:

1. Andrea Kramer [4]: Reconsideration Form, consider staff time & labor per challenge; Library’s mission.
2. David Maurer [1]: Parental oversight of one’s own child, not other people’s children.
3. Jane Massey [4]: Book challenge policy; censorship meaning; parental oversight; diverse collection.
4. Robert Mecke [2]: Inconsistency in board’s treatment of speakers based on politics.
5. Laura Lander [2]: Benefits of ALA affiliation; staff burden with policy changes; value of the Library.
6. Andrea Draisen [1]: Diverse reading expands horizons; Patrons can form their own opinions on books.
7. Lynn Franzen [5]: Gratitude for open forum; gratitude for Library/staff.
8. Evelyn Oppen [5]: Censorship; parental oversight, parents can censor for themselves.
9. Dr. Ernest Mackins [5]: Growing issue of book banning; different perspectives produce empathy.
10. Barbara Ducharme [5]: Book challenges not needed with new card policy; parental oversight.

AUDIT REPORT

Ken Meadows of Greene Finney Cauley, LLP, presented the FY24-25 audit for the Library. The Library received an unmodified opinion, the best opinion possible. Mr. Meadows reported that the Library is in very good financial condition overall and took questions from Board members. Wendy Tucker motioned to approve the 24-25 audit report. Howie Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FRIENDS REPORT

Ann DeVilliers was named “Volunteer of the Year” at the annual Volunteer Appreciation event in October. Friends Chair, Eleanor Walters, highlighted the Friends Book Store, Gift Shop, and online store. The Quilt Raffle drawing will be held on December 10, and tickets were available to purchase in the Book Store immediately after the Board meeting. The Friends are actively looking for more volunteers.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report: Jane Cornelius presented the financial report for month ending October 31, 2025. The Library is in very good shape. The Budget column will change in the next monthly report with the acceptance of the amended budget.

Amended Budget FY25-26 [Action]: Director Sutton presented the amendments to the FY25-26 Budget. After discussion, Howie Howard motioned to approve FY25-26 Amended Budget. Nicole Davenport seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Capital Projects Update: The new Bookmobile is on schedule for early January. Director Sutton reported that one of the Library's vehicles was totaled in an accident. The Library is waiting for the insurance check before purchasing a replacement, likely another minivan, depending on what is available on the state contract. The Honea Path Branch [a Carnegie Library] will likely receive a \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Foundation. The first priority for the funds is to assess and potentially replace the HVAC system. If the HVAC system does not need replacement, the funds may be used for security cameras.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2026 Holiday Schedule [Action]: Wendy Tucker motioned to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule as presented. Nicole Davenport seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Library will be closed for the Board's regular May 2026 meeting, due to a County holiday. The Board will re-schedule the May Meeting via online survey.

Facilities Update: Director Sutton gave updates on roof leaks at the Main and Iva libraries. The Library received a grant for a new 24/7 materials pickup locker for the Pendleton Branch. Director Sutton shared pictures of a proposed overhang structure to protect the lockers from the elements. An application for the structure has been submitted to the Town of Pendleton's Zoning Board, and will be reviewed at their meeting on December 4th.

Collection Development & Library Card Policy Update: The new Library Card policy changes started on Monday, November 3rd. Feedback from staff has been that patrons are finding the card options confusing; parents feel like they have to pick a certain type of card for their child based on age.

Library Card Application Amendment [Action]: Director Sutton proposed a minor change to the Library Card application form, changing the access levels to "Basic, Expanded, and Full." After discussion, Andrew Cacossa motioned to continue with the current Library Card Application and revisit in January. Wendy Tucker seconded. The motion failed with one in favor and seven opposed.

Howie Howard motioned to accept the minor change to the Library Card Application. Kelly Moon seconded. The motion passed with seven in favor and one opposed. The updated form will be posted to the Library's website.

Marketing/Programming Update: Director Sutton reported on Library Card Sign-Up Month, October outreach, and the Library's new purchasing platform for books.

Strategic Plan Update: Over 700 public surveys have been collected so far, with a goal of collecting 1,000 by mid-December. A quick glance through the surveys indicated that patrons want more digital resources, more adult programs, and more outreach. Community input meetings are scheduled at several locations throughout November. The Board SWOT analysis is scheduled for Monday, November 17 at 5:30 pm. This will be a working meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Revised Request for Reconsideration Form [Action]: After discussion, Wendy Tucker motioned to approve revised Request for Reconsideration Form as presented, with minor amendments. Howie Howard seconded. The motion passed with seven in favor and one opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaw Review Reminder: The Board will review the current Bylaws at the regular January meeting.

Review of Standing Committees: Chair Johnson called for volunteers to the standing committees. Wendy Tucker was added to the Personnel Committee and Kelly Moon was added to the Finance Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn. Andrew Cacossa so moved, and Nicole Davenport seconded. All were in favor. Chair Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Cacossa
Board Secretary/Treasurer