

Western District Library Board Minutes January 26, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Jan Gustafson. Those present were Sue Routt, Rod Ward, Kathi Parrish, Jeanine McCaughy, and Beth Hoffman. Also present was Michelle Bailey. Absent was Julie Abbott.

Public Comments

An anonymous donation of \$1,975 was received.

November Minutes

Meeting minutes from November 24, 2025 were reviewed. Rod moved to approve as presented, Sue seconded. Voted, approved.

Communications

Michelle shared thank you notes from staff for annual raise, holiday party and poinsettia plants.

Treasurer's Reports

Rod presented the November report. Kathi moved to approve, Jeanine seconded. Voice vote, 6-0 approved, 1 absent. December treasurer's report was presented. Sue moved to approve, Rod seconded. Voice vote, 6-0 approved, 1 absent.

Director's Reports

Board reviewed the director's report for November, including the following:

- Special activity in November was Dinovember, with 36 children searching the library for hidden dinosaurs.
- Reading Dragons program dispensed 48 cards, indicating active reading completed.
- Mike Anderson gave musical program with dulcimer.
- Paws & Pages had 9 children participating.

Report for December included:

- This was a slow month on most counts, including family reading (which had no participants).
- Georgia held a Lego sensory event for neurodivergent children, with 20 participants.
- Coffee time attendance is less consistent, since the 2 "regulars" are no longer able to attend. Michelle said they'll likely pause that program for a bit.

Committee Reports

The building committee reported on meeting last Monday. Michael Chezum from MidAmerica Basement gave presentation to the committee on basement waterproofing, which was very helpful and informative. Bid was \$42,393.82 (option #1) for waterproofing alone; he also talked about "basement to beautiful wall" system (option #2), with total \$54,841.38 for both projects combined. Option #3 included a plank floor (which would alleviate need for lead remediation), to total \$81,713.66. This means we'll need to go out for competitive bids, since previous ones weren't for comparable work.

Old Business

(no old business)

New Business

- A. Board reviewed The Freedom to Read Statement and Library Bill of Rights. Jeanine moved to endorse, Sue seconded. Voted, approved.
- B. Michelle explained the new state requirement for board members to have a separate email address for library board communications. She will send account names for each member to get those accounts set up.

Closed Session

No closed session.

Other Business/Future Agenda Considerations

Sue asked for suggestions for next year's holiday party. No one immediately had any input.

Sue moved to adjourn, Jeanine seconded. Voted, approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Parrish, Secretary