



Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees

May 20, 2026

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Springfield-Greene County Library District met on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the Library Center. The Trustees in attendance were: Aaron Jones, Carol Anne Robinette, James Nevins, Mar'Ellen Felin, Melanie Weiler, David Yancey, Christopher Bozarth, Rachael Morrow and Stacey Penney (entered at 4:03 p.m.).

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

Meeting Minutes

- April Board Retreat minutes were approved as presented. Bozarth motioned to approve the minutes. Robinette seconded. Motion was approved (9 yes, 0 no).
- The April Board of Trustees meeting minutes were approved with a correction to the vote count on page 5, changing the motion tally from 8–0 to 9–0. Nevins motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Bozarth seconded. The motion to amend was approved (9 yes, 0 no).

Report of Committees

- **Buildings and Grounds Committee:** Morrow presented the committee report. Capital improvement projects are progressing well. ARPA projects are nearing completion, and the Republic Branch Library Grand Opening is scheduled for June 1. A janitorial RFP was issued, and five bids are currently under evaluation. The Memory Lab project is also progressing. Several library locations sustained hail damage, with the Republic Branch and Library Station meeting the \$50,000 insurance deductible per incident. Library Express West also sustained damage; however, repairs will not move forward because the damage did not meet the deductible threshold.
 - An additional request was presented for Change Order No. 5 at the Republic Branch Library to add two electrical outlets omitted from the key drawings. The outlets, located at a service desk and a computer station, will be added at a cost of \$3,965. Bozarth moved to approve the change order. Penney seconded. The motion was approved (9 yes, 0 no).

- **Finance and Personnel Committee:** Nevins presented the committee report and noted that the budget is performing well overall. Discussion included an anticipated \$285,000 shortfall related to appealed property taxes, with revenues potentially delayed 18–36 months pending resolution of the appeals. Department heads helped offset the impact through returned budget allocations. Several retirements and associated PTO payouts are expected to temporarily increase personnel costs before leveling out. Potential FEMA reimbursement for hail-related deductibles remains under review. Budget adjustments are expected to be presented in July.
- **Programs, Services and Technology Committee:** A presentation was given by the Director of Institutional Advancement Bridget Dierks and Planning and Development Librarian Katie Hopkins on the purpose and relationship between the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation, both of which support the district in complementary ways. The Foundation’s mission is the thoughtful stewardship of charitable contributions and planned gifts, including oversight of current funds and the impact of endowments on programming and capital projects. The Friends of the Library, established around 1985, have raised more than \$6 million in support of the district through fall and spring book sales. Funding is provided through a grant request process and supports both programming and capital needs. Some examples of funded projects are One Read, Summer Reading Program, Library Center Hatch Auditorium and the Friends of the Library Pavilion.

Institutional Advancement Report

- An estate planning brochure, developed with committee input, was shared to highlight the value of estate planning. It will be distributed to wealth advisors and estate planning attorneys, with the goal of broad availability.
- An invitation-only event for “Americans and the Holocaust” is scheduled for June 25, with a reception in the Hatch Auditorium from 4:30–6 p.m. Dr. Daniel Greene, curator of the exhibit, will provide a preview and private tour at 4:30 p.m., followed by additional programming later in the evening.
- The Annie Busch Early Literacy Endowment has been added to the website, and gifts may be directed to this fund in honor of Annie in recognition of Jim Schmidt’s retirement.
- Grant updates include:
 - Friends of the Library support for programming across ten projects
 - Missouri State Library grant funding for computer upgrades and self-check system updates
 - Darr Family Foundation support for early literacy initiatives for preschoolers.

Executive Director's Monthly Report

- The retirement of several long-term employees was noted, resulting in the loss of significant institutional knowledge. The Directors of Buildings and Grounds and Outreach Manager positions have been filled, while remaining vacancies are not expected to be filled quickly, with some potentially remaining open until August or September.
- It was also noted that more than 120 legislative bills were introduced that could have impacted the organization; however, none were enacted.

Unfinished Business

- The Intellectual Freedom Statement was reviewed, with discussion addressing language related to “duty” under the privacy section. The wording was revised to state, “It is our policy to keep your information private.”
- Penney moved to approve the statement. Morrow seconded. The motion was approved (9 yes, 0 no).

New Business

- **April 2026 Statistical Report**
 - Year-to-date circulation is trending approximately 2% higher than the previous year. Digital media accounts for 11% of circulation and continues to drive usage, while approximately 1.4 million print books have circulated year-to-date. Overall traffic is up 3.7% compared to the previous year, with other metrics generally following similar upward trends.
 - Discussion included questions regarding the balance between digital and print collections and future forecasting of usage trends. It was noted that while digital usage increased significantly during COVID, print and digital usage have since begun to stabilize and align more closely. Increasing digital access would require additional funding, and strategic planning discussions have identified a continued community demand for expanded content. Print materials remain less costly per item, which also factors into collection decisions.
 - Questions were raised regarding Midtown Carnegie Branch Library traffic data, with clarification that current figures may be impacted by issues with traffic counters due to interference affecting accuracy. Updates are being pursued to improve data reliability.
 - Discussion also addressed interlibrary loan activity, noting a decline in non-library-owned items due to the transition from MOBIUS to Tipasa.

Miscellaneous Item of Business

- None

Yancey moved to adjourn. Nevins seconded. Motion carried (9 yes, 0 no).

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.