

The Board of Trustees of the Eckhart Public Library met on March 11, 2026 at 6:00pm at the William H. Willennar Genealogy Center, 700 South Jackson Street, Auburn, IN. The media and public received proper notice, pursuant to I.C. § 5-14-1.5-5.

President Barbara Morrow presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Members of the Board of Trustees present by roll call were: David Brown, Connie Fullerton, Pete Kempf, Barbara Morrow, William Schaab, Nora Schwartz. Absent: Amy Norton

Also present: Executive Director Valerie Simmons, Business & Finance Manager Martha Rubrake, Technical Services & Finance Specialist Rebecca Mann, Administrative Specialist Sherri Sible, and Public Services Manager Darcy Armstrong.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Atticus Brown

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Board Member Schwartz moved to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2026 meeting.** Board Member Kempf provided the second.

The motion to approve the minutes as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Treasurer Schaab moved to approve the financial reports as presented.** Vice President Brown provided the second.

The motion to approve the financial reports as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

### **VOUCHERS AUTHORIZATION**

MARCH 11, 2026 MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY (EPL).

Presented vouchers from February 12, 2025 through March 11, 2026 in the amount of \$248,236.42.

**Board Member Schwartz moved to authorize the vouchers as presented.** Treasurer Schaab provided the second.

The motion to approve the vouchers as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

Resolution 2026-02 presented: Resolution to Pay Bills with Prior Approval

**Treasurer Schaab moved to adopt Resolution 2026-02 for the Resolution to Pay Bills with Prior Approval .** Board Member Kempf provided the second.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2026-02 as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Simmons introduced Darcy Armstrong who shared information about the library's ongoing effort to learn through play in the Children's Department, as well as the Learning Through Play Grant from Community Foundation DeKalb County.

Update on HB1406: (formerly Senate Bill 4) Director Simmons reviewed the bill as it pertains to public libraries, including fiscal impacts to the 2027 budget and the deadlines for the 2027 budget approval process.

Update on "Community Gathers Here" outdoor seating project and plans for the upkeep of the native gardens moving forward. Funding for the project is moving along well.

**Personnel:** None

**Gifts and Grants:**

Community Foundation DeKalb County grant \$1500 for Learning Through Play.

12 donations designated for EPL Willennar Genealogy Center have been received in memory of Lynn Kaiser who passed away February 24, 2026. Lynn was a long time employee who served many patrons at the Genealogy Center.

**COMMUNICATIONS and CORRESPONDENCE**

Received a note from The Auburn Presbyterian Women’s Association along with notecards. The front of the card is a snow scene photo (taken by one of their members) of the library.

Received a note from Norm Yoder on behalf of the Community Foundation Engagement Committee congratulating the library on being awarded the Learning Through Play grant.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Fee Schedule for 2026 is presented for Board review.

**Treasurer Schaab moved to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule.** Board Member Kempf provided the second.

The motion to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

Director Simmons presented an updated Library Card and Circulation Policy, Incorporating Evergreen Indiana Policies.

**Vice President Brown moved to approve the updated Library Card and Circulation Policy, Incorporating Evergreen Indiana Policies.** Board Member Schwartz provided the second.

The motion to approve the policy as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

Director Simmons presented a draft of a Bad Debt Policy for consideration:

**Board Member Schwartz moved to approve the Bad Debt Policy.** Treasurer Schaab provided the second.

The motion to approve the policy as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

Director Simmons presented an updated Credit Card Policy:

**Board Member Kempf made the motion to approve the Credit Card Policy as presented.** Board Member Schwartz seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the Credit Card Policy as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Attitus Brown shared his library card that was renewed just before the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

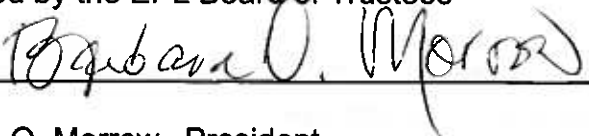
The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on April 8, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Willennar Genealogy Center, 700 S. Jackson Street, Auburn, IN.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, **Board Member Schwartz moved to adjourn the meeting.** Board Member Kempf provided the second.

The motion to adjourn carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

Approved by the EPL Board of Trustees

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara O. Morrow, President

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Fullerton, Secretary