



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

6:00 PM May 15, 2025

Hampton Memorial Library

PRESIDING: Ms. Lori Osborn, Chair – At Large

Dr. Alfred Wheeler – District 1 (Clemson)

Ms. Nancy Miller – District 2 (Six Mile/Central)

Mr. Danny Parton – District 3 (Pickens)

Ms. Alesa Pinkerton – District 4 (Liberty)

Dr. Henry Wilson – District 5 (Easley)

Ms. Susan Childers – District 6 (Dacusville)

1. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Report from Tammy, PCLS Children's Librarian

We have had an exciting year in youth services with the programs that we've had. The Dog Man Series, Barbie Birthday Bash, and Star Wars May the 4th Be With You programs were very successful and well attended. The bees are back and thriving. We welcomed them home with a House Swarming Party program. The youth services department is getting ready for our Summer Reading Program (SRP). We will have SRP Kickoff on May 30th from 10 am to 1 pm at all four locations. We will have outdoor games like cornhole and connect four out on the lawn for the kids to enjoy, face painting, live music and food trucks. Looking at our attendance stats from 2022 compared to last year, our attendance has nearly doubled. We are projecting high numbers again this summer. We will have the programs for Pickens and Liberty branches at the Pickens Rec Center and the Liberty Rec Center to allow for more attendance. The programs this summer will be by Gravity Check, Roper Mountain Science Center, Critter Keeper, Professor Whizzpop, Wildlife Geek, Do Art Productions, and Big Bang Boom. We will have other programs focusing on different types of art to keep with the Color Our World SRP theme, like designing hot wheels car, paint and sippy cup, comic book workshop, and bad art program. The reading log will be similar to last year's, where you can do a combination of reading, program participation and activities to complete it. Kids and adults are encouraged to participate and fill out as many logs as they want. Each log will give you an entry to the grand prize drawing. For the first log you complete, you'll receive a gift bag to color with crayons in it, bookmarks, a bracelet, a gift certificate for one float with Saluda River Tubing Company, a gift certificate for a free kid's meal at Outback and Greenville Drive is partnering with us again for a ticket.

Ms. Childers thanked Tammy for all her hard work throughout the years with the school district. The Pickens County Library System has always been a big supporter of the educational system in Pickens.

3. Public Comment

Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per participant and 30 minutes total.

Ms. Osborn reads the public comment policy. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to have allow all 16 participants to speak for 3 minutes. Ms. Osborn seconded the motion. Ms. Osborn, Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Childers were in favor. Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton and Ms. Miller were opposed. Motion failed. Only 10 participants will speak.

1. Crystal Chappell – She appreciates the library's Summer Reading Program. Her family enjoys participating in SRP every year. She appreciates that the library serves a diverse community and works hard.
2. Skyler Shepard – declined to speak
3. Deborah Hudson – She spoke about her reconsideration request for *The Bluest Eye*. She said that the book was very disturbing. She spoke about a letter from the ACLU sent to the board. She agrees there are many positive services the library offers.

4. Lou Kaye – A sophomore at Daniel High School and representative for Students Against Book Banning. She expressed that in all her years growing up in Pickens County she has never encountered anything vulgar or any pornography in the library because there is none.
5. Brittany Fowler – Asked how she can help the library keep their millage. She spoke about how unreasonable it is to request something be removed from a public park just because she doesn't like it. Libraries, like parks, should have something for everyone.
6. Johnelle Raines – Spoke about proviso 27.1 and about age-inappropriate books in the library. She expressed that the library is endangered of not receiving state funding this coming fiscal year.
7. Craig Holcombe -He does not support banning books, and a library should be where anyone can get the answers to the questions they have.
8. Karen Mims – Spoke about how she supports and regularly uses the library. Public libraries should always uphold and protect intellectual freedom.
9. Cynthia Warner – Spoke about supporting librarians and being an active library user with three different counties. She explained that many professions could not do their profession without libraries, like scientists, teachers, lawyers etc.
10. Reba Kruse – Spoke about rejecting censorship and that the role of government is to protect people's freedoms no matter the age. The public library is not a church.
11. Rene Geahan
12. Rob Rafaniello
13. Kerrie Seymour
14. Juliet Penna
15. Denise Davidson
16. Alexis Runninger

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Library Board Meeting March 20, 2025

Ms. Childers made a motion to approve the March 20, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion. Ms. Miller mentioned that at the last meeting Samantha Brown spoke about a book her daughter checked out to use for a book report, but she was not sure of the title of the book. Ms. Miller stated that she found out from the teacher that the book's title is *Harusono*, and there are 7 volumes of this book at the Easley library. Ms. Osborn explained that this has nothing to do with approving the minutes and Ms. Miller can request that the topic be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Osborn stated that we are voting to approve of what actually happened at the meeting and not adding to the minutes what you investigated on your own. Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Osborn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Pinkerton, and Ms. Childers approve of the minutes. Mr. Parton is opposed. Motion carried 5 to 1 vote.

5. Library Director's Report

a. Library Information

The Director explained that the proviso will be discussed in conference committee work to resolve discrepancies between the House and Senate versions of the budget so that the budget can be passed. They will discuss whether they will move forward with the Senate version of the proviso which includes amendments by Senator Rex Rice or go forward with the current version which is the House version.

We did reach out to the State Library Director about scheduling a workshop with her, we gave several different dates. Her response was, "I have every faith that Stephanie, as the Library Director and as a professional librarian will be able to

facilitate a conversation and decision making with the Pickens County Library Board. Additionally, Stephanie has SCSL guidance on this topic along with information that has been shared on the South Carolina Association of Public Library Administrators (SCAPLA) discussions that can be used to assist the Pickens County Library Board. However, if assistance is still needed, please let us know and we will work to find a date that is mutually acceptable as soon as we can." We are happy to ask again if the board so chooses, to still have a workshop with her. We would just need clarification on whether the workshop is just a general workshop or if it is focused on her guidance. We can try to at least get someone on her staff to come and give the workshop. Mr. Wheeler suggested that the board waits to have the workshop until after the decision on the amendments of the proviso are made. Mr. Parton suggested that we wait until January when new board members join and have a workshop to go over the state library manual.

The Director explained about the renovation project that she will be meeting with the county project manager on Tuesday to review the status of the HVAC phase of the renovation. She requested that the project manager meet with the Renovation/Construction Committee during the first two weeks of June. Once the meeting date and time are finalized, she will communicate the details.

The Director reported that the library is currently fully staffed.

The Director explained about building maintenance that the bid to replace the carpet at the Sarlin Library in Liberty has been published. The flooring failure occurred unexpectedly, and we are allocating local funds from our budget to address the issue promptly. This repair is a priority to eliminate tripping hazards caused by lifting carpet tiles. Previous spot repairs and adhesive applications have proven insufficient. Additionally, we will replace the flooring on the main level and in the elevator of the Hampton Memorial Library this weekend. The library will be closed on Saturday and Sunday, with other branches remaining open during their regular hours. Hampton Memorial Library will reopen Monday morning with standard operating hours. This project was initially scheduled for May 5 (Staff Day), but a moisture issue discovered during the process required extending the timeline to a two-day replacement. Completing this repair before the start of Summer Reading ensures the library is ready for the busy season. Upcoming projects include meeting room flooring replacement at the Sarlin Library on June 13 and at the Central-Clemson Library on June 12. Additionally, new chairs for the Central-Clemson Library meeting room are scheduled to arrive next week. On May 5th we had a staff day for training in CPR, AED use, choking and wound treatment. We want to thank Pickens County Emergency Services and Fire Department for teaching us. We also discussed Summer Reading and launching the new youth card accounts, so everyone is prepped and ready to go.

The Friends of the Library is currently selling tickets to the Belk Charity Sale Event. They are \$5 a ticket and can be used at any Belk on June 6-8. You can shop early May 27-June 5 and reserve your items during this time and pick them up June 6-8. The Friends are scheduled to give the Board a presentation at the upcoming July Board meeting.

b. Library Statistics

The Director reported that new borrowers are down 7% but that will skyrocket during summer reading. The eBooks have gone down a little due to our changing our procurement with the eBooks, there were a few months that we could not get the newest items, so we will see that tread up again next report. Computer and wireless users continue to go down due to our Wi-Fi Hotspots program being so popular and the county's internet access efforts. Adult programs are down a little, but the attendance is up 23% due to our efforts to have better quality programs over quantity of programs. The teens outreach is down because last year we attended YLA because they don't have a library, but we did not go there this year.

c. Financial Report

The Director reports that with one month left in the fiscal year, library collections exceeded the amount that we thought we would collect this year due to the passport services and notary services income. This allowed us to move funds to our programming and outreach fund. We accepted more donations than expected from the Friends of the Library book sales, this was also moved to the programming fund to pay for the Summer Reading Program events through June. Local book fund of \$47,000, that we would normally use for programming and outreach, we can keep for Liberty to have the carpet replace, because it is becoming a safety issue and tripping hazard. In the renovation fund, they have taken the HVAC expense which leaves around \$425,000 in that account for the rest of the renovation project.

d. Foundation Report

The Director reports that we have taken in a little over \$1300. \$1000 is a donation made by an individual and we sold two leaves and one shirt, leaving us at \$78,587 in our foundation account. We tried to use state funds to replace the two library vans. There was a purchasing issue with the vehicle we wanted. It was a state vendor, but it was not on the state procurement plan. All they had was a larger vehicle that wouldn't work for us. We will try again in the new fiscal year to use state funds to purchase one or possibly two vehicles. One to replace the courier van and another for staff to travel for children's outreach visits to the daycare centers.

6. Motion Period and New Business

Matters can be added to the agenda by appropriate motion, second, and majority vote of the Board.

Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to change the name of the 13- to 17-year-old section to “Teen.” Mr. Parton seconded the motion. The Director stated that the “YA” and “Teens” terms have been interchangeable terms since the late 50s, there is still debate on what the language is. No matter what you call it, you will still have to educate people on what that section is, because those terms have been interchangeable for so long. We can change it, but I think that will cause more confusion. The Director suggested adding it to the July agenda for further discussion and in the meantime, we can get clarification from the State Librarian. Ms. Pinkerton stated that her reason is because on the website everything mentions “Teens”, nothing says “Young Adult.” If we keep it consistent it would be clearer for parents when they chose what restrictions, they want on their child’s account. The Director stated that typically the collection is called “YA”, and the programing is called “Teen,” it’s been that way forever in this county. I have never had any of our library users approach me and say it is confusing for them. Everyone that is a library user understands the meaning; we would be creating an issue where there isn’t one. Mr. Wheeler explained that he would like time to think about the options, so instead of rushing a vote, let’s table it for the next meeting. The Director suggested asking patrons for their opinion on changing the collection to “Teen” versus “YA.” With the launch of the new card account, it would be a great opportunity to get their input on whether or not this would be helpful or confusing. Mr. Parton expressed that most people in the community would agree that when you say “Teen” you mean teenager, so there is a hint of deception when you say, “Young Adult.” Ms. Osborn asked if it would be hard to have a survey done before the next meeting. The Director says it would not be difficult to have a paper survey and an online survey. Mr. Wheeler would like time to consider the matter. Ms. Pinkerton amended her motion to add changing the “Young Adult” section name to “Teen” to the July agenda. Ms. Childers seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

a. Library Board officer elections

Chairman Nominations - Ms. Osborn was nominated by Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Parton was nominated by Ms. Miller.

All those in favor of Ms. Osborn – Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Osborn and Ms. Childers

All those opposed to Ms. Osborn – Mr. Parton, Ms. Miller and Ms. Pinkerton

All those in favor of Mr. Parton - Mr. Parton, Ms. Miller and Ms. Pinkerton

All those opposed to Mr. Parton - Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Osborn and Ms. Childers

Results for Chairman – Tied vote. Vote tabled for next meeting with a full board.

Vice Chair Nominations – Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Pinkerton

All those in favor of Mr. Wheeler – Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Osborn and Ms. Childers

All those opposed to Mr. Wheeler – Mr. Parton, Ms. Miller and Ms. Pinkerton

All those in favor of Ms. Pinkerton - Mr. Parton, Ms. Miller and Ms. Pinkerton

All those opposed to Ms. Pinkerton - Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Osborn and Ms. Childers

Results for Vice Chair – Tied vote. Vote tabled for next meeting with a full board

Treasurer Nomination – Ms. Childers

All those in favor of Ms. Childers – Unanimous

Results for Treasurer – Ms. Childers

Secretary Nomination – Ms. Miller

All those in favor of Ms. Miller – Unanimous

Results for Secretary – Ms. Miller

b. Reconsideration appeal for *Sold* by Patricia McCormick

Ms. Osborn made a motion to keep *Sold* by Patricia McCormick in the young adult section. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion. Ms. Pinkerton asked if the motion should be what the petitioner asked for, to move it to the adult section. Ms. Osborn clarified that her motion is based on her opinion of where she thinks the book should be and Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and now, we are in discussion.

Mr. Wheeler pointed out that the petitioner quotes from a 7-year-old book review that addresses classroom use of the book not the inclusion of a public library. A book about sex trafficking can be troubling, even though this one is fictional it is well researched and can offer valuable insights into this awful world. The depiction of resilience and development of relationships and trust, under the worst conditions, supersedes any traumatic scenes. The traumatic sexual scenes are not unduly graphic and are only used to convey the agony of forced sex. We have to realize that in the process of seeking to protect children from anguish, we in fact may hinder their enlightenment. This book has won numerous awards for literary merit, including being nominated for a South Carolina book award, and does not violate proviso 27.1. I cannot imagine

anyone's prurient interest being stimulated by the brutality of forced sex scenes. As for the petitioner's desire to limit access, with the upcoming revised youth library cards, parents have the option of being notified of what books their children are checking out and limiting what sections they may check books out from. I do agree with the author of the review cited by the petitioner, that ideally parents should read this book with their teens. Moving a book about a teen, spoken through the voice of a teen, that has no prurient content, to the adult section is not warranted.

Mr. Parton stated that the book is very troubling. He would like to give the parents the opportunity to decide if they want their child, teen or young adult to read this because it is so graphic in the details of what took place with this young girl. It's not banning it from the library; it's moving it to the adult section.

Ms. Osborn stated that the book is a good cautionary tale for the youth in the community. The book takes place in Nepal, but the same things go on in this county. It's a story that needs to be told especially in this day and age. Pickens County is between Greenville and Anderson County; these two counties are in the top 5 counties in South Carolina for human trafficking. Many survivors did not even realize that they were being trafficked, because it started at such a young age. If a book is available in the library and they can read that what is happening to them is indeed a crime and there is help available that could be their lifeline and what they need to free themselves. Anytime we deny teens/young adults the ability to know and to learn that sometimes what they've been brought up to learn is perfectly okay is not okay, then we are depriving them of their rights.

Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Osborn and Ms. Childers are in favor of keeping it in the young adult section. Mr. Parton, Ms. Miller and Ms. Pinkerton are opposed to keeping it in the young adult section. Motion tied. *Sold* by Patricia McCormick will remain in the young adult section.

c. Library Budget FY26 updates

The Director stated that at the last council meeting, the second reading of the budget, it was proposed and passed that our millage would be going away. The Board Chair, Treasurer and Director went before the county's budget committee and as of that last council meeting, they had not yet made a recommendation to the council about our budget yet. The County council asked for the Director to go through the same process as the other department heads, by meeting with the county's budget committee. The Director informed the council that the board is fiscally responsible, and she would need to at least have the library board chair and treasurer present at that meeting. The County council did not want the library budget committee present due to it being a quorum. Ms. Pinkerton would like the chair to notify all other board members when they have meetings with the county's budget committee.

7. Old Business

a. Updates - Youth (Under 18) Library Card Application Roll out process

The Director explained that the new adult library card half sheet application and the new youth card application on canary yellow paper intentionally look different, so they don't get accidentally mistaken, and they are easily identifiable. These applications have been in place and active as of May 12th. Every branch has the same ones. On June 2nd we will launch the PR component of the new applications along with the Summer Reading Program educating people that it is available. We will let everyone know that if you already have a youth card, you can still opt to change to one of these types of accounts. We're planning on advertising for 6 months and that can be extended if the board wants. We did get one feedback about a parent signing up for the restricted youth card, but then later noticed her teen couldn't check out DVDs and they wanted then to be able to, so they went back to the unrestricted. We did make sure to let all of our managers know and communicate to staff that work in circulation to gather any feedback they get from the community and send it to us so we can make any needed adjustments.

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Parton seconded. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 17th, 2025, 6:00pm at the Hampton Memorial Library, Easley