

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2026**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, Maria Jackson-Smith, John Juriga, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire. Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Library Assistant Nikki Pickeral.
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Juriga, seconded by Priest to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve June 9, 2026, Minutes:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Cichewicz to approve the June 9, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** The Belleville Independent's new reporter, Emily Flesch, introduced herself.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Building:** No Report
 - B. **Bylaws:** No Report
 - C. **Finance:** No Report
 - D. **Outreach:** No Report
 - E. **Personnel:** No Report
 - F. **Policy:** No Report
 - G. **Art:** Peters commented that she attended the Memory Café Art Show Reception and is pleased to see programs blending into the art display.
7. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
8. **Director's Report:** See attached. Included in the board pack are total comparative statistics for the past three years for the library as well as for the branch. Suchy presented a mid-year review of her 2026 goals.
9. **Trustee Comments:**

Juriga: Encouraged everyone to enjoy the Thursday music at Horizon Park. Magic Bus Band is performing July 30th.

Fleming: Praise for the library staff! There was a particular DVD about WWII and the greatest generation he was looking for that was not available through the catalog. Library staff were able to locate a copy and get one for the collection.

Priest: Wants to brainstorm ways to become a better ambassador for the library and promote services and programs the library provides. How can the board help to bring more of the community in?

Cichewicz: Commented on the sign by the elevator promoting the library's different book clubs. It is great to see that we have six different groups that have a wide variety of books and themes.

Stoudemire: Was happy to attend the board meeting tonight.

Jackson-Smith: Her six-year-old is currently attending the Van Buren Schools Summer Camp and can't wait to come back to another library summer reading program.

10. Chair Comments:

Is now on the board of the Belleville Area Newspaper Foundation. Many communities have lost their local newspapers but our paper has survived due to the hard work and dedication to one person who has kept it going for over 30 years. In order to ensure the future of this paper, it was decided to change to a non-profit status. There will be a fundraiser for the paper on Thursday, July 16th at the BYC, from 6pm to 8pm.

The August 11, 2026, board meeting is cancelled.

11. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Juriga, seconded by Fleming. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.