

APRIL 8, 2026 MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY (EPL).

The Board of Trustees of the Eckhart Public Library met on April 8, 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, Amy Norton, William Schaab. Absent: Nora Schwartz

Also present: Executive Director Valerie Simmons, Business & Finance Manager Martha Rubrake, Technical Services & Finance Specialist Rebecca Mann, and Public Relations Manager Jamie Long Smith.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Theresa Bonkowski

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Board Member Kempf moved to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2026 meeting.** Board Member Norton 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; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Board Member Norton moved to approve the financial reports as presented.** Treasurer Schaab 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; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

**VOUCHERS AUTHORIZATION**

Presented vouchers from March 12, 2026 through April 8, 2026 in the amount of \$266,226.55.

**Treasurer Schaab moved to authorize the vouchers as presented.** Vice President Brown 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; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Public Relations Manager Jamie Long Smith presented on the training she provided during the March 12 staff meeting.

At some point in the coming weeks, the stairs at the Teen Library will be replaced due to wear and tear. We will be able to re-route teens through the back staff entrance so we will not need to close the building during that work.

The DeKalb County Prevent Child Abuse Council planted pinwheels outside the library this morning, April 8, in recognition of child abuse prevention month. We are happy to continue our partnership with them in drawing attention to this very important issue.

Funding for the Community Gathers Here outdoor seating project is moving along well, and orders will be finalized this week. A check for the donations made to date will be presented at the tea April 9, 2026.

Director Simmons provided an update on the fountain and our newly established service agreement with Smock Fansler. Current thinking has the fountain operating between Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Cost will be covered by the donations received from the Eckhart Library Foundation.

#### **Personnel:**

None to report

#### **Gifts and Grants:**

Two more donations designated for EPL Willennar Genealogy Center were received in memory of Lynn Kaiser who passed away February 24, 2026.

A donation to Eckhart Public Library received in memory of Tom Shawver who passed away January 5, 2026.

**COMMUNICATIONS and CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Due to delays in calculations on the State Library's Annual Reporting software, the Fee Schedule for 2026 needed modification. The corrected Fee Schedule was presented for Board review.

**Board Member Kempf moved to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule.** Secretary Fullerton provided the second.

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

The Board reviewed the Acceptable Technology Use Policy per IC 36-12-1-12.

**Board Member Norton moved to approve the Acceptable Technology Use Policy as presented.** 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; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Theresa Bonkowski, a library patron, had questions about the library participating in events sponsored by various community groups. Director Simmons explained the EPL policy that governs such decisions and thanked her for attending and sharing her concerns.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on May 13, 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, **Treasurer Schaab moved to adjourn the meeting.** Board Member Norton provided the second.

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

Approved by the EPL Board of Trustees

 V.P. \_\_\_\_\_

~~Barbara O. Morrow, President~~ *David Brown, Vice President*

ATTEST:  \_\_\_\_\_

Connie Fullerton, Secretary