



Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees

September 15, 2026

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Springfield-Greene County Library District met on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the Library Center. The Trustees in attendance were: Carol Anne Robinette, Pamela Hernandez, Robert Guiler, Mar'Ellen Felin, Christopher Bozarth, David Yancey, James Nevins, Aaron Jones, and Esther Owens.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Disposition of Minutes – August 18, 2026 Board Meeting

The August 18, 2026 meeting minutes were approved as presented. Jones motioned to approve the minutes. Felin seconded. Motion was approved (9 yes, 0 no).

Report of Committees

Buildings and Grounds Committee

- The LST foyer/restroom remodel is underway. The wall tiling and restroom flooring are complete. The carpet was laser cut and is on site. The estimated date of turnover is September 18.
- The TLC pavilion flooring was installed and is operational.
- The potential match grant for irrigation work at Midtown and Schweitzer Brentwood was determined to be site-specific. Any work completed with potential grant funds must occur at the specified branch locations.
- The only remaining ARPA work at Republic is furniture installation and the receipt of bookends for the shelving, both of which have been delayed due to supply chain issues.
- To address the concerns surrounding the Fair Grove branch location, it was determined that instead of a District-funded build, options for a new leased location will be investigated. Conversations have occurred with lessors at potential locations, and the decision has been made to pursue a newly built location in central Fair Grove.
- Memory Lab construction is scheduled to begin in mid-October. Original FF&E projections came in \$13,000 over budget, but as the bids came in lower than anticipated, overall project expectations are now in line with the budget.
- Following withdrawal from FEMA and the issuance of a new RFP for the LST/REP Hail Damage Restoration projects, bids were received and contractors have been selected. Work will begin soon.

Finance & Personnel

- Several categories are ~2% higher than what was budgeted, but minor fluctuations throughout the year are expected and not cause for concern.
- The \$288,835 in the Republic ARPA financials is what was underspent against budget expectations. There is an anticipated ~\$3,000 in remaining expenses. Afterwards, the remaining \$285,835 will be transferred to reserves.
- Motion out of committee for the selection of HR Director Ben Patient as the LAGERS Voting Employer Delegate. Motion was approved (9 yes, 0 no).

Programs, Services, & Technology

- Adult Programming Coordinator Adrienne Poulson and Youth Services Coordinator Stephanie Smallwood presented a PowerPoint covering the services and programming for the adult and youth Summer Reading Programs, respectively.

Institutional Advancement Report

Director of Institutional Advancement Bridget Dierks delivered the report.

- The Friends of the Library Book Sale is scheduled from September 16 through September 20. Friends' members preview night was September 15.
- The eLibrary mailing fundraiser, sent out in June, is still returning with new gifts. In addition to the fundraising and development efforts, the eLibrary mailing has also served as an awareness campaign for the cost of the digital collection. Several recipients have spoken to their surprise at how expensive electronic materials are in comparison to their physical counterparts.
- A mailing campaign covering the unrestricted fund will be mailed out in fall.
- The Foundation Board has approved distributions from the unrestricted fund. Future distributions from the restricted fund will be scheduled to occur at the beginning of each fiscal year.
- The Ava Louise Smith Fund, following a second payout, now totals over \$4 million. Future contributions to the unrestricted fund distribution will be larger than the current \$80,000 once its place in the market stabilizes.
- Funding received over the summer will begin being put into action this fall. The Arvest Foundation's contributions to Republic programming will fund Maker's Space training for small business owners, programs in the Business Connect Center, children's programming, musical performers, etc. It will enable Republic's programming to reflect the increase in patronage following the opening of the new building.
- The Schneider Foundation has provided a grant for updated equipment in Maker's Spaces around the District.
- Library staff continues to write applications for funding partners.

Executive Director's Monthly Report

- September 8, 2026 was the turnover date for the transition from the Google environment to the Microsoft environment. The far-reaching effect of this change was highlighted,

noting that every digital process was changed in some way. The significant security improvements Microsoft offers over Google were emphasized.

- Last month's report indicated little development by way of a response from the Missouri Legislature following the significant loss on the income tax ballot measure. This month, developments have emerged by way of potential retributive legislation regarding sales and property taxes. Property tax reform is expected to reach a zenith this year.

New Business

August 2026 Statistical Report

- The circulation and traffic trendlines for the first two months of the fiscal year have outpaced the previous five years by 10%. These numbers have been impacted by the success of the Summer Reading Program and the consistent opening of all 10 campus locations.
- It was noted that these numbers are still below the pre-pandemic statistics, but the difference is decreasing.

Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Nevins seconded. Motion was approved (9 yes, 0 no).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.