

**Belleville Area District Library  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: January 13, 2026**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.
2. **Moment of Silence:** The board held a moment of silence for the passing of library board trustee Alma Hughes-Grubbs.
3. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, Maria Jackson-Smith, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire.  
Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Library Assistant Director Hilary Savage.
4. **Selection of 2026 Board Officers:** Motion by Jackson-Smith, seconded by Fleming, to nominate the following slate of officers: Sharon Peters, Chair; Linda Priest, Vice-Chair; Joy Cichewicz, Secretary; and Tanya Stoudemire, Treasurer. There were no other nominations. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the January 13, 2026, agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
6. **Approve December 9, 2025, Minutes:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest, to approve the December 9, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
7. **Public Comments:** No Comments.
8. **Committee Reports:**
  - A. **Building:** No report.
  - B. **Bylaws:** Library attorney, Anne Seuryneck, is looking at the current bylaws and will provide a bylaws template for the board.
  - C. **Finance:** Stoudemire presented the results of the audit. The library received an unmodified opinion (the best opinion possible). Revenue was higher than budgeted and expenditures were lower than budgeted.
  - D. **Outreach:** No Report.
  - E. **Personnel:**
    - a. **Director's Evaluation:** Priest reported the results of the director's evaluation. Director Suchy performed her job at a very high level in all categories. Suchy's goals for 2026 were reviewed. Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Jackson-Smith, to give Suchy a 4% salary increase. The motion carried unanimously.
    - b. **Salary Range Recommendations:** The board reviewed the staff salary range recommendations and updated the director's salary range to a minimum salary of \$84,630 and a maximum salary of \$109,809. Motion

by Cichewiz, seconded by Stoudemire, to accepted the salary range recommendations as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. Policy:** No Report.

**G. Art:** New art is on display.

**9. Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest, to approve the accounts payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. Director's Report:** See attached. Suchy expressed her grief at the death of board Secretary Alma Hughes-Grubbs. After discussion, it was agreed that the bylaws committee will meet to establish a process for appointing an interim board member until the next election.

**11. Trustee Comments:** Board members also expressed their grief at the loss of Alma and shared their memories of her.

**12. Chair Comments:** Noted that Alma was well loved and had so much heart. She served the community very well.

**13. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Fleming, seconded by Priest. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.