

MINUTES OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING

May 21, 2025

Members Present: Susan Montalvo-Gesser, President
Rodney Ellis, Treasurer
Kathi Mattas, Secretary
Kevin Dorth

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director
Comm. Janie Marksberry, Fiscal Court Liaison

Absent: Al Mattingly
Debbie Young, Business Manager

The meeting in the 2nd floor public lounge was called to order by Mrs. Montalvo-Gesser at 5:00 p.m.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser called for approval of the April 2025 minutes. The motion to approve was made by Kevin Dorth, seconded by Kathi Mattas, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report. With no questions or corrections, the motion to approve was made by Kathi Mattas, seconded by Kevin Dorth, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Review. The motion to approve was made by Kathi Mattas, seconded by Susan Montalvo-Gesser, and the motion carried unanimously.

Erin Waller presented the Director's Report, including:

1. DCPL is ready for the "Wild About Reading" summer reading program, having a kickoff party on May 28 and an online vote for the official summer reading bookmark from entries colored by children.
2. The new Story Walk opened at Legion Park this month.
3. The American Heart Association blood pressure machine for the first floor has arrived, and the smaller check-out versions are coming.
4. Comm. Janie Marksberry raised the question of the library again providing bottled water during the upcoming summer.

Old Business addressed was discussion of the previously presented Hafer Architects remodel plans. Rodney Ellis motioned to accept the plans, which would then go to bid. Susan Montalvo-Gesser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business was discussion of the Young Adult book Kisses for Jet, which had reached the step in the Request for Reconsideration process of a library board review, with the patron's request being to move

it to the Adult collection. There was a brief summary of the previous committee's 3 – 1 vote to keep it in the YA collection, with the dissenting vote due to the book's content being worthy of an R-rating as a movie due to profanity throughout and the illustrations of a teen girl's genitalia and breasts. Rodney Ellis and Susan Montalvo-Gesser voted in favor of keeping the book in the YA collection, while Kevin Dorth and Kathi Mattas voted to move it to the adult section. With a 2 – 2 tie vote, no action was taken. It was noted that the policy gives no guidance in the event of a tie vote, therefore this policy needs to be readdressed. Erin Waller said that a review of the Material Selections Policy and its final paragraph on the Request for Reconsideration process, with suggestions and proposed changes, would be added to the June agenda.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser called for Public Comment. There were 51 people counted in attendance, with seven signed "yes" and one "maybe" to speak to the Board, with a couple of others, who had missed the sign-in sheet, also permitted to speak.

Mike Mountain asked why his Jan. 29, 2025, email to the board regarding renewal of his mother's library card had not been responded to by the board, was rather forwarded to staff, and if the website board contact information was "misleading." He also asked about the library's multi-million dollar finances and the tax assessment. Treasurer Rodney Ellis explained that the library uses the compensation rate, which has decreased over the past few years.

Jimmy Kamuf expressed thanks for the library, noting that it was good for people to come to the board meetings. He stated that the auto-checkout works well, but has often found the computer terminals for "card catalog" searches not working, so something needs done about that.

Chrissy Bray Cotton was thankful for trans books in the library's collections, having personally been positively affected by such material in the 4th/5th grade years.

Robin Scott was "indignant" as a taxpayer over so much money spent for books that violate KRS 531.030 obscenity laws protecting minors, and that the library continues to stock shelves with such books with more on order. She asked that all such books in violation be moved to the adult section, and to move that adult book section downstairs away from the children and teen departments.

Laurie Campbell was thankful for the e-book service. She referenced the last two years of the ongoing debate over library content, referenced individuals present whom she disagreed with, has been a public school employee, noted that there are differences of opinions on books, but that it was not the board members' decision to make.

Abigail Matthews gave thanks for confirmation that Gender Queer is in the adult collection, but also presented a picture proving it had been displayed next to the 2nd floor bathroom, in view of and accessible to any child. She noted the April meeting had much talk of "what the library is not here to do" and asked, "What exactly is the board's job?" considering its resistance to moving sexually explicit content that violates Kentucky law out of the minors' sections to the adult section. "Shouldn't the board

protect children?" She suggested a "library board walk through and interview" to clear up confusion on the board's responsibilities regarding books in the library.

Trey Matthews was glad to see the RFR process carried through, encouraged the board to have more criteria than the ALA and popular magazines' recommendations regarding material selections, stated that the teens restricted access cards was of no help regarding inappropriate books in the children's section, and even though one board member had said it was not their job to protect children, it is!

Jim Gauley expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak and for the many library services his family has enjoyed over the years. He asked the board to be on the side of protecting kids and to have the sense of wisdom to do so.

Aaron Thomas noted that his family loves to visit the library and expressed appreciation of the Catholic doctrine of cherishing children. He said that the board has tough decisions weighing what parents, the community, and God want. Regarding the board's RFR decision this meeting, he and his wife no longer consider the library "safe" for their children.

Christine Mindrup expressed thanks for DCPL, but has difficulties allowing her several children to roam their designated areas of the library. She pleaded with the board to please protect them by removing pornographic, sexually explicit, and inappropriate materials from minors' areas.

Commissioner Janie Marksberry read a couple C.S. Lewis quotes from The Abolition of Man, including: "...For the whole purpose of their book is to condition the young reader that he will share their approval," and she then rhetorically asked the board members if the RFR book Kisses for Jet would be allowed to sit in the lobby of their places of business for just anyone to pick up.

After further board discussion regarding public comment and policy issues, with no further business, Susan Montalvo-Gesser adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm.

The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be held at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, in the second floor public lounge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.