

MEETING MINUTES
Carroll County Public Library Board of Trustees
May 27, 2026

Location: Eldersburg Branch

Members Present: Stephen A. Wantz
David O'Callaghan
Carol Gorsuch (Zoom)
Garima Chaturvedi
Beth Gray
Eli Persing
Jessica Wilson

Ex-Officio: Commissioner Krebs

Members Absent:

Present in addition to the Board were the following staff members: Andrea Berstler, Jill Edelen, Bob Kuntz, Joe Thompson, Lisa Picker, and Terri Simmons.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Wantz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 pm.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Seven members of the Board were present, and a quorum was in attendance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. O'Callaghan, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried, the Agenda was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Ms. Gray, seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried, the Minutes from April 22, 2026, were approved.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Nadine Rosendale, Branch Manager, created a presentation highlighting the book "A Family of Readers" by Rob Sanders, showcasing various library activities, emphasizing the quote: "some stories begin at the beginning, and others begin at the end, but all the best stories begin in a library."

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS UPDATE

Caitlin McCubbin and Whitney Hasler reported there were 1,543 total participants, 1,181 Elementary students, 362 Middle School students. Over the course of the 10 Battles, there were 5,112 attendees and 218 teams representing a 2% increase in participants. The Communications Department takes pictures and captures the moments; high school students helped as runners.

This battle season will be culminating with author visit, Adam Gidwitz on June 5th. Staff expressed gratitude to the Kahlert Foundation whose grant helped to fund books.

STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT

Kristen McCarter, Staff Association, updated the Board on plans for social events including Eating Around the World at local restaurants and attending the Renaissance Festival as well as fundraising for Carroll Food Sunday. Ms. McCarter stated staff is happy and thankful for the budget outcomes including a raise, new staff and a new Eldersburg branch.

FRIENDS REPORT

Friends Board members Winona Varnon and Paul Culan presented the Friends Report. The Friends Board is reviewing the officer rotation process which will result in updated bylaws. Each Board member has been assigned to a specific branch which should help streamline volunteer efforts. The Advocacy budget is being used to buy CCPL buttons which will be distributed during Summer Reading kick-offs. Ms. Varnon and Mr. Culan highlighted the upcoming Summer Book Swap in Finksburg which will include a food truck, music and tours of gardens. The group will be discussing membership recruitment and brainstorming the benefits of membership. Next meetings are June 26th at Mount Airy and July 31st at Exploration Commons.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – INFORMATION

Jill Edelen, Director of Finance, reviewed the most recent Financial Statement, reporting that all is going well.

Ms. Edelen stated the FY27 Budget was finalized and unanimously approved, triggering a 5% wage increase for all staff, effective for the pay period starting July 5th, with checks received July 24th. The Budget includes \$180,000 for three new positions (two at Exploration Commons, one at Headquarters) and \$80,000 for staff transitions and PTO payouts for retiring legacy staff.

On motion of Mr. O’Callaghan, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried, the FY27 Budget was approved.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wantz expressed appreciation to staff and library programming for always being amazing. Chair Wantz highlighted upcoming events and a generous donation from the Dalrymple Estate to the library.

B. OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Other Board members mentioned events they attended such as Book Buzz, Chess Club, Mahjong and the upcoming Davis Day Celebration.

C. EX-OFFICIO

Commissioner Krebs commended library staff on their preparation and perseverance moving the Eldersburg branch build/renovation forward. Commissioner Krebs stated the library bylaws served as a template for formatting and maintaining bylaws and enjoys being involved in the libraries.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Berstler reviewed events and programs since the April Board meeting, and highlighted upcoming events such as the June 2nd Commissioner Breakfast, Summer Reading Kickoffs, puppet shows and the Mock Trial Camp. Ms. Berstler stated planning is underway for the new Carroll Reads initiative and the Exploration Commons 5-year anniversary plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

There were no other Administrative Matters.

ELT REPORTS

Lisa Picker provided a social media update as well as a Book Festival update. There are currently 98 authors signed up and names will start to be announced next week. Penguin Random House is the Lead Sponsor, and we are still looking for vendors. 90 staff have volunteered to attend and there are several community partners.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The most recent press was noted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. FOUNDATION WORK GROUP

Friends portion has met and is up to speed on what is going on and is reviewing a copy of the white paper. Future meetings are being set up.

NEW BUSINESS

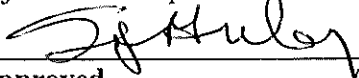
A. TRUSTEE REAPPOINTMENT

The Board discussed Ms. Chaturvedi's reappointment to the Board of Trustees. On motion of Ms. Gray, seconded by Mr. O'Callaghan and carried, the Board voted to forward a letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting Ms. Chaturvedi's reappointment for an additional five-year term, ensuring continuity and geographic representation.

The Board decided there would be no July or August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. O'Callaghan, seconded by Ms. Chaturvedi and carried, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:09 pm.



Approved

