

**BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

April 15, 2026

Present

Ora Briggs – Sussex County
Jacqueline Carr – Isle of Wight County
Sylvia Claggett – Isle of Wight County
Deborah Dawson – Surry County
Charlene Herrala – Isle of Wight County
Pam Lease – City of Franklin
Kathy Lippard – Isle of Wight County
Karen Richardson – Sussex County
Judge Alfreda Talton-Harris – City of Franklin
Kisha Watford – Southampton County
Johanna Wiggins – Isle of Wight County
Ben Neal – Library Director
Bonnie Lauver – Assistant Library Director
Debbie Carter – Budget & Finance Manager

Remote (via Zoom)

Absent

MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County
Margie McClenny – Southampton County

Chair, Deborah Dawson called the meeting of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees to order at 3:02 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Agenda

Ms. Briggs moved, and Judge Harris seconded that the agenda be approved as amended. The vote was unanimous.

Consideration of Remote Meeting Participation Requests

None

Minutes

Ms. Lease moved, and Ms. Herrala seconded the minutes be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Library Director's Report

BRL is fully funded in proposed budgets for Isle of Wight and Southampton. Sussex is scheduled to present its proposed budget at its April 16, 2026, meeting.

Governor Spanberger signed legislation (HB1/SB1) on April 9, 2026, increasing the state minimum wage to \$13.75 on January 1, 2027, and \$15.00 per hour on January 1, 2028, with inflation-adjusted increases returning in 2029.

It could be another month before we have final information on state aid.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Ms. Lease & Mr. Neal – As directed in the Board's March actions, \$100,000 was put into a CD from the reserve fund. BRL's financial advisor, Scott Carr, purchased the 12-month CD, that will mature on 4/14/2027, at a rate of 3.9%.

Personnel & Policy – Ms. Briggs – no report

Search – Ms. Dawson – The committee drafted a job announcement and updated the Library Director’s job description. Copies of both documents are in today’s handouts. The vacancy will be posted on both ALA and VLA Joblines, as well as other job boards. Ms. Lauver has been appointed Interim Library Director. Mr. Neal – Ms. Fisk is in the process of posting the vacancy to all approved job boards.

Accounts Payable

Ms. Lippard moved, and Ms. Lease seconded that the accounts payable be filed for the Annual Audit. The vote was unanimous.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Board Member Comments/Announcements

Ms. Richardson – The Miles B. Carpenter Folk Art Museum is open every second Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Announcement of Next Meeting

The next Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees meeting will be on May 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Adjournment

Ms. Herrala moved, and Ms. Briggs seconded the meeting to be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Carter for
Ora Briggs, Secretary