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**RICHLAND LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES
March 9, 2026
5:30 PM**

A regular meeting of the Richland Library Board of Trustees was held on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Present:
Erin Johnson, Chair
Brenda B. Branic, Vice-Chair
Tyson K. Brown, Secretary
Jon Robertson, Treasurer
David Campbell
Cindy Cox
Valerie Byrd Fort
Burlean Moses
Lee Rambo
Chelsea Richard

Library Representatives Present:
Tamara King, Executive Director
Georgia Coleman, Deputy Dir.
Beth Ruffin, Chief Engagement Off.
Cheryl Washington, CPCO
Mike Bassford, Finance Director
Phillip Windsor, Board Librarian
Wanda Taylor, Executive Assistant

Also Attending: Serena Burch, President of F + F; Councilperson Tish Dozier Alleyne; Michelle DuPre; Tina Gills, Sonja Corley Brown, Devin Osbey; Evelyn Berry; Anika Thomas; Kelly Jones; Dee Robinson; Alyssa Williamson; Amelia Norton; Leah Bartys; Lori Cook; Mahogany Skillings; Chiquita Brooks; Melissa Sprenne; Crystal Mickle; Elizabeth Barrett; Diane Luccy

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Erin Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Johnson presented the consent agenda including the full agenda for the meeting and approval of the February 9, 2026 minutes. There were no changes and the consent agenda passed by unanimous consent.

CITIZENS INPUT

There was no citizen input.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION REPORT

Sarena Burch, President of the Friends and Foundation provided the report.

On Friday, January 16th, the Friends and Foundation hosted a ticketed VIP meet-and-greet stewardship event with cookbook author and Food Network star Kardea Brown.

78 people attended the VIP event, followed by a public author event with approximately 250 attendees. The public event was moderated by James Beard Award-winning content creator and cultural strategist, K.J. Kearney.

Due to inclement weather, the Winter Book Sale schedule was changed, and on Friday, January 23rd, the private sale was held from 2:30-5:30 p.m. and the public sale from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Gross revenue for the Winter Book Sale was just under \$7,000, an approximate \$10,000 decrease from the previous year's Winter Sale.

At the F + F Board meeting on February 25th, the board unanimously approved a total of \$44,000 in funding for four library initiatives:

- \$5,000 to purchase 2 devices with 3-year subscription plans for the library's pilot TranslateLive Instant Language Assistant Platform and Devices Program. The library will also purchase 2 devices. This program will provide a solution to continuing needs for language interpretation.
- \$4,000 to cover the costs of the upcoming graduation ceremony for 44 Career Online High School students. Funding will be used to purchase caps and gowns, tassels, diploma covers, Target gift cards, and branded tote bags.
- \$15,000 for transportation assistance for clients of the Social Work and Business, Careers, and Research departments. Service was previously provided through an Access to Care grant from Feonix Mobility Rising, which ends in August 2026.
- \$5,000 will allow the Business, Careers, and Research Department to offer transportation assistance to Career Online High School students and career coaching students to help them go on interviews and initially commute to work after they have worked with library staff.

Also, \$20,000 in emergency grant funds was approved for Social Work customers who are facing barriers to stability, including (but not limited to) transportation, Identification documents, and other urgent needs not covered by traditional funding sources. The goal of the Bridge Fund is to provide immediate emergency assistance without the delays and hoops other agencies may require. The fund is designed to be sustainable over multiple years through careful assessment, ensuring intentional, gap-filling assistance rather than high-volume spending.

F + F will host a pre-event Read Freely Fest VIP reception on Friday, March 27, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

"Feel Good" Fundraising Story

A Richland Library Blythewood customer, Kristin Simmons, let us know that when her son, Bradley, heard about the recent water damage at the Blythewood location, the 5th grader wanted to help. Bradley is a student at the Center for Inquiry, where students are required to complete a service project to better their community as part of their learning. With support from our Office of Philanthropy, Bradley will raise funds for the Friends and Foundation in honor of Richland Library Blythewood.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jon Robertson, provided the report.

He reviewed the balance sheet; statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances (including grant fund); related graphs.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Proposed Action Items:

Amy Teramoto, IT Director, presented both action items.

A. Comprise Kiosk Computer Replacement

Impact (Budget/Staff/Etc.)

Total Cost: \$54,853.20 including tax and shipping

Source of Funds: IT Operating Funds. This is a planned expense.

(Motion: TK Brown; Second: BBranic; Motion Carried.)

B. Comprise Licensing and Support Renewal

Impact (Budget/Staff/Etc.)

Total Cost: \$193,209.74 including tax

Year 1: \$62,451.83

Year 2: \$64,383.34

Year 3: \$66,374.58

Source of Funds: IT Operating Funds. These are planned annual expenses.

(Motion: B. Branic; Second: J. Robertson; Motion Carried.)

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Executive Director, Tamara King, has been selected as USC iSchool's F. William Summers Outstanding Alumni for 2026.
- The ALA 2026 Conference will be held in Chicago, June 25-29 and two Trustees may attend.
- Reminder to check orders for volunteer shirt for Read Freely Fest.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Beth Ruffin, Chief Engagement Officer, Cheryl Washington, Chief People and Culture Officer, were introduced.
- The Blythewood location has reopened today after repairs from broken water pipe.
- Anticipated closure date for Lower Richland purchase is March 16, 2026.
- The ED reported on the National Legislative Library Day that was held in DC.
- Michelle DuPre, Manager, provided data highlights relating to the St. Andrews location.
- Deputy Director, Georgia Coleman, spoke about the Strategic Plan.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held April 13, 2026.

ADJOURN

With no further discussion, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tyson K. Brown (2026 Secretary)