

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2025**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Dr. Maria Jackson-Smith, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire.
Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Library Assistant Nikki Pickeral.
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Priest, to approve the May 13, 2025, Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve April 8, 2025 Minutes:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the April 8, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** Courtenay attended the meeting with her daughter to understand more about the inner workings of the library.
6. **Library Short- and Long-Term Life and ADD Insurance:** Director Suchy recommended a change to the short- and long-term insurance company from The Standard to Principal Group. The library experienced issues with the old plan. Principal will provide additional services at a lower rate.
Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to change insurance companies from The Standard to Principal Financial Group taking effect in June. The motion was carried unanimously.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Building:** The new automatic door openers for the restrooms have been installed. The landscaper hopes that the browning bushes in the parking lot will revive this summer.
 - B. **Bylaws:** No Report.
 - C. **Finance:** Stoudemire presented the 3rd quarter budget.
 - D. **Outreach:** No Report.
 - E. **Personnel:** No Report.
 - F. **Policy:** No Report.
 - G. **Art:** No Report.
8. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Cichewicz, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Director's Report:** See attached. The library received an invoice from Wayne County for the penal fines that it owes. Suchy and the library's attorney are confident that the amount on the invoice is correct. The County is willing to work

with the library on a payment plan. The board discussed whether or not to pay in full or to enter into a payment plan. Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Priest, to forgo future penal fines until the balance of \$122,733.64 is paid off. A vote was taken. Ayes: 6. Nays: 1. The motion was approved. The board would like to know what policies the County will put into place to prevent future penal fine miscalculations. The board could revisit the option of paying in full at a future date.

10. Trustee Comments:

Fleming: The library's past jazz session was the best one yet! He enjoyed the ALA president visit, it was wonderful. Staff did a wonderful job; Amy O'Brien did a great job giving tours of the library.

Priest: The ALA President visit was really good. The theme of "everyone belongs" was great and needed.

Cichewicz: Commented that she liked how the ALA President shared about her Native American background and how they make decisions as a group, much like how the library board does.

Jackson-Smith: Looking forward to participating in more library programs now that she is finished teaching for the semester.

Stoudemire: Announced the mayor recommended and the city council voted to appoint her as the CFO of the City of Detroit.

Hughes-Grubbs: Is glad to be here with everyone.

11. Chair Comments: Glad to be here too. Also, glad that the board did the heavy lifting with the hard topics earlier. She appreciates this group.

12. Adjournment: Motion by Fleming, seconded by Priest to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.