



Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees

August 18, 2026

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Springfield-Greene County Library District met on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Library Center. The Trustees in attendance were: Robert Guiler, Pamela Hernandez, David Yancey, Carol Anne Robinette, Mar'Ellen Felin, Christopher Bozarth, and Aaron Jones (4:05 p.m.).

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The June 16, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting minutes were approved as presented. Felin motioned to approve the minutes. Bozarth seconded. Motion was approved (7 yes, 0 no).

The July 21, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting minutes were approved as presented. Jones motioned to approve the minutes. Robinette seconded. Motion was approved (7 yes, 0 no).

Introduction

New Board Member

- New City-appointed Board member Pamela Hernandez introduced herself.

Associate Director of Public Services

- Current Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Manager Katy Pattison was introduced as the new Associate Director. Following previous Associate Director Jim Schmidt's retirement, the position's roles and responsibilities were modified. The modified position involves significant leadership responsibility, and Katy Pattison was noted as being well suited for the role.

Reports of Committees

Buildings & Grounds Committee

- **The Library Station (LST) Foyer/Restroom Remodel:** The restroom remodel is underway. The foyer tile work is underway. Due to the complexity of the pattern, the carpet is 6-8 weeks out from completion. The expected completion date is October 10.
- **The Library Center (TLC):** The pavilion floor covering will begin installation on August 25.
- **Midtown/Schweitzer Brentwood Irrigation:** Due to applying to a landscaping match grant opportunity, work at Midtown and Schweitzer Brentwood has paused pending response. The grant would cover 50-90% of the project (Midtown (\$35,000) and Schweitzer Brentwood (\$65,000) costs. Potential grant funding uses at other branches are being investigated.
- **ARPA Updates:** The issues with the staff gate at The Library Center have been temporarily resolved. Following continued patron complaints about TLC's book return situation, Sapp is now reviewing options to improve its accessibility. Backordered furniture for the Republic branch has not yet been received.
- **Memory Lab Project:** Despite selecting the lowest bid, it was still \$33,000 over budget (\$13,000 over budget after use of contingency fund). Additional fundraising will be done, but should no additional funds be received, a request to the Board will be made to cover the cost of the project from the reserve funds.
- **Janitorial Services RFP:** The lowest bidding company, Ace Janitorial, was selected and will be awarded the contract. They were \$100,000 under budget.
- **Hail Damage Report:** The insurance company has estimated repair costs to be around \$1 million. Due to stringent FEMA paperwork requirements, there has been difficulty receiving bids. Buildings and Grounds Manager John Bledsoe is pursuing local contractors. A potential voluntary removal from FEMA has been discussed in order to expand the pool of bidders. Following the hail damage, the insurance deductible has increased to \$250,000 up from \$50,000. Due to the current active claim, other carriers will be pursued next year.

Finance & Personnel Committee

- Due to administrative delays, the July tax distribution from the county consisted only of PILOT funds.
- July payroll is higher due to there being three paydays. Payroll budget expectations provide room for $\pm$ \$10,000 in deviation. Should the deviation consistently exceed \$10,000, hiring would be delayed until overages are corrected.
- Motion out of committee to transfer \$717,612 in surplus from FY26 to the reserves. Motion was approved (7 yes, 0 no).

Programs, Services, & Technology Committee

- **IT:** The District is continuing its process of migrating from Google to Microsoft. Microsoft offers significant cost benefits as it offers the library a nonprofit rate of \$5.30/user versus Google's \$22.00/user, resulting in an anticipated \$49,000 in savings. Microsoft also presents significant security improvements over Google. Training opportunities were provided to staff through a third party company. The migration is scheduled to be concluded over the Labor Day holiday weekend.
 - It was noted that the migration project was initially bid at \$250,000 from third party vendors. The IT Department instead took on the project internally, shouldering a significant amount of work.
- **Legislative Committee:** It was noted that the Webster Groves library successfully passed a tax levy with 82% support. The Committee has continued to meet with community stakeholders and those who have experience with tax campaigns in the area for advice and perspectives to inform the August 2027 ballot initiative preparation timeline.

The Committee is also preparing the Library Awareness Campaign following survey data highlighting cross sections of relationships in which to increase awareness of library services and resources. Staff members will go into the community, meet with community partners, and speak about the library's service to their respective sectors.

Advertising efforts have begun. The billboards and bus ads are running around town. Three PSAs have been shot with the fourth having been scheduled.

Institutional Advancement Report

- The Ava Louise Smith Trust has made a second donation of \$1.6 million to the Library Foundation, bringing the total gift distribution to just below \$4 million in

unrestricted funding. At the Foundation Board meeting on Monday, a recommendation will be made to add the new donation to the Board-established Endowment Fund with Commerce Bank.

- Several unrestricted and significant donations have been made to the Library District. A distribution of \$24,000 from the Ursula Laton fund will be made yearly at 4% of the total fund balance of \$500,000.
- The book endowment fund will also be distributed from at that time.
- The eLibrary fund mailing continues to return new donors. Following the similar effort last year, a mailing campaign for unrestricted donations will go out this fall.
- The Friends of the Library Booksale will occur September 15-September 20.

Executive Director's Monthly Report

- The pace of change over the past two years and subsequent staff fatigue was highlighted. Due to a lack of foreseeable slowing of pace, it was noted that resources will be available to staff suffering from fatigue.
- The Americans and the Holocaust exhibit was a phenomenal success, with kudos particularly given to Library Center Branch Manager Jessie Alexander and Head of Local History Brian Grubbs for their work in coordinating and scheduling events.

Unfinished Business

- None.

New Business

Tax Rate Public Hearing

- **Approve Tax Rate**
 - Guiler presents a Motion to approve the tax rate for FY2027 for the Springfield-Greene County Library District at \$.2161 per \$100 of valuation. Yancey seconds. Motion is approved (7 yes, 0 no).

July 2026 Statistical Report

- Physical materials are down 2.71%. From FY23 to today, the trendline is negative. Digital materials are up 14.22% and since FY23 are up 100%. It was noted that the concept of the Springfield-Greene County Library District having a predominantly print collection will need to be realigned, and funding for print content will need to be moved to support the digital collection.
- These trends are consistent across all libraries across the state, and all libraries are struggling to shoulder the cost of digital materials at typically 4x that of print content.

- It was noted that Executive Director Ed Walton has had conversations with state legislators about potential legislation that would work to level the playing field for libraries against publishers setting astronomical prices.

Miscellaneous Item of Business

Debbie Lightle Litigation Settlement

- On July 21, 2026, the Library District settled a claim with Debbie Lightle who had a slipped and fallen injury on library property on January 15, 2020. She claimed that the fall injured her knee and caused complications with her cancer treatment. The case was settled under mediation for \$225,000. The settlement payment is covered by insurance.

Felin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jones seconded. Motion was approved (7 yes, 0 no).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.