BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2026

Present	**Remote (via Zoom)**
MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County	
Jacqueline Carr – Isle of Wight County	
Maggie DeTar-Lavallee – Isle of Wight County	
Evelyn Ellis – Surry County	
Charlene Herrala – Isle of Wight County	
Pam Lease – City of Franklin	
Kathy Lippard – Isle of Wight County	
Karen Richardson – Sussex County	**Absent**
Judge Alfreda Talton-Harris – City of Franklin	Rhonda Chambliss – City of Franklin
Kisha Watford – Southampton County	Margie McClenny – Southampton County
Johanna Wiggins – Isle of Wight County	
Bonnie Lauver – Assistant Library Director	
Debbie Carter – Budget & Finance Manager	

Chair Karen Richardson called the meeting of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees to order at 3:14 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Agenda
Ms. Carr moved, and Ms. Lease seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Consideration of Remote Meeting Participation Requests
None

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

Public Comment
None

Correspondence
None

Library Director's Report
BRL registered over 290 new borrowers during Library Card Sign-Up Month in September!

Be sure to check out Beanstack reading challenges in October (Hallow-Read) and November (Read Grateful).

America 250/VA250 Events: Founding Fathers and U.S. Constitution Display available for viewing through November 2026 at the Courtland Branch. This display is available courtesy of the Southampton County Clerk of Court.

Committee Reports
Budget & Finance – Ms. Lease – The committee met prior to the Board meeting.
FY2028 Budget - options for FY2028 were distributed to all Trustees. Please review both options and be prepared for discussion and to vote during the November 18, 2026, Board meeting.
Staff Holiday Gift Cards - The committee also recommended purchasing holiday gift cards for all permanent staff. Ms. Herrala moved and Judge Harris seconded gift cards be purchased for all permanent staff. The vote was unanimous.

Personnel & Policy – no report

Search – Ms. Richardson – Two candidates for Director have been interviewed. One was invited back for a second interview/tour of branches.

Accounts Payable
Ms. Herrala moved, and Ms. Watford 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. Lippard – SM Fall Fiction Festival on Saturday!
Ms. Lease – Franklin's Downtown Trick or Treat is October 22 @ 5:30
Ms. Richardson – Waverly's Trunk or Treat is October 28
Ms. Carr – is impressed with BRL's variety of activities!
Ms. Watford – new local author, Ravynn Stringfield, writes stories geared towards teens and has books in Chicago's Barack Obama Presidential Library
Ms. Herrala – WI FOTL cleaned out book sale shed in September! Book sale for upcoming weekend cancelled
Ms. Blunt – working with displaced families – will involve parents and children in Rawls and Franklin activities
Judge Harris – looking forward to Friday's tour with the Director candidate
Ms. Richardson – please review budget packet and bring recommendations to November meeting

Announcement of Next Meeting
The next Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees meeting will be on November 18, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Adjournment
Ms. Watford moved, and Ms. Lease seconded the meeting be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Carter for
Charlene Herrala, Secretary