



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

6:00 PM September 25, 2025

Central Clemson 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 6:03 pm. Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton and Ms. Miller were not present at this meeting. Dr. Wilson was threatened by a citizen; he asked the police officer present to escort her from the building.

2. State Aid form to be signed in front of Board quorum

The Assistant Director explained that the board chair needs to sign the document that certifies that the library meets the requirements for receiving state funding in front of a quorum. Ms. Osborn signed the document.

Dr. Wilson expressed that the reason we called this meeting, as discussed at the last board meeting, was to publicly discuss and vote on whether we should sign this document.

Ms. Osborn stated that we don't need a vote to sign this document.

Dr. Wheeler said that we have talked about this for months, what else is there to discuss.

Dr. Wilson explained that because the board said that we would vote on and discuss whether or not to sign the document, we need to do what we publicly stated we would do at the last board meeting, even though the board members that wanted this vote are not present at this meeting.

Dr. Wheeler made a motion to discuss whether it is ethically appropriate to sign the document to receive state funding. Ms. Childers seconded the motion.

Dr. Wilson stated that he plans to abstain from this vote because he disagrees with the political coercion that is going on.

Ms. Childers stated that the state librarian sent a letter stating that the library is not following their own policies, but we have been. We have the reconsideration policy, reading the reconsidered material, and the new youth card application signed by the parent with what material they will allow their child to check out. But the state librarian seems to think that we are not following these policies.

Dr. Wilson asked how many times each board member individually has called the state librarian and talked to her one-on-one?

Dr. Wheeler and Ms. Osborn had one phone conversation with the state librarian when they were developing these policies, besides the workshop she did last year.

Dr. Wilson said that he heard that the state librarian has received a large volume of calls from the board members of the Pickens County Library System.

Ms. Childers asked who read the books on that list, because they cannot be judged by just a few pages; they must be read in their entirety. None of the board members has read them, how can we move them without having read them?

Dr. Wheeler stated that the process that apparently exists is that anyone can submit books to the legislative delegation without certifying that they've read the books. Then the legislative delegation can send the board the books without having read them, and then the board is supposed to vote on whether to move the books or not, without having read them. This is bureaucratic madness. Instead of spending countless hours working through the legislative delegation, submit the books through the reconsideration process. The board is committed to reading up to 3 books a month, so the nine books on that list that have not gone through the process, could go through it within 3 months. Using our reconsideration policy.

Dr. Wilson stated that if the board does not ignore our own policies and follow our processes, it should prevent us and protect us from having to go through a lawsuit.

Dr. Wheeler stated that the Director stated that in her professional opinion the parts that were given to her to review do not meet the legal definition of prurient material. Therefore, we do not have reason to move these books. Dr. Wheeler stated that he will not move a book without having read it and evaluate it first.

Ms. Childers mentioned that she agrees with Dr. Wheeler and that in the past she has voted to move some books after reading it. The library has also moved books before it even comes to the board for review, through the reconsideration policy.

The Assistant Director stated that even the books that she advised to move to the adult section did not meet the legal definition of prurient.

Dr. Wilson expressed that when you move books because of political coercion, because someone specifically says, “we don’t care about the process, we think these books are wrong and we want you to move them.” That’s when it becomes a legal problem. As part of the government, we can’t just pick whose values and morals are best. The library is buying books on both sides of the fence, lots of different books with different issues.

The Assistant Director said that if we move the book, it is because it is in the wrong section.

Dr. Wilson said that the complaints he is getting don’t seem to come with a well-rounded reason. It is a constitutional issue and political coercion when the board starts moving books based solely on opinions and not because of educational values or merit. Since the board represents the government, we can’t say that the morality of this person is better than the morality of that person. Dr. Wilson read part of an email from Kevin Keller that was forwarded to him, “I hope that you’re proud of Henry Wilson for standing up for free speech and letting faggots put their grooming trash in our libraries” Dr. Wilson stated that Kevin Keller sent this feedback to someone by email, and he is very active in the county’s political organization. Dr. Wilson stated that anyone can get a copy of this email by FOIA. Dr. Wilson stated that this is the feedback he is getting, and it disenfranchises an entire group of people based on someone else’s specific belief system.

Ms. Osborn expressed that this is why the board developed the policies that put the control with the parents, because it is the parent’s responsibility.

Dr. Wheeler stated that it is the board's legal and fiduciary responsibility to decide what in the library is prurient and what is not, not a legislative delegation, not an individual or small group. It is the library board’s responsibility. Not every book would satisfy everyone. If we removed every book from the library that didn’t have 100% support from the community, the library would probably be empty.

Dr. Wilson shared how he read an explicitly graphic book about living through World War 2 with the Nazis when he was in the eighth grade and it changed his entire worldview, how he viewed serving his country and motivated him into service. Parents may be afraid for their kids to read something that is going to change their childhood, but you can’t shield them from everything. If you made the choice to have 9 kids that is your choice and right, but if other people want to allow their kids to read something that you would allow your kids to read that is their choice and right. Dr. Wilson stated that he wanted to make sure the points are made with this discussion, because the other 3 board members did not show up tonight to make their point. Dr. Wilson stated that he agrees that it is frustrating that this is still an issue when the board has set up the library card application to keep parents in the driver's seat and then you have politicians, like Denise Davidson, coming up here to the board meeting stating “you’re either for porn or you’re for protecting kids.” Dr. Wilson continued that the board said at the last meeting we were going to have a vote, so let’s vote.

Dr. Wheeler reiterated that the motion is that we are voting on whether it is ethically appropriate to sign the document to receive state funding.

Ms. Childers seconded the motion.

Dr. Wilson stated that he believes that the only reason we’re experiencing this is political coercion at the worst possible level and it directly leads to a question about people’s constitutional rights, so he plans to abstain from this vote.

A citizen asked to make a comment and the board chair declined due to this meeting not being a town hall meeting.

Ms. Osborn called for a vote on the motion. Ms. Osborn, Dr. Wheeler and Ms. Childers voted in favor. Dr. Wilson abstained from the vote. Mr. Parton, Ms. Miller and Ms. Pinkerton were not present. The vote passed.

Ms. Osborn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Wheeler seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 20th, 2025, 6:00pm at the Central-Clemson Library