

TENTATIVE AGENDA  
FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL  
**MAIN LIBRARY**  
**FIRST FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM #102**  
**7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD**  
**BATON ROUGE, LA 70806**  
**May 15, 2025**  
**4:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2025
- III. SPECIAL ORDERS
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. TO A REVIEW PROPOSED PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR PARCEL LOCATED ADJACENT TO SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY AND CONSIDER A VOTE TO FORWARD TO THE METRO COUNCIL FOR DELIBERATION – MS. KATRINA STOKES.
- V. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR
  - A. FINANCIAL REPORT
  - B. SYSTEM REPORTS
  - C. OTHER REPORTS
    - 1. MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS
    - 2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS
      - a. INTRODUCTION OF LIBRARY BRANCH SERVICES COORDINATOR AND LIBRARY BRANCH MANAGER
        - 1. JALEESA DELAVALLADE – BRANCH SERVICES COMMUNITY BRANCH COORDINATOR
        - 2. LAURA JUNG – SCOTLANDVILLE BRANCH MANAGER
- VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - A. UPDATE ON SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY – MRS. LORI JUGE AND MS. MARY STEIN
  - B. UPDATE ON SCOTLANDVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY – MRS. LORI JUGE
- VIII. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOARD’S PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY, ALL ITEMS ON WHICH ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN ARE OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AND COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS MAY BE RECEIVED ON OTHER TOPICS REPORTED AT SUCH TIME AS THE OPPORTUNITY IS ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OR THE PERSON CONDUCTING THE MEETING.**

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL  
**MAIN LIBRARY**  
**FIRST FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM #102**  
**7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD**  
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**May 15, 2025**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER – Candace Temple, Board President (4:00 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Donald Luther, Jr., Board Vice-President (4:00 p.m.)

I. ROLL CALL – Antoinette Poland, Executive Assistant to the Library Director (4:00 p.m.)

Candace Temple, Board President – Present

Donald Luther, Jr., Board Vice President – Present

Kathy Wascom, Board Treasurer – Present

Delores Watts – Absent

Darryl Hurst – Present

Ronnie Pierce – Absent

Nicole Allmon-Learson – Present

*A quorum was present*

STAFF PRESENT – Katrina Stokes, Library Director; Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director; Lori Juge, Assistant Library Director; Rhonda Pinsonat, Library Business Manager; Tanya Allison, Library Assistant Business Manager; Antoinette Poland, Executive Assistant to the Library Director; Jalessa Delavallade, Branch Services Branch Coordinator; Lauren Jung, Scotlandville Branch Library Manager

OTHERS PRESENT - Deputy Blair Nicholson, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office; Frank Hillyard, Videographer

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2025 – The motion to approve was made by Donald Luther, Jr. and seconded by Kathy Wascom. **The motion carried unanimously.** (4:01 p.m.)

III. SPECIAL ORDERS – There were no items to cover under Special Orders.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – Ms. Katrina Stokes (4:02 p.m.)

A. TO REQUEST A REVIEW OF A PROPOSED PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR PARCEL LOCATED ADJACENT TO SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY AND CONSIDER A VOTE TO FORWARD TO THE METRO COUNCIL FOR DELIBERATION – MS. KATRINA STOKES (4:02 p.m.) A motion was approved to move Item VII. New Business under Item IV. Reports by the Director – Ms. Candace Temple. The motion was approved by the Library Board of Control to review a proposed purchase agreement for land acquisition and to forward it to the Metro Council for deliberation. (4:02 p.m.)

V. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR (4:02 p.m.)

A. FINANCIAL REPORT –

- Operating expenditures through April 30 were 26.43% of the operating budget. Through April the library should not have spent no more than 33% of the budget.
- Finalized ending for fund balance for 2024 included 1.43% in carry forward funds.
- Cash Collections from property taxes for 2025 are approximately 5.23% ahead of the same time last year.

B. SYSTEM REPORTS – Ms. Mary Stein

“Around the Parish” slideshows and descriptions of Library programs.

- Scotlandville Branch Library Groundbreaking for the Phase Two Renovation began on Monday, May 19.
- People were proud to see that the East Baton Rouge Library was featured in the Independent Lens documentary “Free for All: The Public Library.”
- On Thursday, April 19, Staff Training Day was held at the Main Library and the BREC Theater with speakers from Continuum of Care, Visit Baton Rouge. Break-out topics included makerspaces, website software updates, NARCAN, CPR, and book repair.
- Libraries with HEART are at two other locations; one at Carver Branch Library and the Eden Park Branch Library joining Delmont Gardens Branch Library, offering blood pressure kiosks, and circulating blood pressure kits.
- The Month of May’s Garden Discovery topics were on native plants, with the seed garden expanding to include herbs.
- The Library partnered with local universities and colleges, like Baton Rouge Community College, Franciscan University, Louisiana State University, and Southern University, with Outreach vehicles visiting campuses to encourage students to sign-up for library cards, as well as guest speaking exchanges between the Library and university classrooms.
- LSU Architecture students created twenty multimedia totem pole installations reflecting their concept of home; the interactive installation displayed for three weeks.
- On May 2, the Baton Rouge Magnet High School Step Team performed their naming ceremony at the Main Library on Goodwood.
- The Exonerated Exhibit by Becky Gottsegen is featuring twenty-three bronze heads of wrongly convicted men freed by the Innocence Project; it will be on display to the end of July at the Main Library on Goodwood with a celebration to accompany the exhibition. To view the exhibition, stop by the Goodwood Library at 7711 Goodwood Blvd.
- In addition to the blood pressure kits, “The Library of Things” will be circulating puzzles with Jones Creek Regional Branch hosting the Puzzle Exchange Program. For more information visit [www.ebrpl.com](http://www.ebrpl.com)
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Soul Food Festival was held at the Main Library, Saturday, May 17-18, with food vendors, music, and independent documentary films.
- On Wednesday, May 21, as part of the Special Collections Series: Baton Rouge, local historian John Singleton lectured on “The Destruction of Last Island,” and the hurricane that destroyed it.
- On May 24, the Jones Creek Regional Branch Library continued its programming with Author’s Row, featuring Alex Jennings, (author of Perilous Graves), including workshops with Steve Kolbe, a Master of Fine Arts Student and writer. For more information visit [www.library.co/events](http://www.library.co/events)
- The Library’s Virtual Author Talk series has been viewed over 30,000 times since it began, featuring several authors each month from various genres and topics. To view our archives visit [www.library.org/abrpl](http://www.library.org/abrpl)
- The Strictly Business virtual webinars continued with Episode 28, featuring Melissa Thompson and Adrian Owen Jones highlighting topics on navigating a volatile workplace, and content on financial information resources. To view the archives, visit [www.strictlybusiness.businessreport.com](http://www.strictlybusiness.businessreport.com)
- Libraries Changed Lives featured Geaux Rides Owner, Charles Daniel, who received help from Business Librarian, Austin Langley, who introduced him to the library's free resources and the Library’s Small Business Service. For help, stop by the Main Library at Goodwood by calling to schedule an appointment during Business Librarian Hours any Thursday, 4-6 p.m.
- The Summer Reading Challenge kicked off on Thursday, May 29; the program is designed to encourage reading throughout the summer for all ages. For more information visit your local library or go to [www.ebrpl.com](http://www.ebrpl.com)
- A new feature of our Summer Reading Challenge is the Linder Challenge, where families visit all fifteen branches to earn a medallion that they get to create; other challenges are available for

homebound individuals and those who cannot visit all branches in one day. For more information visit [www.ebrpl.com](http://www.ebrpl.com).

- Programming continues at Main with Movies on the Plaza; the schedule includes, The Wild Robot, Inside Out 2, Wish, and The Marvels, with an after-movie dance party. For more information visit [www.ebrpl.com](http://www.ebrpl.com)
- Due to federal budget cuts, the library and other organizations have lost the services of their volunteers from the AmeriCorps Volunteer Program and Serve Louisiana of Baton Rouge. Due to these cuts, the Library will have to figure out how to continue the next phase of the labor-intensive Home Library Project without volunteer hours.

#### C. OTHER REPORTS – Ms. Lori Juge

##### 1. MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS

###### **Maintenance Report for May 2025**

**Main Library:** The Energy Recovery Ventilation needs to be replaced, and since it is vital to maintain low humidity levels, particularly in the archives area, the need is high. The part to replace it is on order.

###### **All Branches:**

- The contractor is still working on painting the curbs at several locations.

###### **Miscellaneous Improvements Projects**

1. Outreach
  - a. There is currently nothing new to report.
2. Multibranch Project
  - a. There is currently nothing new to report.
3. Roofing Project
  - a. There is currently nothing new to report.
4. Boilers for Eden Park and Greenwell Springs Branch Libraries
  - a. Facilities staff reviewed the construction documents, and Architectural Services is requesting a more detailed cost estimate.
5. Bluebonnet Branch Library Renovations
  - a. Facilities staff are currently working to obtain quotes to repair the outdoor patio flooring. After repairs to the flooring are made, they plan to pressure wash and clean the patio area and replace the patio furniture.
  - b. The library staff is discussing further renovations to the building and will be using the Facilities Master Plan to work with Architectural Services to compose a scope of work.
6. Chiller Project
  - a. The contractor is still working on the final punch list.
7. Baker Branch Renovation
  - a. Library Administration is working with Buildings and Grounds on forming a board to select an architect for the project.

## 2. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS – Ms. Katrina Stokes

- Metro Council approved the Thrive initiative wherein the Library's 11.1 millage renewal will be divided into 8.3 mills dedicated for the library's purposes and 2.8 mills re-dedicated to the City Parish. The Library accomplished two main goals: to ensure that the funding remains dedicated and to receive a millage that would allow the Library to continue operating without loss of service hours.
- Only three initiatives will be on the ballot for the November 15 election this fall.
- The initiative for the Council on Aging and Mosquitos and Abatement passed.
- Metro Council granted a request from the mayor's office to voluntarily delete the initiative for alimony tax.
- The library information campaign will begin as soon as details are received from the Metro Council and the Mayor's office.
- The Library continues to meet with the mayor's office to resolve issues such as:
  - Lengthy hiring and onboarding processes
  - Issues with Executime software
  - Issues with Munis software
  - Zero tolerance policy on employees who take prescribed medical marijuana.
  - Overtime eligibility.
- Director Stokes has been attending homeless provider strategy meetings.
- START Corporation reached out to the library staff to help them identify times and locations of activity to connect with individuals.
- The contract with Volunteers of America case workers places them at locations around the Parish in the afternoons and evenings.
- The locations include Main, Bluebonnet, Carver, Greenwell Springs, Eden Park, and Delmont Gardens.
- START Corporation will be at the same location in the mornings when the case workers are not available.
- START Corporation has complimented the library staff, noted their use of tools, and reported connecting people with needed assistance.

Ms. Katrina Stokes asked for questions.

Darryl Hurst commented on:

- Passing the Thrive initiative will require a unified effort.
- Risk that the initiative could fall due to those who want to deconsolidate the government and the parish.
- A consistent and concise message is needed to ensure voters understand the initiative.

Ms. Kathy Wascom commented on transparency and accountability when using the public's money.

Ms. Candace Temple commented the need for the mayor's office to be informed about the public's demand for transparency regarding how funding will be used.

### a. INTRODUCTION OF BRANCH MANAGER AND BRANCH SERVICES COORDINATOR.

1. Ms. Jaleesa Delavallade, Branch Services Community Branch Coordinator, discusses her career highlights.
  - Works in Branch Services, replacing Leila Riley
  - Has been with the library since 2013
  - Held positions at Eden Park, Jones Creek, and Outreach
  - Currently in charge of five community branches: Scotlandville, Zachary, Baker, Eden Park, and the new South Branch.

2. Lauren Jung, Scotlandville Branch Manager discusses her career highlights.
  - Has not been with East Baton Rouge Parish Library for very long.
  - She has twenty-five plus years of experience in libraries and seven years as a classroom teacher.
  - She started in libraries at sixteen years old.
  - Started in 2021 in Circulation at Main (Goodwood), moved to Circulation head at the River Center Branch in 2022, and now the branch manager of the Scotlandville Branch Library.
  - Commented on the community's excitement about the renovation.
  - Discussed the library's use by Southern University Students.
  - The Black Heritage Collection is a highlight of the new branch.

Ms. Kathy Wascom inquired about programming at the Scotlandville Branch and transportation.

Ms. Lauren Jung commented on limited programming due to the renovation; for transportation, people arrive by bike, car, and on foot, with a bus stop in front of the library.

Jaleesa Delavallade reiterated the lack of programming due to the renovation and the branch's participation in the Summer Reading Program.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES – There were no reports from committees.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Ms. Lori Juge and Ms. Mary Stein (4:43 p.m.)

A. UPDATE ON THE SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY

- All furniture has been received and installed, including a boat for toddlers.
- Open full community branch hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday-Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Waiting for completion of the punch list and final acceptance.
- Hopeful for a dedication ceremony in June.

Ms. Kathy Wascom commented that the Southside Civic Association wants to participate in the grand opening.

Ms. Mary Stein commented:

- Other library branches are expanding with interactive boat for toddlers.
- South Branch Library has boats for toddlers.
- Children are naming the boat in a contest with a christening ceremony to be held for the boat.

B. UPDATE ON SCOTLANDVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY

- The Scotlandville groundbreaking was Monday, May 19, at 10 a.m. with Councilman Kenney and Mayor Edwards in attendance,
- The contractor is currently working on demolition work that is needed before the remodeling starts.

Board President Candace Temple asked for public comments. No public comments were made.

VIII. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL (4:48 p.m.)

- Donald Luther, Jr, expressed condolences to Kip Holden's family; expressed his concerns that the tax for District Attorney's office did not pass. He also commented that the school tax passed for East Baton Rouge.
- Encourage people to vote for the library tax and for anyone who needs clarity in understanding the tax, please call Mr. Donald Luther, Jr., on 225-413-7203.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Board President Candace Temple requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Donald Luther Jr., and seconded by Kathy Wascom. **The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. by a unanimous vote.** (4:50 p.m.)