LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
Minutes of Meeting--August 20, 2026

The Lincoln Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was called to order at 5:01pm by Chair Bill Jones. Board members Amanda Norris, Sandra Dupree, Jan Canterbury, Milton Melton, Richard Pyles, Stephanie Smith, and Deborah Gilliam were present. Absent from the meeting was Eric McCulloch. Library Director Jeremy Bolom was also in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mr. Melton.

Mr. Melton made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes, motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Mrs. Norris made the motion to approve the minutes for the July 16, 2026, meeting. Mr. Melton seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried.

Chair Jones called on Director Bolom to present the proposed Holidays and Closures for 12/31/2026 through 1/1/2028. He started by explaining that, due to the fact that several holidays (Independence Day, Christmas, and New Year's Day) fall on weekends in 2027, there were three different proposed versions. He then went through each version. Version one, which closely follows what Bolom referred to as "typical" holidays, follows observed federal holidays. This includes 20 closures and 13 paid holidays. Version 2 ignores the observed federal holidays and instead closes the Library for Independence Day, Christmas, and New Year's Day weekends. This again includes 20 closures but only 11 paid holidays, since no holiday pay would be given for weekend closures. Version 3 combines both Versions 1 and 2, which results in 22 closures and 13 paid holidays. During discussion, Mrs. Norris stated that she was not in favor of the additional closures in Version 3, while Ms. Smith expressed it as a nice incentive to give employees. Chair Jones decided to settle the debate by role call vote where each Board Member voted for their preferred version. Version 1 received two votes (Mr. Pyles and Ms. Gilliam); Version 2 received four votes (Mr. Melton, Mrs. Canterbury, Ms. Dupree, Mrs. Norris, and Chair Jones); and Version 3 received one vote (Ms. Smith). The presented Version 2 passes.

Chair Jones asked Director Bolom to provide information on the next item to discuss and take action on: the possible change of September 2026's meeting date. Bolom began by stating that his would be the third year that both he and Assistant Director Barrilleaux would be attending the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Annual Conference the week of the regularly scheduled meeting, September 17, 2026. Notwithstanding additional comments by Bolom that several Board Members mentioned a preference for having the Director at meetings to answer questions and expound on his report, Chair Jones noted that with the upcoming renovations, it would probably be best to have the Director present at the next meeting. After looking the provided schedule of Director Bolom's availability and upcoming Library programs, Mr. Melton made a motion to change the September meeting date to Thursday the 24th. Mrs. Norris seconded. All yes. Motion carried.

Friends Liaison Gilliam informed the Board that the Friends extended book sale from Friday, July 31 to Monday, August 3, 2026 had a big attendance. Friends also steps up to help the Library with many of its fall outreach programs, and the group is looking forward to that again this year. The next Friends Board meeting will be on Thursday, August 27 at 5pm. Mrs. Canterbury wanted make the Board aware of all the hard work the Friends' President Donna Colvin put into organizing and working the Book Sale. The Board asked Ms. Gilliam to relay formal thanks from the Board for all of her efforts to make the Sale a success.

Director Bolom reported on pre-renovation activities that included Library Interiors reformatting the magazine section on Tuesday, August 18 and employee Everette Harris adding wheels to all of the low wood shelving in genealogy and what-was-reference. The pre-bid conference will be held at the Library on Wednesday, August 26 at 10am, and bids will be opened the following week on Thursday, September 3 at 2pm at the Police Jury Office. Mrs. Norris said that she has started putting out feelers for possible volunteers with helping staff with cleanup after each phase of renovation.

Director Bolom asked if any of the Board had received a formal invitation to the upcoming Trail Blazer Library System Annual Trustee Meeting to be held at the East Carroll Parish Library in Lake Providence on Friday, September 25th at 9:30am. No one had received anything, but Mrs. Canterbury and Ms. Dupree agreed to attend the meeting and represent the Library along with Director Bolom.

Director Bolom began his financial report with a note that the format is a bit different due to the fact that Police Jury Treasurer Laura Hart is now providing reports to him. The report now includes an additional column which gives the actual variance between the original and actual budget. Ms. Smith commented that she liked having the additional information readily available. He then pointed out that "Interest Earnings" must have had a delay in being processed because the number is up significantly and is now well over the projected income amount. The "Building & Grounds Maintenance" line continues to be eaten away at with HVAC repairs and a few lighting issues that have started to occur in the Events Center. He reminded the Board that an amendment to this line may need to occur once the bid is accepted for the renovation project.

Director Bolom then presented the statistics for July 2026. Overall numbers were higher except for programming, which reflected 8 cancelled programs due to staff affected by Events Center kitchen floor renovations.

In his report, Bolom mentioned his professional activities and projects, which included the three-day ThriveLib Virtual Conference attendance (8/11-13), speaking at the noon Rotary club meeting (8/19), and submitting a mini-grant proposal to the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities 2026 Parish America 250 Program. Only one part-time position remains open in the Children's department. He thanked the five board members who attended the all-staff meeting that was held on Wednesday, August 5 at 8am. He reported attendance numbers at several Summer Reading special events, noting that baby alligators still draw a big crowd with 288 attending the program by Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries (7/28). He also reminded the Board that youth programming takes a break during August once

Summer Reading has ended. Outreach activities included the Grambling Tiger Con (move in day). Bolom was excited about upcoming outreach events in September, which is the Library's busy season.

With no further discussions, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dupree seconded the motion. All yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:53pm.