



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA

5:30 pm March 19, 2026
Hampton Memorial Library
304 Biltmore Road Easley, SC 29640

PRESIDING: Mr. Danny Parton, Chair- District 3 (Pickens)

Dr. Alfred Wheeler – District 1 (Clemson)	Mr. Robert Sams – District 5 (Easley)
Ms. Nancy Miller, Sec – District 2 (Six Mile/Central)	Mr. Brian Aiken – District 6 (Dacusville)
Ms. Alesa Pinkerton, V. Chair – District 4 (Liberty)	Mr. Mark Kilburn, Treasurer – At Large

1. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. Roll Call for the Record
 - b. Accept Agenda as written
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments – Limit to (3) minutes each (Total 30 minutes)
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Library Board Meeting 1/15/26
 - b. Policy Committee Meeting 1/22/26
 - c. Budget Committee Meeting 1/23/26
 - d. Redo- Policy Committee Meeting 1/28/26
 - e. Special Called Meeting 2/12/26
 - f. Special Called Meeting 2/24/26
 - g. Special Called Meeting 3/6/26
 - h. Special Called Meeting 3/10/26
5. Library Directors Report
 - a. Sarlin Branch Manager Report
 - b. Library Information – Interim Director
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Foundation Report
6. Old Business
 - a. Amend Collection Policy to move only new material and use Reconsideration Policy for all other material– Discuss & possible motion
 - b. Continuation of Collection Policy – Discuss & possible motion
 - c. Certification form for State – Discuss & possible motion to sign
7. New Business
 - a. Discuss & possible motion of the minutes/changes and video of meetings
 - b. Discuss & possible motion - Change meeting time back 6:00pm
8. Executive Session

S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (A) allows closed meetings in limited instances if the presiding officer states the specific purpose of the executive session, including a description of the matter to be discussed while maintaining privacy of the identity of individuals or entities involved, and the decision to adjourn into executive session is voted on publicly.

a. Legal-Section 30-4-70(A)(2)

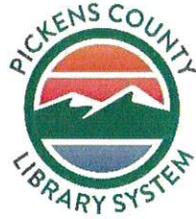
- Discussion of attorney correspondence from Grove Ozment and legal advice regarding potential claims; discussion of potential retention of legal counsel.

9. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS (as needed)

While the SC Freedom of Information Act allows for certain matters to be discussed outside the presence of the public, any votes on such matters can only take place once the Board has returned to public session.

10. Meeting Adjourn

Next Meetings: Regular Meeting: 6:00pm, May 21, 2026, at Hampton Memorial Library



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

6:00 PM January 15, 2026
Hampton Memorial Library
304 Biltmore Road Easley, SC 29640

PRESIDING: Mr. Danny Parton, Chair – District 3 (Pickens)

Dr. Alfred Wheeler – District 1 (Clemson)	Ms. Alesa Pinkerton – District 4 (Liberty)
Ms. Nancy Miller – District 2 (Six Mile/Central)	TBD – District 5 (Easley)
Mr. Mark Kilburn – At Large	Mr. Brian Aiken – District 6 (Dacusville)

1. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Parton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Miller did roll call confirming that there is a quorum. Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken and Ms. Miller all stated they were present.

Mr. Parton made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Mr. Parton continued with the moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Chairman's Report/Rules for Public Comments

Mr. Parton stated his appreciation for being the chair of the library board and he intends to serve well. He wants the library to be a place for the whole community. Mr. Patron read the rules for Public Comment.

3. Public Comments – Limit to (3) minutes each (Total 30 minutes)

- Rachel Cox** – She thanked the board and welcomed the new board members. She spoke about the difference between public libraries and home libraries, school libraries, church libraries and bookstores. Public libraries are meant to serve all members of the community, whatever their background, beliefs, age, or financial situation. She expressed gratitude for all the various library programs that her family currently enjoys. Her hope is that the board does not limit access to books based on their own personal beliefs and instead trust individuals and families to make their own decisions about what to read. She expressed that library policies must be clear, not ambiguous or vague and they should be applied without discrimination.
- Lou Kaye** – President and founder of Students Against Book Banning at Daniel High School. She stated that the increased censorship of literature in this area, sounds like history repeating itself and this didn't end well for Germany. She has watched this board violate their own policy and the Freedom of Information Act by caving to political coercion and banning books without even reviewing them. She stated that she is not affected by another person's choice to read or not read her favorite book, she cannot force someone else to enjoy it. She stated that the board should not make decisions in the place of a parent or guardian about a child you don't even know, that is not how libraries are supposed to work.
- Debbie Hudson** – She welcomed new board members and thanked the board for their service. She mentioned that she hopes the board will revisit the collections policy to protect minors from stumbling

upon obscene, age-inappropriate graphic sexual content. She spoke about how her request to move a book to the adult section was denied last year and that this violates the requirements for the Pickens County Library System to receive state funding. She is concerned about the types of books taken by librarians to innocent children in daycares. She asked that the board make wise decisions in 2026 to restore trust in the library system.

4. **Brigit (Gigi) Greenberger** – She welcomed the new board members. She expressed to the new board members her confidence in them to serve with distinction upholding the critical principles of fiscal responsibility, community centered decision-making, protecting our innocent children in their special learning environment, and professional conduct. She assured the board of broad-based support of citizens and families in Pickens County.
5. **Johnnelle Raines** - She welcomed the new board members and expressed appreciation for their time and expertise. She expressed faith in the board to provide the community with access to appropriate collections. She stated that there is legislation currently being introduced to protect minors even more from harmful materials. She expressed that she wanted the board to understand that the South Carolina law in place to protect minors from obscene material does not mention that you must take into consideration the whole book, that is only if you are removing a book from circulation completely. She stated that proviso 27.1 is not about removing or banning any book from circulation but rather addressing age appropriateness in material and correct placement of those books. She stated that there are plenty of books in our teen section that produce arousal of lewd and lascivious desires and thoughts. She stated that Senator Rex Rice assured her that he will report the library's non-compliance in February if the board signs that they are in compliance when they are not.
6. **Kate Byrd** – “Members of the Board, Director, and members of the public. My name is Kate Byrd. I am a Pickens County resident, a retired librarian, a library patron, and a taxpayer. Please include these remarks in the official public record. I submit them not only as a resident, but as someone who spent a career upholding professional standards, ethical responsibility, and public trust in libraries. This Board has changed rapidly, and with that change comes responsibility-especially the responsibility to recognize that the Pickens County Library is a limited public forum under the First Amendment. A public library cannot restrict access to materials based on viewpoint or personal disagreement with content. Viewpoint discrimination by a public library is unconstitutional and carries legal risk for the county. The policy changes on tonight's agenda are deeply concerning. Most troubling is the removal of references to the First Amendment, along with the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement. These documents exist to guide policy and protect patrons' constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. Their removal, combined with other proposed policy changes, represents a significant change from long-standing professional and legal standards. At last week's Board meeting, a change to committee appointments was proposed and approved during the meeting. The publicly posted agenda listed two committees. One was replaced, without prior public notice that the change would be acted upon, by the Policy and Public Awareness Committee. South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act requires reasonable public notice of matters to be acted upon, particularly when decisions affect governance and policymaking authority. This Board has previously reversed a decision involving library materials after similar notice concerns, raising concerns about recurring process issues. I want to place on record my support for the Board member who has consistently defended patrons' rights, and for the Library Director, whose professionalism reflects the ethical standards libraries are meant to uphold. Any adverse action against those who follow policy and the Constitution discourages lawful and principled decision-making and increases liability. I respectfully suggest that this Board consult legal counsel and honor the constitutional obligations associated with your office. Thank you.”

7. **Virginia King** – She welcomed new board members. She looks forward to all the board will do to make the library great again. She explained that it is not accurate that they are trying to ban books. She believes in providing age-appropriate books in the children’s section. She suggests having an “adults only” section of the library where kids can only enter with a parent. She said that having a library card where children can’t check out adult-only books is not good enough, because they can wander the library and read anything in the library. She feels the public library needs to be responsible enough to help the parents protect the children. She offered to volunteer to help with this anyway she can.
8. **Debra Sole** – She thanked the board for serving. She said that we cannot provide filthy books full of sexual perversion and allow children to be exposed to authors who do not have their best interest at heart. She explained that freedoms are not a free-for-all, they come with responsibility.
9. **Denise Davidson** – She stated that the agenda is full of needed changes to policy to bring this library into compliance. She thanked the board for their hard work.
10. **Reba Kruse** - My name is Reba Kruse. I am a Pickens County resident, a library patron, and the parent of two teenagers. I am speaking tonight to address substantive defects in the proposed Collection Development Policy. This draft makes material changes that alter how access decisions are made and it does so by removing long-standing professional safeguards. First, the policy redefines the term "young adult" as ages eighteen to twenty-five and recommends locating those materials in the adult section, while simultaneously narrowing what may be included in the teen collection. This departs from established publishing, educational, and library practice, where young adult materials are written for readers roughly age twelve to eighteen and serve as a recognized transitional collection. This change eliminates a developmental category and restricts access by design. As a parent, I want to emphasize that teens are neither children nor adults. Removing this middle space replaces parental choice with a blanket restriction applied to all families. Second, the policy embeds vague and legally loaded content standards directly into the selection policy. Terms such as "graphic," "pervasive vulgarity," and "prurient interest" are not professional library selection criteria. They are subjective terms drawn from legal contexts that require judicial analysis. Placing these standards into a collection policy invites inconsistent enforcement and shifts staff decision-making from professional judgment to controversy avoidance. That shift exposes staff to pressure, uneven application, and accusations of bias, regardless of intent. I also want to note for the record that the draft removes every reference to diversity from the existing policy. Diversity in a collection development context is a neutral, professional standard used to ensure breadth of subject matter and viewpoint, and its removal increases the risk of disparate impact in both selection and challenge outcomes. Third, the draft removes explicit principles that protect the library from ideological misuse. The existing policy states that the presence of an item in the collection does not represent endorsement or promotion by the library, and that the library subscribes to the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement. That language is being removed. This deletion is significant. Non-endorsement language and alignment with recognized professional standards exist to prevent materials from being treated as advocacy or indoctrination. Removing these statements strips away a key safeguard that protects both the institution and its staff. It also weakens the library’s ability to demonstrate neutrality when challenged. Pickens County Library Board of Trustees Meeting Jan 15, 2026 - Written Comment 1 Policy revisions must be evaluated not only by what they add, but by what they intentionally remove. The combined effect here is a clear shift away from professional neutrality toward preemptive restriction. This statement is made for the public record as documentation of the policy's procedural defects and increased institutional risk.
11. **Brittany Fowler** – She welcomed the new board members and states she is speaking tonight as an advocate for the library system and the people it serves across Pickens County. She encouraged the

board to consider how it can best support the library's mission, not just through policy, but through partnership. She stated that we have a team of trained professional librarians and staff who know how to manage collections, create engaging programs, and serve a diverse public with care and professionalism. She stated that the library is losing momentum on the things that truly move the library forward like program development, outreach, funding, and advocacy. She said that the library lost its dedicated millage not long ago, and now the library is at the mercy of the general fund. The library needs board members who are willing to collaborate with county council, advocate for improved funding, and help ensure that our branches can continue to meet the growing needs of our community. She believes that advocating for the library's budget should be your number one priority, not squabbling over where things are placed on a shelf. She encouraged the board to trust the professionals they hired, stay to support the library's future.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Library Board Meeting 11/20/25**
- b. Special Called Meeting 12/22/25**
- c. Special Called Meeting 1/8/2026**

Mr. Parton made a motion to accept the minutes of all three meetings. Mr. Kilburn seconded the motion. Mr. Parton asked for discussion. No discussion was given. Mr. Parton stated that the minutes are approved.

5. Library Directors Report

a. Library Information

The Director reported:

1. HVAC replacement at the main library is finished except for addressing minor issues and installing the new control panels. The Renovation of spaces at the Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library is going well, they are now getting pricing from consultants and hopefully it won't be too long before we can start construction.
2. United Way Free File at the Libraries - Begins Tuesday, January 20th and will take place at all of the library locations, if you have made an annual salary of \$69,000.00 or below you can call 2-1-1 to set up an appointment.
3. Welcome New Branch Manager at the Village Branch in Pickens (Jessica White) Jessica has worked as a Children's librarian for 12 years and prior to that worked as a middle school and high school teacher.
4. Seed Library and upcoming programming - The Seed Library is restocked and will re-open on Monday February 2nd. You can visit the Sarlin Library in Liberty every week in February to get 10 packets of free seeds per person with your library card. Choose from multiple kinds of vegetable, flower, and herb seeds including heirloom varieties. For more information and guidelines for the Seed Library you can visit our website. There will also be pop-up seed libraries at the other library locations: February 9th at Easley from 2-3pm, February 11th at Pickens from 2-3pm, and February 23rd at Central-Clemson from 2-3pm. We have some great February programming coming up and the newsletter will be available next week.

b. Financial Report

The Director reports that everything looks good. We are asking county why the computer equipment account (4810) has more money in it than we budgeted, it is not an overage, but possibly a glitch. Everything else is right on track for the midway point of the year.

Dr. Wheeler asked if the overtime account at 75% use is due to the vacant staff positions. The Director clarified that the overtime account is not real overtime, it is when part-time staff work beyond their 20 hours. Part-time staff will cover the vacancies. We currently have two vacancies. Funds from the part-time account would just be moved over to overtime account make up the difference.

Mr. Kilburn asked what time-period the financial report covers. The Director stated that it is to date and the board will get a report at every regular board meeting. The date this report was run is January 12, 2026. Mr. Kilburn asked if the “encumbrances” column on the report is money that you’ve committed to spend but have not actually paid yet. The Director stated that it is correct, it is what we’ve requisitioned but the check hasn’t gone out yet. Mr. Kilburn asked if “books” are the same as printed material. The Director explained that “books” is really circulating material and she requested to change “books” to “circulating material” because this would include things like the Library of Things items, Wi-Fi Hotspots, DVDs etc. The Director clarified that “direct assistance” is state aid and state aid covers circulating materials too, except for this year because they are trying to buy some vans with state aid. Mr. Kilburn asked if “department support” lines are grants. The Director answered yes, “department support” are grants. Mr. Kilburn pointed out that there are no subtotals on the spread sheet and that confused him. Mr. Kilburn asked about “software and equipment” contracts being used up. The Director explained that it is a yearly contract that county used to pay for at the end of the year, but now they are asking to pay for it at the beginning of the year and that is why the account shows used up for the year.

c. Foundation Report

The Director reports that the foundation looks good and they took in a significant amount of money and the account is almost \$80,000. They have sold a few leaves, and the T-shirts are on sale now for \$10 each. They are trying to sell out the T-shirts so they can design a new T-shirt to sell.

d. Quarterly Statistical Report – Assistant Director

The Assistant Director explained that this report is for our second quarter, October through December. Visitors are up 11%. New borrowers, computers and wireless users are all down because last year we had FEMA and early voting here. We had an increase of 15,000 people here using our resources and we made a big push for people to sign up for library cards while they are here voting. We compared our statistics from FY24 to FY26, and we are right on par with where we should be this year. The regular material circulation is still feeling the effects of the delay in getting state funding and the delay in ordering books. The E-material is way up on everything. Programming is doing well; teen programming is exploding with attendance up 116%. Outreach is down a little bit due to some events that we went to last year that were specific to hurricane Helen and Treats on the Streets got rained out this year, so our outreach attendance took a hit. Dr. Wheeler asked about the massive increase in the teen programming attendance. The Assistant Director explained that the teen programmer is doing a really good job and the teen want to come to her programs and the teens will tell their friends.

Ms. Pinkerton asked what the difference is between the eBooks and e-audio. The Assistant Director explained that eBooks are electronic written books and e-audio are audio books.

6. Friends of the Library Report – Friends Executive Board Member

Mr. Robert Sams, the Friends of the Library Treasurer, reported that The Friends of the Pickens County Library System is a volunteer organization that is the “booster club” for our libraries and librarians. Currently we have 150 active members. We are sustained through memberships, donations, and fundraising activities.

In 2025 volunteers participated in two Belk Charity Days events, we held a very successful book-lovers quilt raffle, and we had a “\$20 for 20 Years” fundraiser in honor of the Easley branch’s 20th anniversary.

Our long-standing, monthly used book sales continued in 2025 in a new spot—the old children’s programming room adjacent to the Children’s wing. This dedicated space allows us to have sales more often and more easily (and our patrons now have bathroom access unlike our old location in the basement!) Our books are a combination of library discards and books donated to the library by patrons. Our sales are open to the public, and we keep our prices low to put more books in more hands.

In 2025 the Friends helped fund general library and children’s programs, provided prize money for the poetry and bookmark contests, and purchased adventure passes for destinations such as the Children’s Muse,

Upstate History Muse, and Western North Carolina Nature Center. We invite the Library Board members to attend our annual meeting in April!

7. Old Business

a. Young Adult VS Teen

Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to rename the YA section/area, YA collection and anything related to the 13 to 17 age range to "Teen." Mr. Aiken seconded the motion.

Dr. Wheeler asked the Director, "Is any confusion among the patrons of the meaning of "young adult?"

The Director stated, "Not that we've seen. We did the survey. I think where it could be confusing is there's still a lot of state items where they'll still say "YA." So, we can't do anything about that. We can do our collection here, but as far as the state library, they have tons of "YA" where "Teens" is used still. But we can change everything locally."

Ms. Miller asked, "What do you mean materials from the state?"

The Assistant Director said, "There's like the state survey that we do, all the language surrounding teens says, "young adult."

The Director added, "And a lot of their other language is still "young adult" for teen." Because it's been understood for so long in the history of library that "Teen" is "YA." So, if you see something like that, it may come from somewhere else. But we'll change what we can locally to match that language if that's what you want to do."

Ms. Pinkerton said, "The state library actually recommends "young adult" is too ambiguous. And every time I look up the age range for young adults, it always comes up 18 and up. It never says 13 to 17. Not one time. And I've asked so many people, like at my homeschooling stuff that have teenage programs. And I've asked in my community, because I have a lot of teenagers living around us, and they all say when I ask them the question: "young adult, what age do you think of?" They always say 18 and up. Every time.

The Director clarified, "That in terms of literature, "young adult literature" is teen and age 18 to 25 is "new adult literature" and the people that use the library tend to understand that. If you're asking people out in the community that don't use the library, they may not understand that. But that's why those terms are sort of universal in the library world."

The Assistant Director said, "And publishers use them as well."

Ms. Pinkerton replied, "We've had this discussion before but the programs and the events that you have on the website all say teen. So, to a parent that is trying to involve their teen in a program say for library, I think they would be confused. And we want to, you know, we want to create new business in this library also not just keep what we have. Right so, I mean yes, that's what the common term is for the people who use the library but for the people in the community who maybe want to use the library but are confused about that. I think it's more clarifying overall for when you have teen events, teen programs, teen, teen, teen, and then you have YA area, like I think that to me in my opinion is just confusing.

The Director said, "YA literature is for teens, but that's fine we can change it to "teens."

Mr. Aiken said, "For the past 19 years and currently I'm in the most public of all public institutions in the county. I teach in the school district of Pickens County 9th through 12th graders and, without a doubt, when you think about it, they are teens, 9 through 12th graders. I teach them, and we got them all varying maturity levels, but we're just talking about strictly age levels, at age 13 through 17 or 18 once they graduate high school. A child, we can't give them an aspirin without parental permission. We can't load them on a school bus and haul them somewhere without parental permission, even if it's the bus they rode to school on. They cannot enter into contract. They cannot do any of these things because they are deemed by society as a child. They are teenagers. They are not adults. So, yes some of them might act like adults sometimes, but this is all about definitions and applications is what all the arguments are with this whole board, at what point are they deemed as an adult and

that age is 18, legally. They can vote. They can enter a contract. They can get married without parental permission. They can do all the rest of those. So, if we're looking at a teen section, I can merely look from, not from my own personal opinion, but from a school district standpoint, the most public of all public institutions in the county, that "teen" has to be just that. It is quite honestly, though some people might use the terminology interchangeably, by definition, they're not an adult until age 18. So, clarification on that, I think would do away with a lot of the issues and the heartaches that this community is going through from one end to the other. Simply defining that and putting that one to bed. That's my take."

Dr. Wheeler stated, "I'm actually agnostic about what you call it. I'm more concerned about what's in it. Maintaining young adult literature in that section, whether you call it "teen" or whether you call it "young adult". The name is not as important as the content of the collection."

Mr. Aiken said, "I can I address content for a moment? I've learned a lot just in a short amount of time trying to get in on the library board and some all the rest of these things. The terminology of prurient. That's a definition that I had to learn, and everybody is wrestling with. The definition is pretty easy to understand, but the application isn't necessarily easy to understand. How do you apply that terminology of prurient? Is prurient qualitative or is it quantitative? Is it the depth of the description behind it or is it the quantity of that prurient content that would tip the scale one way the other. I hear a terminology that's brought up repeatedly, it's in some of the documents that we have already. That "when taken on the whole," "when taken on the whole overall." Those terminologies when it's taken overall. So let me just give just a couple of minutes to try to think I'm trying to put together how do we deal with this? Is it qualitative or quantitative? The amount or the substance? Because in practical application, and I'm not accusing the library board of doing such a thing, but if you roll back the clock, I'm going to display some personal things. One time and one time only in my life have I held a Playboy magazine in my hand. Ronald Reagan was in his first term. I was in junior high. I can assure you that there were things in there utterly inappropriate to be looked at, but if we take prurient to mean quantitative, the quantity of what's there. If you add up all the images, was 51% of the images in that magazine prurient? No. Was 51% of all the words in that magazine prurient? No. It would not meet the standard of, if we're looking at overall content. Yet, I would say that there's probably not a parent in this county, regardless of which political party or any affiliation a person has, that wouldn't flip out if their 13-year-old came home with a Playboy magazine in their book bag. So, we need to determine, is prurient quantitative or qualitative? So long as we follow ourselves in as a board or as a community into these little arguments over playing a continual whack-a-ole over this book, that book, or the other book, we're not addressing overall issues. I don't think there's a big move to try to ban books. From what I see, it's simply how do we categorize stuff for adult content, young adult content, or teen content? I'm just speaking from the heart and I'm all yours to learn."

Mr. Kilburn said, "I think the question is that we're talking about, I understand what you're saying, but we're just talking about renaming the "young adult" to the "teen" nomenclature, I guess, because even in all these statistics that you just walked us all through, they're children's teen events or adults events. So, we're just trying to determine, do we get rid of the terminology, "young adult," not regarding the collection, but do we get rid of the terminology and just convert it over to "teen"? That's really what we're trying to determine right now, right?"

The Director explained, "And just in terms of implementation of that, we do have to change a record of each book and the spine label of each book from "YA" to "teen" and we have over 13,000 in that collection. That means if you want to change the collection, like right now it says young adult literature "YA" is considered on the spine and in the record of the book. Every book has an electronic record attached to it so we can see where it is, who has it. So, we would have to change the record, change the spine label to say "teen." Right now in our catalog, it says "YA", but it's in the "teen collection." So, it says both when you look it up in

our catalog online, “YA” blah blah blah and then it'll say collection “teen.” So, people know that that's interchangeable. If you want to get rid of “YA” completely, that is something that we will have to do in terms of implementation. That will take a while.”

Ms. Pinkerton said “Can I say one more thing with the teen and the YA being interchangeable? If say our policy that we have out here is passed, what if we if would how would that affect if you have young adult as a subcategory in the adult section? How would the interchangeable of the YA and the teen, how would that affect that?”

The Assistant Director said, “I think people would be very confused if we had a teen and a young adult collection because everybody that uses a library or reads teen/young adult material, understands them to be interchangeable. So, they would, I think that they would be like, what's the difference? Because I know them to be the same thing.”

Ms. Pinkerton said, “young adult definition is 18 to 26. So, if you have a subcategory in the adult section, then the books that are, you know, 13 and up and they're supposed to be in the adult section according to our policy, if it ever passes, then it would go into the young adult subcategory instead of the adult section. So, it would keep a separation. But if the teen and the young adult are interchangeable, then that would be the confusion part, right? So, if we make it teen 13 to 17, young adult 18 to 25, wouldn't that clarify that?”

The Director said, “This is going to have to work in conjunction with whatever policy that you pass because it's going to have to be taken as a whole depending on what you do with the policy because I can't right now figure out an implementation process until I know what the policy is to say if we could do that or not.

Ms. Pinkerton stated, “That’s fair.” Ms. Pinkerton restated the motion, “Motion to use teen as 13 to 17 age range.”

The Director said, “Once this is passed, just so I know, what is your understanding of how we would need to implement this, if this passes? What are you expecting immediately to happen since we're not voting on the policy yet?” “Is your expectation that we don't move on this until the policy is done?” Ms. Pinkerton replied, “yeah.” The Director responded, “Okay. That's all I need to know. Yeah. Because we're not going to do anything yet. So, I don't want you to come back and say, "What? Why haven't you done anything?"”

Dr. Wheeler said, “So, basically right now we're just voting on whether to rename it the teen section.”

Mr. Parton called the vote. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken, and Ms. Miller all voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler voted against. Motion passed.

b. Workshop with SC Director

Mr. Parton explained that he will contact the SC State Library Director, Leesa Aiken, to setup a time to have a training workshop for board members to attend.

c. Budget breakdown (sent to County Council)

Ms. Pinkerton asked, “Is there a meeting scheduled? Is there anything with the council about that, because you know when we talked and passed the budget originally it was that we were going to come back and actually be able to have more questions and be part of the budget committee. Are we going to have that?”

The Director said, “We're meeting with them on the 29th of January I believe it's 2:45 to 3:45.” Ms. Pinkerton asked, “And who all is allowed to go to that meeting?” The Director said, “I believe three can go. So, you, Hap, and Mark.”

Mr. Kilburn stated that he would like to have a budget committee meeting prior to that meeting with Hap Alesa and the Director.

d. Schedule Executive Session - personnel matter- February 12th

Mr. Parton asked for a motion to have an executive session for a personnel matter at the February 12th meeting. Ms. Pinkerton made a motion for an executive session for a personnel matter at the February 12th meeting. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

8. New Business

a. Amend moment of silence with a prayer

Mr. Parton made a motion to amend a moment of silence with a prayer. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion.

Mr. Parton said, "I want to speak to this. You know it has been, what, maybe a year or two, and we talked about it and so I know we went with a silent prayer. I know that many government institutions still have verbal prayer and so I would like to see that as a part of an opening up, instead of a silent prayer.

Dr. Wheeler said, "I'm a big fan of the separation of church and state and the establishment clause of the first amendment, but I also recognize that it is a common practice in public bodies to have prayer. I think that we need to have a clear understanding that no one needs to participate if they choose not to. I think it sort of follows what the Congress does which is, and they have prayer and they have a chaplain United States Congress but, they always restrict it to a non-sectarian. So, in other words, we don't give a Christian prayer. We don't invoke the name of Jesus Christ or something like that. We maintain a non-sectarian environment. I think that's good advice and that's why they do it. But as far as prayer, that is pretty common practice."

Mr. Parton said, "For a little clarity, I should have mentioned this. It would be strictly voluntary by our board members, and if you don't want to pray, you don't. And those that do, can and set up on a rotation for that. So that's kind of what that'll look like.

Mr. Aiken said, "So that was my next question. Was it going to be on a rotating basis? Noted in advance so that person could chose to have a moment of silence, pray to anybody they want to, or choose not to."

Dr. Wheeler said, "But I think, you know just to emphasize it, really, we should try to maintain a non-sectarian prayer. I mean I know that's not what you're saying. I but I think that would be advisable. I mean obviously you're going to invoke a higher power of some kind but try to enhance the solemnity of the situation. And that's what prayer is supposed to do, it's to bring your attention to the solemnity. And I don't think you have to invoke a particular a theology in order to do that.

Ms. Miller said, "But I think if you want to and if you feel like you want to, it's your freedom to be able to do that."

Dr. Wheeler said, "Yeah. Well, I hear what you're saying. I don't agree with that, but I hear what you're saying."

Mr. Parton called the vote. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken, and Ms. Miller all voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler voted against. Motion passed.

Dr. Wheeler clarified that his vote reflects, not the prayer itself, but the not having a non-sectarian prayer.

b. Changes to Miscellaneous Procedures - M1 & M2

Mr. Parton stated that M1 is the Bill of Rights and M2 is the Freedom to Read and opened it up for discussion and stated that any changes will come at the next meeting.

Ms. Pinkerton said, "My problem with these two is the age appropriate and the minors. I just don't feel like minors are protected. It's not that I don't feel like everybody should have a right to read. That's not, I mean I agree that everybody should. But I believe minors need to be protected. And I believe that if we protect the children and give more accountability to the parents, I believe that that will be more of a community effort and get families and everything more involved. So that is my problem with the Freedom to Read and the library Bill of Rights, is there's no age-appropriate protecting minors in it at all. It's everybody can have a free-for-all. It has nothing with parents involved. It just, it's nothing age appropriate. So that's what my problem is with that. It's

lacking any parental, any minor, any protecting any minors. It does not even acknowledge parent's approval or parents being involved. It doesn't have any age appropriate. It just thinks that everybody should have a right to read anything they want to and that is my problem with those."

Mr. Kilburn said, "I would like to say that I kind of think that part of this goes along with the previous old business of adults and teen or the young adult and teen. We're going to have to like see how this Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read are in the policy. So, as we start reviewing the policies that are on here as well, we'll have to take that into consideration. The thing about the library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read, seems to me that they're not helpful in regard to what we're trying to determine going back to the proviso, the budget proviso controversy that we going to have to address at some point. These docents don't really help and they kind of more than don't help. They don't address the facts that or the idea that there are minors and there are adults. The propositions that they put forth in the docent, it's really hard to argue against it, because it all makes common sense and it seems like it's right to me. But the sections underneath which are like the expansion of what that provision means is not helpful in trying to answer the question of what we're trying to accomplish as far as dealing with minors, because it doesn't deal with the it doesn't make a distinction between an adult and a minor here. We just had, I mean I'm no lawyer, but there was just a Supreme Court case free speech coalition etc. Which was about can states go ahead and require people to prove that they're 18 years old to get onto a porn site or not? And in that opinion, it says that "history tradition and president establish that sexual content that is obscene to minors but not adults is protected in part and unprotected in part and states may prevent minors from accessing such content but may not prevent adults from doing the same." So, there's a distinction between adults and minors, but I don't really see that in here. And when we reference these documents or incorporate them into the policies that we have, it gets muddled. So, my point only is that we have to be clear when we go through these policies and where this shows up in our policies. Then we can make a determination at that point whether to scuttle them or not. I guess I mean not scuttle them, but you know, incorporate them or not. So, I think it kind of goes in conjunction with or is similar to the young adult versus teen and we'll have to roll it all into the whole policy."

Dr. Wheeler said, "I think that the Library Bill of Rights and so on are meant to be general. They're meant to apply to all people, and you know teenagers have rights equal to adults and so I think that it's intentional not to divide it up among various age groups."

Mr. Kilburn stated, "I would disagree with that but that's okay."

The Director said, "These are framed on the first amendment. So, I think when you are looking at policies that don't agree with this, you have to use caution because the policy you're creating, if it does not correspond to this, you may be violating the First Amendment. And minors do have First Amendment rights."

Mr. Kilburn responded, "They have some."

The Director stated, "They have freedom to access information. So, I'm just saying when you do find a policy that is going against this, you have to make sure that that policy is not a violation of the First Amendment."

Mr. Kilburn responded, "Yeah, I understand that."

Mr. Aiken stated, "One of the things I want to mention, I think we should be very cautious about any of our policies, rightly said and rightly stated. I'm absolutely opposed to unelected bureaucrats, of which I guess I am one now, telling parents what they should, you know, taking parents' rights away for what their children should or should not be able to access. That's decision for parents to make. Then once a child is age 18, I think there should be a very very high bar for removing anything from a library. But the categorization of where it sits and how this is implemented because parents do have the ability to tell children what they can and cannot do, what they can and cannot see. That is definitely placed upon parents. We just need to make sure as a board,

we're not stopping a parent that wants to be able to allow their children to access something and at the same time not put it out where anybody whose parents do not want them to access it is able to do the same thing.”

Mr. Parton said, “We have a library card that the parents can check what their children can see or not see. And so that's kind of where we're at now with that is keeping the parents okay, not taking their rights away, but they make the choice whether, you know, their child can, you know, see something that another parent would not let them look at or read.”

The Assistant Director said, “I would just add that we have very strong parental policies in place. A minor can't get a library card with us without a parent's permission. They can't be in the library without a parent or guardian if they're under the age of 13. So, there's restrictions in place that really make the parents know what's going on.”

Mr. Parton said, “I want to say this concerning the collection policy and library material and um, and I hear what you're say. We're not trying to take anybody's rights away. But we want to be able to make materials available, in the age appropriate for parents. They know where the books are. We're not taking any books. Mom wants, you know, Johnny, Susie to read whatever they want to in the library. That's them and that's their family. That's their choice. But what I see is a win-win. Is that parents that do not want their children to stumble across some of the books that we've been dealing with in the children's section and some in the teens. If we can prevent that, but yet the ones that say, "Well, just leave it where it's at. Don't be moving books."

Well, I think they can get to the book with their child, that we're not taking that right away. And also, we're saying whole community, are we not? We're wanting to have some kind of a compromised middle ground here so that the whole community can somewhat benefit from this. Plus, we're looking at the proviso that if we do not comply, you see on the budget what that amount is about \$260,000 a year, we sure don't want to lose that funding. So, I think somewhere we've got to be able to get the library in compliance with proviso and everybody's getting to their books but it's going to be a little different in some ways of making sure we meet the compliance of the proviso. Does that make sense?”

Mr. Kilburn added, “Yeah, I think it makes sense because I mean the proviso has to be dealt with because it's part of getting our state funding, which we're thinking is like around 360. So, I mean it's got to be addressed.”

c. Collection Policy and Library Material/Reconsideration Policy

The Director asked to make a statement about the collection policy and library materials policy.
“Statement from Pickens County Library Director Stephanie Howard to the Pickens County Library Board - January 15th Meeting 2026

Before the Board deliberates on these proposed policy changes, I want to speak from my role as Library Director, and as the individual responsible for implementing these policies.

Public libraries occupy a unique place in constitutional law. Courts consistently recognize that libraries exist to provide access to a broad range of information and viewpoints. Decisions affecting access are subject to heightened First Amendment scrutiny. Removal or restriction of materials based on content, viewpoint, or moral disagreement raises serious First Amendment concerns-especially when policies rely on vague standards like "prurient interest," "pervasive vulgarity," or "community standards" without reference to professional review criteria.

In *Mainstream Loudon v. Board of Trustees*, a library policy was struck down for imposing content-based restrictions without sufficient safeguards or precision. In *Board of Education v. Pico*, the Supreme Court affirmed that while governing bodies have discretion, that discretion is limited when policies remove or restrict materials based on content or viewpoint. Federal courts, including *Sund v. City of Wichita Falls*, have reinforced that even "procedural" policies requiring relocation or removal can violate the First Amendment.

The rationale offered for these policy changes is compliance with the state budget proviso and guidance from the State Library Agency Director. But compliance alone does not shield the Board from constitutional review. Courts hold local entities responsible for how they interpret and implement state requirements. If a policy goes beyond what the proviso explicitly requires - or adopts restrictions not required by law - the Board assumes liability. Courts do not accept "we were required to do this" as a defense when discretionary policy choices are evident.

Even where a state law is involved, courts examine whether compliance could have been achieved through less restrictive means. Existing collection development standards, professional review processes, and established reconsideration procedures are routinely cited by courts as evidence that broad or categorical restrictions were unnecessary. It is my professional opinion that our current policies already meet the requirements of the proviso and State Aid Certification.

Federal constitutional standards apply to libraries in South Carolina. Any policy that categorically excludes materials, relocates them based on subject matter, or restricts access without individualized review is subject to constitutional scrutiny, regardless of intent.

Parental rights are also at stake. Courts recognize parents' authority to guide their children's reading. Policies that restrict access system-wide, rather than empowering parental choice, undermine those rights. Vague categories and automatic restrictions place staff in legally vulnerable positions and increase the likelihood of uneven enforcement.

These proposed revisions do not occur in isolation. Alongside major policy changes, the Board is considering removing the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement from the policy manual. These statements are recognized as authoritative expressions of professional standards. Courts often consider the totality of changes, not each revision in isolation. Removing these safeguards while adopting restrictive policies increases litigation risk and signals a shift away from established norms.

If these policies are adopted, they will shape not only our collections but the public record of how and why access decisions are made. In the event of a legal challenge, that record including tonight's discussion and previous statements made at board meetings, will be reviewed to determine whether these changes are truly compelled by law or were discretionary policy decisions made by the Board.

Having said all that - I am not a lawyer. I have been assured by Mr. Parton and Ms. Pinkerton that these policies have been reviewed and are legally sound. Based on my research, I must respectfully disagree.

I ask the Board to consider these questions:

- What specific language in the state proviso requires each of these policy changes?
- Why were the existing policies and review process insufficient?
- How do these revisions avoid content- or viewpoint-based restrictions in language and practice?
- How do these new policies preserve, rather than replace, parental decision-making?
- And how do these changes reduce, rather than increase, the Library System's exposure to litigation?

I urge the Board to carefully consider not only the immediate implications, but the long-term legal and constitutional consequences. Once access is restricted and safeguards are removed, these decisions cannot be undone without harming the library.

The integrity of our Library, and our commitment to intellectual freedom, rests on the policies we adopt. I ask the Board to ensure these changes do not compromise patrons' rights, parental authority, or the Library's standing as a trusted public institution. We have the opportunity to uphold the Library's tradition of fairness,

access, and intellectual freedom. Let's not replace professional judgment, parental authority, and constitutional safeguards with vague restrictions that invite litigation and erode public trust.”

Dr. Wheeler said, “So my first question is why are we doing this? It was just last year that we did a thorough review and revision of our policies as you remember. Are we concerned about not having our certification for state aid funding accepted? Okay, but the certification was accepted for the first half of the funding under our current policies. Are we concerned about meeting the tenants of proviso 27.1? Well, I think it's clear that our librarians do not acquire prurient material according to the legal definition. And if the public disagrees, we have a clear reconsideration process in place. And further, do you build a policy around a budget proviso which may not even be in place in six months because this it is attached to the budget? So, I have dozens of policy and editorial comments and concerns about these documents that were put forward as you might guess. I can't air them all, obviously at this point, but for example why are we, and this came up earlier, why are we removing all the statements about the rights of patrons from the documents? For example, the First Amendment and the ALA's Bill of Rights. Maybe they should be obvious, maybe they don't have to be included. But once we have had them in our policies, removing them sends a very negative image of the board's attitude towards reader's rights. And you know, as a note, the South Carolina Public Library manual for trustees recommends boards adopt the ALA Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read. As another note, why are we not requiring petitioners and board members to read the books under reconsideration? Why do we need such a draconian shortening of the review process? I'm all for increasing efficiency, don't get me wrong. And some of the things that were in there, I think, were actually positive, but it could be down to about 5 days now by the time the director gets these materials. Is it that the criteria in these policies suggest it is sufficient because of these changes to rule on a book based only on selected passages or age ranges? Regardless of what we've heard tonight, I believe it is a violation of the law because the law requires that all legs of the Miller criteria be met. And you know and the idea of a book being considered as a whole, that's been removed in this new policy proposal for the collection development policy. So, I have concerns there. So, you've been assured you've contacted an attorney. But as I look at this, the possibility of lawsuits based on content-based restrictions or minor's first amendment rights are being violated, among others.”

Mr. Parton replied, “Hap we've, you know, over the past couple of years, we've been through this basically the same thing. My discussion on it would be and thoughts, why is the state of libraries, okay, the state of the libraries in this state county libraries, under the guidelines of the state library, they're lining up, they're doing their collection policy accordance, so much like we are tonight, okay and to line up with the proviso and we're not seeing lawsuits? They can come and you can have a lawsuit at any time, but to use the lawsuit in order to scare off and move your decision because what we're doing, libraries are doing this in the state of South Carolina to meet the proviso. I just wanted to say that.”

Ms. Miller said, “According to Ms. Aiken at the state library, she said all the other counties in South Carolina have already made moves towards this except this one.”

The Assistant Director asked, “Towards what specifically? Towards the guidance? Because this policy goes beyond the guidance.”

The Director said, “That's not my understanding with the directors that I have talked with. Most of the ones that I know have the understanding that we do not have prurient materials in this library. There's no reason to change our policy. That's my understanding from the directors that I know. I know that some libraries, Greenville I think, are still being sued for the changes that they've made. But my understanding and Ms. Aiken's are different.”

Ms. Miller replied, “Yes, I see that. But the Greenville library system is being sued because they entered in the LGBTQ, which we are not. We're not having anything to do with that.”

The Director stated, "If you're confident with these policies and voting on them, that's fine. I just would like to caution you as a professional librarian that there are things in here that are very problematic. I've been doing this for a long time, and I would say it to any board I've worked with. There are things in here that could get you sued."

Ms. Miller asked, "So, do you know lawsuits that are happening because of these kinds of changes we're talking about?"

The Director responded, "Yes."

The Assistant Director said, "Stephanie mentioned constitutional scrutiny. Libraries are a governmental entity. So, when they are making content-based restrictions, we have to follow strict scrutiny. Which is the highest level of scrutiny. So, there has to be a compelling government interest, and the restrictions have to be narrowly tailored, using the least restrictive means. So, they're going to look at things like our library card application, which already gives parents the rights to restrict what books they can check out and they're going to ask why that wasn't sufficient. They're going to say the proviso talks about prurient interest but the constitution when you're talking about the first amendment you can't separate the legs of the Miller Test when you're looking to restrict things based on obscenity. You can't just say this has some prurient material in it; you have to use the whole Miller Test. I would also like to say, just from an implementation standpoint point, the language that is currently in this proposed revision is really vague. Some of the language staff would not be able to implement it consistently and they would have to guess at what you guys mean by it. Things like "age appropriate" that means something different to every individual, that is highly individualized. Things like "gratuitous sex." Gratuitous sex to who? That's subjective. You can't expect us to be able to move materials based on subjective language. So that would need some work if you want us to implement this."

Mr. Parton replied, "They'll be having a policy meeting going over what we discussed tonight. And so I'm going to end discussion so we can move on."

Ms. Miller asked, "Can I just ask one question? Could you publish a list of the lawsuits? I would really like to see them and be able to look them up. The ones that you keep referring to over and over and over again"

Mr. Parton ended the discussion and stated that the Policy Committee meeting is next Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 5pm at Liberty library.

Dr. Wheeler asked, "I'm not on the policy committee. Will the policy committee accept my commentary, which is going to be copious, about these new policies and take them under consideration? Because there are literally dozens of, as you've pointed out, places where it's very problematic"

Mr. Parton ended the discussion again.

d. Special Called Meeting – Feb 12th (Policies)

Mr. Parton makes a motion to have a special-called meeting February 12, 2026. Ms. Pinkerton seconded. Unanimously approved.

e. Constitution, Article V word change

Mr. Parton makes a motion to table 8E Constitution, Article V word change. Ms. Pinkerton seconded. Unanimously approved.

f. Library Card Policy Update- Holiday Book checkout limit change 5 to 10

The Assistant Director explained that this change is to increase the number of holiday books that can be checked out on each card. The current limit is 5 and staff feel that we now have enough holiday books in our collection so that we could increase that to 10.

Ms. Miller said, "I don't know what you mean by holiday books. Like Christmas books?"

The Assistant Director replied, "So, we have in our youth collections, we separate the holiday books out so that they're easier to find for parents and teachers or whoever's checking out children's books. So, we have

like Halloween books, Christmas books, St. Patrick's Day. Currently each card is only allowed to check out five of those books at a time. So, we are wanting to change the checkout limit to 10.”

The Director added, “A number keeps somebody from wiping out all the Halloween books on one card. So, there has to be some sort of restriction, so somebody can't come in and take all of our Valentine's Day books, but they can have 10, which is what we're proposing. We have more now than we did when this policy was first put in place.”

Mr. Aiken made a motion to change the Holiday book checkout limit from 5 to 10. Dr. Wheeler seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Dr. Wheeler asked, “I just would like to ask a favor of anyone who is producing highly edited documents like these collection policies to use the edit function in Word, so that we know what's been changed and what's been retained. Because I had to go through this thing and patch together what was actually retained and what wasn't. So that's just a request for the future.”

Mr. Parton asked, “All in favor of adjourning, raise your hand. Meeting is now adjourned.”

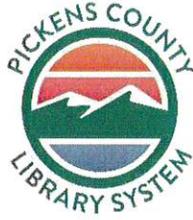
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next Meetings:

Special Called Meeting - Thursday, February 12, 2026, 6:00pm – 7:00pm Hampton Memorial Library

Executive Session - Thursday, February 12, 2026, 7:00pm – 8:00pm Hampton Memorial Library

DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Policy Committee Meeting

5:00pm January 22, 2026

Sarlin Community Library, Liberty
15 S. Palmetto Street Liberty, SC 29657

Meeting started at 5:02 pm. Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken, and Ms. Miller of the Policy Committee were in attendance. Dr. Wheeler was in attendance at 5:36 pm.

1. Discussion of Board of Trustees Constitution and By-laws word update

Ms. Pinkerton discussed updating the Board of Trustees Constitution article V phrase “Secretary-Treasurer” to “Secretary and Treasurer” and include a line that explains what the Treasurer does. She suggested “Treasurer will do audit with the director for the budget.”

The Director explained that whatever changes you want to make to the constitution and the by-laws, it will have to be sent out two weeks before the board meeting.

Ms. Pinkerton also suggested changing the by-laws article IX “July 1 to June 30” to “January 1 to December 31” to align with the term limits for the board members. Mr. Aiken and Ms. Miller agreed with the change to “January 1 to December 31.”

Ms. Pinkerton asked if Article V should read “Treasurer will do audit with the director for the budget year.” The Director said, “No, the county does the formal audit.” Ms. Pinkerton asked, “What does the Treasurer do?” The Director explained that the Treasurer helps with the budget and suggested the phrase “The Treasurer will work with the Director in preparing the annual budget to present to the board.” The Director also suggested sending out wording options for the Treasurer responsibilities.

2. Discuss changes to Collection and Review of Material policies

Ms. Pinkerton stated that Dr. Wheeler’s suggestions were a lot. She also received Mr. Kilburn and Ms. Millers suggestions, and they are mostly grammar suggestions. Ms. Pinkerton stated that one of Mr. Kilburn’s suggestions was adding the word “educate” to the second sentence under the Objective subheading of the Collection Development Policy.

Ms. Pinkerton mentioned one of Dr. Wheeler’s questions* is why the word “diverse” was taken out of the policy, she clarified that the paragraph was rewritten, and it would mean the same thing. Taking out the word “diverse” was not purposely done. Ms. Pinkerton stated that she updated the last sentence of the first paragraph under Philosophy to read, “Classification of materials into clearly labelled age-appropriate sections of the library aid in parental determination of access of minors.” The Assistant Director pointed out that this sentence does not make sense. Ms. Pinkerton changed it to, “Classification of materials into clearly labelled age-appropriate sections of the library aid in parental determination of access to minors.”

Ms. Pinkerton continued with Dr. Wheeler's second point under Philosophy, why remove the Library Bill of Rights. She said, "Because the American Library Association does not protect minors, so I just didn't add it in there. We're still going to discuss that"

Ms. Pinkerton asked for clarification on Dr. Wheeler's first note under Selection Principles. The Director explained that by keeping the line that explains what the term "qualified staff" means could potentially help if anyone questions what makes our staff qualified. Mr. Aiken agreed that it would make sense to keep that information in there. The line use to read, "selection of materials is performed by staff members qualified for this duty through professional education, training, and job classification."

Ms. Pinkerton explained that Dr. Wheeler's next point number two under Selection Principles, about "diversity" being removed again, she stated that it was the same thing. It was just rewriting the paragraph; she did not intentionally remove the word "diversity."

Ms. Pinkerton continued with Dr. Wheeler's third point under Selection Principles, she is unsure what he meant. The Assistant Director explained that the line in bullet point four use to say "excluded or included" so we would not exclude or include material just because of the author's race, nationality, sex, or political, social or religious views. Mr. Aiken agreed that makes sense.

Ms. Pinkerton continued with Dr. Wheeler's fourth point about the use of "age-appropriate" over "age-relevant." Ms. Miller stated that the State Librarian suggested using "age-appropriate" and using the term "age-appropriate" is self-explanatory. The Director clarified that the confusion is that "age-appropriate" is different for everyone, like if your child is 7, reading on a 12 or 13-year-old level, then that is appropriate for them. So that is why it was "age relevant." Ms. Miller stated, "to me "age-appropriate" is more than just reading level." The Assistant Director said, "Yeah, but you wouldn't put books about somebody going through a divorce, that's not relevant to a teenager because they're not married." The Director further explained, "I just think there could be arguments for either of those words. What's relevant, what's appropriate. I think in terms of appropriate, you get into that bigger conversation. Is a book with a bare butt appropriate? Well, that's up to the parent. In a kid's book, is that appropriate? That's up to the parents. Some parents, "absolutely not no way", some parent, "that's fine, my kids think it's funny." It's just that bigger argument of who is controlling that, the staff or the parent. But that's that whole bigger argument that you have to make. Like, if we think that that's appropriate and that bare butt book, and I'm just using that as an example, go in with all the other books because that's what the age range it was written for, then it's up to the parent to take that book home or check it out. But if we're going to get in trouble for putting that book in the age range it was written for, that's where we have the problem if we don't have a specific, you know, sentence from the board saying, "do not put these books here.""

Ms. Pinkerton said, "I mean, I'm okay with age-appropriate" Mr. Aiken said, "I like appropriate."

The Assistant Director explained Dr. Wheeler's next point under Selection Criteria has to do with the second bullet point, that it previously said, "circulation use of existing and similar materials" and that is more accurate than "circulation history." The Assistant Director explained that an item's circulation history would mean that the item is already a part of the collection, but using the criteria of "circulation use of existing and similar materials" means that we are looking at other similar item's popularity. The Director suggested reverting back to what it said before, "circulation use of existing and similar materials."

Ms. Pinkerton said, "the reason we rewrote this policy was because we did not like the other policy, correct?" Ms. Miller responded, "Correct." Ms. Pinkerton continued, "So the fact that we keep going back and saying, 'that the other policy,' I completely understand, but we did this one because we didn't like that one."

Now stuff out of the old one is incorporated in here, but to keep referring back to the old one, and ‘why is this deleted?’ and ‘why is this?’ is because, for some reason, we didn’t like it or the words were changed or something. I mean there’s a reason why there’s a new policy that we have come up with from the old one.”

The Assistant Director replied, “I think that’s what his questions are, is why didn’t you like those specific things? Ms. Miller responded, “Because we’re trying to get our state money, we’re trying to follow the proviso, pure and simple.”

The Director asked, “Did the state librarian look at this?” Ms. Pinkerton said, “Oh yeah, she did” The Director said, “That’s interesting, because she looked at ours and said it was okay and these are very different.” Ms. Pinkerton clarified, “Well, the thing is, my approach to her was, is this okay as in the minors’ guidelines to minors protecting minors, is this okay?” The Director said, “She didn’t comment on whether she thought it was legal or not legal?” Ms. Pinkerton replied, “Yes, she said it was legal. She had a paralegal look at it and she said it was legal, too.”

The Director voiced concern about making sure it says in the policy that we are providing material that represents diverse points of view and interest of patrons. The Director said, “Because if staff purchases a book that is of community interest, and if it’s not in our collection that we add things of community interest, then they could potentially be in trouble.”

Ms. Miller responded, “What? That doesn’t make sense at all.” The Director replied, “If they purchased a book that the board was offended by somehow, and they did it because of community interest in that book, then, staff could be in trouble... I just think that somewhere in there it needs to say that part of our collection is based on community interest in this subject.” Ms. Miller replied, “But we’re going to have a collection policy that tells what cannot be collected. So, I mean, they’re going to be guided by those guidelines of what they can or cannot collect so how could that be a problem?... So, if its community interests that does not violate this collection policy, that’s not even an issue!”

Mr. Aiken stated that the first paragraph under objective says, “The library seeks to respond to our community’s needs and interests through this content. This policy ensures that the library collection will reflect the experiences of the community, and provide an opportunity to explore cultures, traditions, and ideas from all different types of people. All content decisions must follow applicable specifications of Federal, State, and Local legislation.” He continued, “So it looks to me like all that we’re talking about is already found right there in that objective, right at the beginning.” Ms. Miller said, “Yeah, it states it loud and clear.”

The Director said, “I mean, I don’t have to question any of it, if it’s going to be like this, you can just vote on it. And we can go from there. If it’s going to be kind of hostile, I don’t think anything good is going to come of it. I think every time you say something I feel like I’m being attacked.” The Director continued, “I mean this is what we’re doing is discussing it because we have to implement it. And these are questions that our staff are going to have, and we have to explain it to them, and we have to explain it to them based on what you all want. So, we have to make sure that it’s stated plainly, so that we can do that.”

Dr. Wheeler arrived and joined the discussion. Ms. Pinkerton discussed that she researched that librarians do not have to read the whole book when they purchase books to add to a collection. The Director clarified that she has tried to explain this fact to them, that we cannot possibly read all the books before they go on the shelf, but because of that we have the reconsideration procedure so that somebody can bring a book to our attention.

Ms. Pinkerton said that a parent could give access to their child to check out teen books that have been moved to the adult section and if they do not want them to have access to all the adult books then they can come watch over their child at the library.

Mr. Aiken said that if we could come to an agreement about the original placement of the books then we wouldn't have 100 reconsideration requests. He went on to express that parents should be in charge and not have stuff in the teen section that should not be in the teen section.

The Director pointed out that reconsiderations can be weaponized, with a bunch of people submitting reconsiderations to move books back to the teen sections. This will tie us up to where we can't do anything else. Ms. Pinkerton stated that it would tie up the board because if they want to move a book back to the teen section, the library can say no because according to our policy it should be in the adult section. And if they appeal the decision then it goes to the board and we will have to read it.

Ms. Pinkerton stated that she has made changes to the reconsideration policy draft that includes reading the whole book. Ms. Pinkerton asked Dr. Wheeler to explain the highlights of his notes on the collection policy.

Dr. Wheeler pointed out that the current collection development policy was also sent to the State Library Director, she made a few suggestions, and we incorporated most of them, and she approved of that policy. That policy was really clear, the librarians can look at an individual book and decide where to place it based on their professional opinion and if the public disagrees with that, then we have the reconsideration request.

Ms. Pinkerton stated that she does not agree with that policy and other people do not agree with that policy, but she accepted it because it was majority vote. Ms. Pinkerton said, "I know you don't agree with it, but some people do agree with this. Your way is not pleasing the whole community... We have to come to a compromise here, to please the whole community... The book is still available, and the parent is giving the teen the right to look at that book and it's protecting other families that don't want that book to be found... I mean it's giving the parent the whole responsibility so that the librarians and staff don't have to police the library."

Mr. Aiken made the point that if we can have a section just for holiday books, it may be a good idea to have a young adult section in the adult section of the library as a compromise. This will keep the parents in the driver's seat.

The Director said that she feels we have that now because we have these categories, the children's, YA and the adult, and the parents choose what the kids have access to now, with the current policy. If we implement this new policy popular teen books will be moved to an adult section with material that is meant for adults.

The Assistant Director points out to Mr. Aiken's point of adding a section, that the holiday section or other sections that we have are based on content neutral decisions, it is separated for ease of browsing. When you move things based on the content, that's when it becomes a legal issue. The Assistant Director explained that if we have a book published by Simon Teen Publishers, it is clearly meant for teenagers. Now if we review a book, read it in its entirety and look at all the other variety of factors and we find issue with it, then, yes, we will move that book. Ms. Pinkerton asked if the library could get sued for doing that. The Assistant Director said, "You could, yeah." Ms. Miller said, "Its never happened. I keep asking for the names of these lawsuits that we're threatened with and I haven't gotten one." The Director said, "We sent you a list in August and I have a new list for you." The Assistant Director clarified that these are federal lawsuits from across the country, because they are based on the First Amendment.

Dr. Wheeler pointed out that the list of things not allowed in the section, i.e. graphic depictions of rape, pedophilia, and pervasive vulgarity; a lot of these are subjective and the concern is that for librarians to discern

if they fit these criteria, they would have to read every book. And that is an enormous, massive undertaking to read over 13,000 books in the young adult section. He pointed out that there are multiple kinds of vulgarity, librarians will have to have blow-by-blow criteria in order to go through the books and ferret out those kinds of things.

The Assistant Director pointed out that there is no guidance on when vulgarity becomes pervasive, it's just subjective.

The Director stated that this undertaking is going to be incredibly unpopular.

Ms. Pinkerton expressed that the community also feels like some of the topics and content in some of these books are very obscene and they don't want their child or teen to come across those books. She stated that the library board's current policy has limits to the number of reconsideration requests that one person can submit. She feels that this limits the community's ability to express their opinion on book placement and that one person should be allowed to submit as many requests as they want. Ms. Pinkerton spoke about the State Librarian's position over all 46 counties in South Carolina. The Director clarified that the State Librarian is not in control of any of the county libraries, the State Library is the agency used to distribute state funds to the county libraries, and the local Library Board is the entity that controls a county library.

The Director expressed that with her experience she is trying to advise the board of what is legal and believes this policy is not going to be popular.

Ms. Pinkerton stated, "Other counties are doing this... I know Greenville is. I've read their policy." The Director stated, "I'm trying to advise you to stay out of lawsuits." Ms. Pinkerton then asked, "How can that be a lawsuit? There's no censorship, there's no restricting access, because parents are giving them the right." Dr. Wheeler said, "It is considered restricting access." The Assistant Director said, "It is censorship to segregate it from a collection that it belongs in."

Ms. Pinkerton wanted to move on. Dr. Wheeler stated that another concern he had was the massive effort and result of moving this number of books is problematic and defining exactly what the criteria would be for removing a book. Ms. Pinkerton stated that if the book describes sex, then the book should be moved.

Mr. Aiken made the point that a rated R movie is rated that way for graphically showing depictions of sex. He stated, "A couple of meetings ago one lady read a portion from a book. The portion she read in that meeting that I sat in gave very graphic descriptions of the act, of all the things that went into it. It was not merely a statement of this individual had intercourse with this individual, it was a graphic depiction of that. Now, how in the world do you come up with rating systems on all of this, I'm not 100% certain."

Ms. Miller said, "Because it's very subjective and everybody has their own values and their own opinions. And that's why I think it's important to come to a happy medium, where you have graphic descriptions, like in *All Boys Aren't Blue*, where you have a very graphic description of sodomy, which I cannot get out of my mind no matter how hard I try, I can't imagine a 13-year-old reading it. Put it in the young adult section where parents know that their kids may be reading graphic depictions of all kinds of sex.... This is a big push across the whole country, to protect minors from reading this graphic material and I think it's time Pickens County joined in. We have a lot of minors. You say parents have to monitor their children. This is Pickens County, right? Parents are working hard. They have a lot of kids. They have a lot of stresses. Pickens County is not a rich county. Parents are going to leave their kids off with the library and trust, like that lady said who spoke a couple months ago, trust that their child is going to be safe in the library to pick out a book to take for a book report at the library and the poor little girl got chewed out by the teacher, because the book was graphic homosexuality from anime.

We have to protect our minors from that, because it's the real world. In the real-world parents can't always know what books their kids are checking out of the library. And I feel like it's the library's responsibility to at least provide some guardrails. Like we do for children, like children can't drive, minors can't buy cigarettes, supposedly, minors can't buy liquor. This is the same thing; they need to be protected."

The Director said, "We can't do that as a staff because there's a vast different array of what one parent thinks is okay and what this one. We could meet your standards personally, if they were specific. But we have 130,000 people. We put the books that are written for the teens right here and we say, "be with your teen, if that matters to you, these are the books written for your teen." What y'all are saying is take this collection and mix it with the adult collection, which is worse."

Ms. Miller said, "Do you know how many parents there are that are working like 40 to 50 hours a week who never hear that? Never hear what you just said, "Be with your teenage when you are picking out books." They don't hear that. This is the real world."

The Director said, "That's their responsibility, though. With their parental rights come these responsibilities. It's not the responsibility of us to be the moral police and try to judge what is appropriate for this teenager. It's the parents' responsibility to do that." Ms. Miller said, "That's why we need this policy."

The Director stated, "I think you're going to vote on what you are going to vote on. All I can do is advise you on how I think the community is going to respond, and if I think this is legal or not, that's all I can do. And then we'll have to see."

Ms. Pinkerton moved on to the Materials Policy updates. They discussed whether or not the petitioners and board members need to read the whole book. It was discussed that there is not a way of proving whether or not anyone has read the whole book, even if it is obvious that they did not.

The Assistant Director points out that in the materials policy and the collection policy is not clear on if you can move a book that was placed in the adult section to the teen section based on a reconsideration request.

Dr. Wheeler made the point that it would not be necessary to remove a book for circulation that's in the adult section while it is being reconsidered to be put in the teen section. Dr. Wheeler also cautions that if a book is removed from circulation, it is a banned book and that could be legally problematic. The Assistant Director also points out that taking a book out of circulation before you've made a ruling on it could be considered prior restraint and restricting speech. It was agreed upon that the book would remain in circulation during the review process.

3. Discuss removal of ALA – Library Bill of Rights/Keeping Freedom to Read

Ms. Pinkerton decided to table this discussion. She said, "The reason that I don't like them... because there's no parental guidelines and there's no protection for minors. But if we have a collection policy that is protecting minors, then of course I want all books to be... I just want it in the right spot. I don't want not to have the book... because the collection policy is not letting all people have access to all books, meaning it's putting a protection for minors in there under the parent guidelines"

Dr. Wheeler points out that it will look really bad for the board if we refer to the Bill of Rights, The Freedom to Read and the Constitution in our current policies, but those things are not referenced in this new policy.

4. Discussing Personnel Matters Policy

Ms. Pinkerton wanted to draft a policy that would include personnel duties for board members and staff and clarification on what happens if there are issues that come up with board members and staff.

Dr. Wheeler mentioned that we have the code of conduct in the by-laws, but it was not enforced.

The Assistant Director pointed out that it wouldn't be appropriate to include staff in this policy because the board does not supervise staff, the Director does.

Ms. Pinkerton wanted clarification because board members do deal with and interact with staff. The Director clarified that during a meeting, staff interaction is necessary, but if a board member is emailing an employee one on one, that would be inappropriate. Board members should send communications through the director. Board members can send emails to the board clerk because that is part of the board clerk's duties.

Ms. Pinkerton stated that this would help clarify what is appropriate and what is not.

5. Discuss any other policies that need updated

Ms. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

*See attached Dr. Wheeler's notes on Collection Development Policy and Review of Materials Policy revisions

DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED

*Notes on Collection Development Policy and Review of Materials Policy revisions.

A.P. Wheeler 1/19/26

Collection Development Policy

Objective

1. Why not leave in the name Pickens County Library System?
2. Why remove the term “diverse”? Does this imply the community is not diverse?
3. The addition about content decisions following the laws should be obvious. Our problem on the board is that there are different opinions about the interpretation of the law, so this statement does not resolve anything.

Philosophy

1. The new paragraph makes some good points. However, we are calling on the library to protect minors, but it also says only individuals can determine what is most important for their needs.
2. Why remove the statement about the library subscribing to the library Bill of Rights, etc.? The inclusion of these statements is recommended by the trustees reference manual published by the State Library.

Selection Principles

1. Removing the qualifications of the library staff seemed unnecessary because it defines what the text now says as “qualified.”
2. In bullet point two, “diversity” is again removed—why? “Reflect” should be “reflects” as the subject is collection.
3. In bullet point 4 why delete “included?” We do not want either extreme, I think.
4. In bullet point 5 the use of “age-appropriate” is a different message from “age-relevant.” At least include both. Same for bullet point 7.

Selection Criteria

1. In bullet point 2 “history” would probably be interpreted differently from the current statement about referencing similar materials. Maybe combine the two terms.
2. Interest of the community was deleted—why?
3. Last two bullet points are not selection criteria—put them into a paragraph?
4. The evaluation of materials as a whole was deleted—why? This is part of the law, I believe.
5. In the last bullet point of the revised edition (again not really a criteria), some of the meaning is lost as the original pointed out that books are not to be cataloged to show approval or disapproval.

Collection Maintenance

1. It appears that the only source used to decide on collection maintenance is the State Library director’s “Guidance on Collection Development for Minors.” (By the way this should be dated).

This is one individual's response to a rather vague budget proviso. The local board and librarians should use their judgement and other sources to develop policy.

2. Children--we currently have two sections—children's (early readers/picture books) and juvenile (chapter books). I would suggest we ask the librarians if we really need four in order to avoid a great deal of what may be unnecessary work.
3. Teen—the previous criteria were simpler and clear, allowing for the librarians to place books based on their professional opinion, not relying exclusively on age ranges suggested by publishers. If the public disagrees, we have a robust reconsideration policy. **As a note, both the development policy and the reconsideration policy were submitted to the State Librarian for her review, and we included virtually all of her comments.**
4. The revised policy relies on contemporary community standards, but omits the part of court rulings and the law that suggests that materials be evaluated as a whole.
5. The revised policy introduces the term graphic which is defined as material that is prurient. Why do we need an additional term? Also it may be confused with the term for a genre (graphic novels).
6. The policy specifically uses the term “portion of material”—and then subsequently lists those specific things that a material cannot contain. Again, what happened to considering the material as a whole.
7. The list of unacceptable materials leaves a great deal open to interpretation - for example “pervasive vulgarity.” In the case of cursing, how many words would be classified as pervasive—and what category of cursing would be included. Would common and comical “vulgar” behaviors by teenage boys be included? **For all these categories librarians will have to be given very specific instructions as they review books so they are not left to second guess what the board intends.**
8. In the list of unacceptable content it states Prurient interest material -according to Provision (meaning proviso) 27.1. These are not clearly defined in the proviso—are they different from the rest of the list?
9. In one paragraph the acceptable age range for teens is 13-17, with books having a recommended upper range of 18 being located in the adult section. In a subsequent paragraph it states that 13-17 would be placed in the adult section. This is surely an error. And why not combine these two paragraphs? More importantly, It seems to me that putting material that is recommended for a 13 year old in the adult section is overly restrictive. I assume that publishers use the term “and up” as a range because they think adults might enjoy the reading the book.
10. The revision includes apologetics for changing from YA to Teen, ironically recognizing that YA is a standard term. However, despite being standard, the revision suggests that YA is confusing. Our own survey suggests that is not the case, and the majority of state libraries have YA sections. Further the revision suggests that it is commonly understood that YA means 18-25. By whom is this understood? If we add a section for 18-25 year olds, are we not just adding to confusion?
11. The act of changing YA to Teen will require an onerous undertaking by the librarians to relabel all the books in this section, not to mention the much larger task of re-evaluating all the books for re-

placement. This will undoubtedly result in a loss of services. Again, what specific process will be used, and what time frame are these changes expected. I suggest that a large percentage of the YA books will be moved and there may be little left of interest for many of the 13-17 year-olds to read, thus resulting in most of them going to the adult section, which this revision is trying to prevent.

12. Moving books intended for this age group is of questionable legality, which has been pointed out repeatedly.

Library of Things

1. Did the revisionists intend to leave out the sentence on hotspots and adventure passes?

Review of Materials Policy

Introduction

1. Why not combine the first paragraphs of the previous and revised versions? I think that it is important that it be pointed out that the library supports Constitutional rights and those espoused by the ALA. Removing these will send a very negative message about the library board.
2. How can the petitioner not be required to read the book in order to make informed commentary? Failing to do so then allows the reviewer to fall back on only onselected portions that others may have provided from elsewhere,.
3. By eliminating the prohibition of submitting on behalf of another person or organization seems inappropriate. This, combined with eliminating the multiple submission clause, would allow one person's voice to dominate.
4. Why is the principal reasons (sexual orientation or preference, gender, race, religious or political belief) not to consider a request eliminated? Is this not commonly accepted parlance in legal documents to avoid inappropriate restrictions and surely are not reasons to move a book or keep it out of the library.
5. Why would we take a book out of circulation while under reconsideration? Since there is no limit on the number of books a petitioner can submit, this could lead to major holes in the holdings. Also, it strikes me that this procedure suggests a material is guilty until proven innocent. And would such a policy make sense for a book under reconsideration for movement from the adult section to the YA/Teen section? If a book is taken out of circulation, it is effectively banned, even if on a temporary basis.

Guiding Principles

1. Adding that Proviso 27.1 will be followed in every reconsideration request is problematic. The policy is vague and it subverts the authority of the board.
2. Again, removing the first amendment rights statement could bring the board under legal scrutiny and, in general, is very poor optics.
3. Removing the statement that parents have the right to guide the reading, etc. of their own children and must allow those rights for other parents is a needed warning that one parent does not speak for all parents.

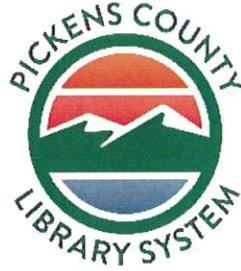
4. Removing the statement that a work must be considered in its entirety continues the pattern that only part of the law must be adhered to.

Factors for Reconsideration

1. The removal of the disqualification of arguments based on the fact that public funds were used to buy a book that the reviewer does not believe the library should have purchased indicates that one reviewer may speak for all taxpayers or indicates that only certain taxpayers count.
2. The removal of the disqualification of arguments based on the fact that a book does not fit with majority ideologies, etc. is essentially allowing discrimination of minorities.

Procedure

1. Asking one librarian rather than two to evaluate a reconsideration may put undue process on the one librarian. And isn't a diversity of opinions a good idea?
2. Librarians and the Director have 10 days (not working days) to review a request and make a final decision. This seems a bit draconian, especially since the preliminary paperwork is allowed 5 days. So, librarians are selected, make an evaluation, send them to the director who studies all the materials and who makes an evaluation and notifies the petitioner of her decision, all in as few as 5 days.
3. The removal of the requirement for the board to read the book essentially takes valuable tools out of the board's decision process; that is, does the book as a whole have merit in their opinion and are claims of obscenity valid. And what of the reverse; that is, how can you judge whether or not a book in the adult section should be in the YA/Teen section unless one reads the whole book.



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Budget/Finance Committee Meeting

10:30 AM January 23, 2026

Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library - Conference Room
304 Biltmore Road Easley, SC 29640

1. Discussion of PCLS FY27 Budget Proposal

Meeting started at 10:31 am. The Director, the Assistant Director, Mr. Kilburn, Dr. Wheeler and Ms. Pinkerton were present at this meeting.

Mr. Kilburn wants an overview of Munis System and to know who enters the information in Munis. The Director explained that the Finance Director (Ralph Guarino) and herself enter information into Munis. The library typically does not know what the budget is until the Finance Director enters it in Munis and then the board must move things around to suit the budget. The Director mentions that the board should oversee the budget. The Director has asked the County Administrator (Ken Roper) to have the County Budget Committee (Ralph Guarino - Finance Director, Alison Fowler – Assistant Administrator, Samantha Greer - HR Director and Dirk Ishiwata - Project Manager) to give the library a percentage or an amount to adjust the budget and allow the library board to decide where funds are allocated.

Mr. Kilburn clarified that the library board will submit a preliminary budget to county and then county will manipulate it. The Director stated that we won't see the changes to the budget until it is entered into Munis. This is difficult because the library cannot function as a county department, because the library board is supposed to have authority over the budget. The Director has asked county to have the library board more involved in the library budget process.

The Director stated the 3 new positions they are asking for this year is a reclassification of the outreach librarian to an outreach manager, a children's assistant, and a public relations assistant. This added \$40,000 to the budget for a reclassification and 2 new part-time positions.

Mr. Kilburn asked why the 2 part-time positions are needed. The Director explained that the children's program attendance has doubled and it's not safe to only have 1 person managing a program with 60 plus children's program attendees or 1 person managing 30 plus teen program attendees. The Director explained that our PR Manager is overwhelmed with all the website upkeep, printed media, signage design, press releases, Facebook posting, videos and pictures production. A part-time PR person would help to manage and grow the library's public interaction.

Mr. Kilburn asked about the State Library survey and the breakdown of the information that is collected and how it affects the budget. The Director explained about the services that are included in the printed materials category on the survey and further explained how Munis is going to have the overall total, including all the branches, of the budgeted amount for circulating materials.

Dr. Wheeler asked if the branch managers make recommendations about their budget and what they will spend. The Director confirmed that they do get input from the branch managers and they meet regularly with them to determine what each branch will need. They meet with all the library department managers to get input for the budget.

Ms. Pinkerton asked about any categories in Munis that show an account in the negative. The Director explained that the finance director will sometimes add line items in Munis that are not needed but that will eventually get moved to a category that does need the funds, but there is usually nothing running in the negative as long as there are funds that can be pulled from an unnecessary category. The Director pointed out that county will add line items that the board did not approve and then there is contention about who really is in control of the library budget, but everyone will eventually come to an agreement.

The Director explained that her job is to prepare a budget for the board and the board will approve it and present the budget to the county's budget committee. And then the county's budget committee makes all the decisions for our funding which doesn't always work with what the library does. It doesn't make sense but that is how county wants it to work. The Director said that she has asked the finance director to give the board a percentage and allow them to make the needed adjustments.

Mr. Kilburn asked why they are meeting with county. The Director explained it is because county is big on fairness and they want every department to go through the same process even though the library is not a typical department because we have a board. We are treated financially as a department, but we are not technically a department according to state law. The Director clarified that we are meeting with county to justify our proposed preliminary budget.

Ms. Pinkerton asked about how the totals for some of the line items came about. The Director explained that the totals are estimates based on what we've spent in the previous year and what we know about inflation. But there is typically not much money to move about if the estimate is over what was spent, the amounts are usually accurate and not padded.

The different types of software the library uses was discussed and why the budget for software is so much. It was discussed that the board goes before county to advocate and support the library. The board will need to advocate for the library's need for more staff to grow and not to allow staff cutting or hourly cuts. There was discussion about the number of staff members in the library, there are 57 total employees. The Director will confirm that the current staff salary budget includes a 1% step increase and let the board know. The staff salary budget does not include the cost-of-living increase, because it is unknown what that will be.

Dr. Wheeler pointed out that they should include in their presentation to county, the value in the amount of volunteers that the library has. The Assistant Director mentioned that they would not be able to do the House Calls Program without volunteers and that they have a lot of volunteers that help with shelving books. Dr. Wheeler mentioned that this information could be a point of value for the library's staffing budget, by converting what the cost would be for the amount of work the volunteers do. The Director

pointed out that the state librarian commented that libraries cannot replace staff with volunteers, therefore she is hesitant to mention the number of volunteers that the library uses.

Mr. Kilburn asked about the library collection line item of \$45,000. The Assistant Director explained that this income is from copies and passport services the library offers. The Director stated that the passport service brings in a lot of money and it's getting more popular. We have spoken with county about making sure the library has access to the overages it brings in for the library, to make sure that money is put back into the library's budget and not the general county fund.

Mr. Kilburn asked about the \$75,000 for building and grounds maintenance and if there is a schedule to support that? The Director explained that this covers all the repairs for all 4 buildings as well as things they have no control over, like repairs to equipment used to repair the library. We have always used the full amount or gone over that budget. County knows that this is a line item that they cannot cut from. She has asked for a maintenance schedule for years to plan for upcoming repairs. Dr. Wheeler suggested that they need a maintenance fund not a maintenance budget, so you can save money for major upcoming repairs, like roofs, HVAC, etc. There was discussion about what comes out of the general fund verses what comes out of the \$75,000 and that county will first charge the library's budget and then use the general fund.

Mr. Kilburn asked what the \$145,000 for circulating materials is used for. The Director explained that this is combined with state aid for book purchases. The Director pointed out that in the past if they had to pull money from somewhere for things that come up unexpectedly or for emergencies, they would move funds from circulating materials since they can also use the \$360,000 in state aid for book purchases.

There was discussion about using state aid to purchase two vans and county is giving push back on the type of vans. It was mentioned that the library board may need to advocate for the vans to be purchased using state aid so the van can stay with the library and only be used for library services.

Ms. Pinkerton asked about dues and subscriptions line item being raised. The Director explained that it is for the Directors Association, the Chamber of Commerce. The Director explained that the Directors Association is something that every library director in South Carolina is a part of to have a lobbyist negotiate the per capita amount each library gets for state aid. This association will also lobby for deals on books with major book vendors and will lobby for pro library legislation.

Mr. Kilburn asked what the \$25,000 overtime line item is. The Director explained that this is for part-time staff because they usually work 20 hours a week, but they maybe be asked to work more hours to help with shortages as long as they don't exceed 30 hours in a week. The Assistant Director pointed out that this helps us avoid paying full-time staff overtime.

There was discussion about the library board meeting with the county budget committee to hopefully get their questions answered about what adjustments needed to be made to the library budget.

Meeting ended at 11:45 am.



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

URGENT - Policy Committee Meeting

January 28, 2026, 3:00 pm

Sarlin Community Library – Liberty, SC
15 S. Palmetto Street Liberty, SC 29657

Recommendations of Policies to bring to Library Board meeting on February 12, 2026

Meeting started at 3:01 pm. Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken, and Ms. Miller of the Policy Committee were in attendance. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Parton were in attendance as well.

1. Motion to accept changes in Constitution Article V

Ms. Pinkerton explained that the phrase, “Secretary-Treasurer,” in the Board of Trustees Constitution article V needs to be updated to separate the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and include the line “The Treasurer will work with the Director on the annual budget” explain what the Treasurer does. Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to accept the updates to Board of Trustees Constitution article V as written and bring them to the Board to vote on. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

2. Motion to accept changes in By-laws: Article IV & Article IX

Ms. Pinkerton explained that the phrase, “Secretary-Treasurer,” in the Board of Trustees By-laws article IV needs to be updated to separate the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to accept the update to the Board of Trustees By-laws article IV, as written, to separate the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and to update the dates in the By-laws article IX from July 1 to June 30 with the dates January 1 to December 31 to align with the board terms. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

3. Motion to accept Collection Policy with updated changes as written

Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to submit to the board the Collection Policy that was sent to the policy committee with the updated changes as written. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Ms. Pinkerton called for the vote. The Director asked that there be discussion because she has questions. Ms. Pinkerton allowed discussion. The Director pointed out that the policy has an extra step that is not necessary. It says in the policy:

“The following criteria for children material will not be included in the Children (0-6 years of age)

Collection:

1. Adult nudity
2. Sexual descriptions
3. Vulgar language

**If material contains the above criteria, they should be moved to the next age group, which is the juvenile collection (7-12 years of age).

The following criteria for juvenile material will not be included in the Juvenile (7-12 years of age)

Collections:

1. Adult nudity
2. Sexual descriptions
3. Vulgar language

** If material contain the above criteria, they should be moved to the next age group, which is the Teen Collection (13-17 years of age)."

The Director stated that the criteria is the same for moving it from children to juvenile and from juvenile to teen. Ms. Pinkerton explained, "The only reason not to do that is because the vulgar language might not be as bad. Meaning, if it's in 0 to 6, I thought if it was like "darn" or something like that, it could be in the juvenile for 7 to 12 and instead of moving all the books, I thought I would leave some interpretation up to the library staff for that." The Director replied that we need specifics for the library staff.

Mr. Aiken agreed that both have the same criteria so they should just be moved to teens.

Dr. Wheeler offered a suggestion to have it say, "materials that are otherwise classified at a children's or juvenile level and contain the following content will be moved to the next higher level." The policy committee agreed.

The Director pointed out another thing that could be problematic from a legal standpoint is were it says, "For the purposes of this policy, and in conjunction with South Carolina Code of Law, Section 16-15-305, material is considered graphic content if a person applying contemporary community standards relating to the depiction or description of sexual conduct would find that the portion of material appeals to the prurient interest, and/or the material can be considered gratuitous sex because it involves descriptions or depictions of carnal detail of a sexual act or encounter." The Director said, "You talk about the law, but you changed the wording of the law, and I think that could be problematic. Because 16-15-305 is a criminal law for obscenity, and it says... "the average person applying contemporary community standards relating to the depiction or description of sexual conduct would find that the material taken as a whole..." is written in the law. In this policy, it says, "portions of the material" and I think if you're citing the law, you have to cite the law, you can't cite the law and change what the law says. Because this says "taken as a whole" is said repeatedly in the law. And in the policy, it says that you're judging it on "portions of materials." And you really have just substituted that, it says word for word in the law, but that you've substituted "portions of materials," where the law it says, "taken as a whole." And I think that could be problematic if you're citing a law, but you're changing the wording of the law." Dr. Wheeler agreed that the law is meant to be taken inclusively, not picking and choosing which parts of it you use. The Director pointed out that one of the options is to take it out, and one option is to change the wording.

Ms. Miller suggested that they don't reference the law. Ms. Pinkerton said, "The law was recommended to put in there like that, but I am okay as long as we keep the spirit." The Director asked, "who recommended it?" Ms. Pinkerton replied, "Several people have. The State Library Director has." The Director asked, "She recommended we put the law in there and say, "portions of materials"?" Ms. Pinkerton said, "That paragraph was hers." The Director responded, "That's interesting. Again, she has no liability, you all have the liability."

Ms. Pinkerton asked the policy committee if they should take that out or leave it in. Ms. Miller said, "Just take out that phrase. And just say, "for the purpose of this policy material is considered graphic content if:" Ms. Pinkerton suggested stating the law but not including the explanation of it. Ms. Miller said, "I actually feel comfortable just leaving it in if this is what Ms. Aiken [State Library Director] said and that's the part she gave you." Ms. Pinkerton suggested leaving the law in there and changing the word 'portion' to 'whole' or taking the law out and amending the policy later.

Mr. Aiken made the point that the community standards of the area from which the jury is drawn is what will determine the prurient appeal. Mr. Aiken said, "So in my mind, we could actually leave that in there, because you need to make sure that it's not quote, the law. Duly noted, if you're quoting verbatim law, it needs to be quoted verbatim, but if you're merely citing a law, it probably would have to be quoted verbatim. The Director clarified, "You're just quoting verbatim, except for that one very important part, that's why I think that could be dangerous."

The policy committee agreed to cite the law but not to quote it. Ms. Miller suggested the wording, "For the purpose of this policy, South Carolina code of law section 16-15-305 will be used as guidance."

Dr. Wheeler pointed out that the policy still violates the law because the language that follows uses the word 'contained' and the work has to be taken as a whole.

The Director pointed out that this is the criminal obscenity law and the bar for that is extremely high. The things that have been moved by the board and by library staff would not meet the standard for obscenity law. The Director said, "There is nothing that would raise to the legal standard of obscene in this library system. The people who published it would be in jail, the people who sold it to us would be in jail, etc.; the authors would be in jail. So, I'm just saying that is a high bar, and this is the obscenity law."

The Director explained that because the obscenity law is such a high bar, they need to know how to implement this policy. Staff will need specifics to know what to move and what not to move.

Ms. Miller stated, "This policy is extremely similar to many, many other counties in South Carolina because we've read them. There have been no lawsuits, no arrests, no problems except in Greenville. Yeah, because they started separating transgender issue books and we are not doing that. We're just saying age-appropriate, protect the minors." The Director responded, "When you say 'age-appropriate, protect the minors' you have to be very specific about what you want moved where." Ms. Miller replied, "As I said, there have been no other lawsuits with policies like this." The Director said, "Greenville has a lawsuit right now." Ms. Miller said, "What I just said, and we are not addressing those issues here. The Director said, "You're moving it based on content."

Ms. Miller stated, "We knew there was going to be disagreement about this. That's why we called this meeting. With the last time this policy was passed, we were not allowed to have any input whatsoever during a meeting like this. And it was passed in a rush. And so, we're taking our time this time; we want this policy passed. We're the majority. You know, we could sit here and talk about this for 5 more hours and still not agree."

The Director explained, "If you look in your guidebook from the state, policies usually come from staff and then go to the board. How it happened last time is staff developed a policy; we asked the chair and the vice chair to look at the policy. Managers throughout the library looked at the policy. There were several levels. And then it went to the state librarian, and she looked at the policy. Followed the policy, received the money. Because under that policy, we're still meeting the guidelines of..." Ms. Pinkerton interjected, "Okay, lets move on, so we're not here forever." The Director stated, "I just want it noted that I was trying to advise you and I was cut off."

Ms. Pinkerton clarified that the paragraph would read, "For the purpose of this policy, South Carolina code of law section 16-15-305 will be used as guidance."

The Director asked, "I just wanted to ask you, what is your vision for the implementation of this? Because you took out the publisher's age range... What is your understanding of how we would implement this? We would go through the books looking for these terms that are kind of broad?... Because we can't judge it on what you think is vulgar, whoever the staff person is judging that book has to make that decision." Ms. Pinkerton

added, "According to community standards, right?" The Assistant Director asked, "So what is the community standard?" Ms. Pinkerton stated, "Well, obviously sexual graphic and explicit material that is in for minors is a problem." The Assistant Director said, "I think that's vague, though." Ms. Pinkerton asked, "How is that vague? It says graphic depictions or descriptions of rape, pedophilia or incest. How is that vague?" The Assistant Director explains that everyone has a different idea of what is graphic.

The Director stated, "We have to implement this, so we need to know what your understanding is.?" Ms. Pinkerton said, "Then come up with ideas to help implement this, because what I'm saying is graphic depictions, if you look at the definition, it's pretty clear if there's rape, pedophilia, incest in there that's pretty clear."

Ms. Miller said, "I think a good place to start is to look back at the books that have been reconsidered and put back on the shelves for young adult. So, I think that's a perfect place to start."

Mr. Aiken made the point that library staff determine where the books go from the start and parents should make the determination of what their kids can and can't read, but if a parent doesn't know that this stuff is in the younger sections of the library then the community would have a problem with that.

The Director pointed out that we do determine where the books go based on the information that we have available when the books are being ordered and the remedy for that is the reconsideration process. The Director asked, "Are you expecting us to go through the books that are currently on the shelves and decide whether they need to be moved or not, because that is going to take a really long time? And are you expecting that we look through the books in their entirety when they come in to make sure that they're... because we can't do that. The remedy for that is the reconsideration policy." Ms. Miller replied, "It is going to take a while. And I think you start by saying all "and up" books go to the adult section or the young adult section." The Director said, "I thought we removed that." Ms. Pinkerton replied, "I did, because you said it was too confusing. See you guys keep telling us what's confusing and we change things to kind of meet the middle road so that it's not so confusing. And then when we put in specific criteria, then you say, well that's too vague also. So, please inform us what would make you come to the middle road here."

Ms. Miller stated, "And just because it's not in the policy, doesn't mean you can't common sense do it if it says "and up" it doesn't belong in the young adult, it belongs in the adult. The Director replied, "Some do, because some publishers, everything they create for teens is "and up" because adults may enjoy the book, and they're trying to sell it to as broad a range as possible." Ms. Miller responded, "But you know, you're supposed to be curating the books. You guys can make those judgements. The only thing we don't want is graphic sex in underage sections of the library. Protect minors." The Director replied, "Some parents are okay with that. I think you're stepping in for the parent." Ms. Pinkerton said, "But they can get permission." Ms. Miller said, "Then they can go to the adult section." The Director said, "But you're making parents that are okay with that go on a scavenger hunt to find books."

Ms. Pinkerton explained about a conversation they had last year, "You guys suggested that we need to, that the parents can be with the kids and walk through and look over the book and read the book." The Director said, "they should be." Ms. Pinkerton added, "They can do the same thing if they give permission to the adult section." There was discussion about the research done to review a book to add to the collection and if in that research a teen book is found to have graphic and mature themes, then the book would go into the adult section. The Director pointed out that this is the exception not the rule. Ms. Pinkerton said, "But we're trying to make a rule. So why can't the exception be to the rule that parents give permission for them to go see the books in the

adult section? Why can't that be the exception to the rule, meaning the books are moved up as rule and then parents are guiding their teenagers to be able to choose that section as the exception to the rule?"

The Director explained, "Because the way that we've done this new card, parents would have to give their children the option to check out in the adult section to get to the teen books, and it would be the majority of the teen books that I think, based on this, that we would be moving." Ms. Pinkerton replied, "So you're telling me that most of the teen books have sexual content in them that we have on the shelves?" The Assistant Director explained that almost any coming-of-age book, which is a very popular topic for teens books, because they are growing up, coming of age and everything is about relationships." Ms. Miller responded, "It can be about relationships with out having graphic sex." The Director replied, "It can, and there's some of that too. And that's where we need to find that line."

Ms. Pinkerton explained, "And by making specific things like this on here for the criteria, was also trying to stop some of the... the books that...if we used just the rating system, a good point was the "13 and up" "14 and up," then some of the good books that don't have this information, the graphic stuff in it, would be also moved. So, by moving to this, the collateral damage of those books would still stay in teens, because it's not just moving it up, if it has no sexual content and then it would stay in the teen area. So that is why it was moved to this, because it was very specific on the criteria for the materials. And now you're saying that we have a lot of books that have this... I don't even know the words to say...have some bad things in it." The Director said, "According to you they are bad." Ms. Pinkerton expressed that according to the director she would have to walk with her child through the library to make sure of the books that they are getting. The Director responded, "If that is how you choose to parent, yes." Ms. Pinkerton suggested putting a sign up that tells parents that some books may be graphic.

The Director again asked what the expectation for implementation is; if staff should focus on the books that are coming in or go through the whole youth collection. Because to do the whole youth collection, she will need to formulate a plan and pull resources to get this accomplished.

Mr. Aiken said that he feels a collection policy deals with the books we are collecting and bringing in. The Director asked if that means you don't think we should go through the whole collection. Mr. Aiken replied, "I'm not saying that they won't need to be dealt with."

There was discussion about the proviso being permanent law versus a yearly budget provision that could change or be completely pulled out next year.

Ms. Pinkerton asked if the library has received the first payment of state aid for this fiscal year. The Director pointed out that we have received it with the current policy we have in place right now and there was no further communication from the delegation. The library card policy and application require parental consent for minors, and parents must specify what sections their child can check out from. A minor has always had to have a parent sign them up for a library card. The Director said, "Now, whether their parent wants to stay with them in the library or send them to the library, that is the parents responsibility." Ms. Pinkerton said, "The parent does not know that all this stuff is in the library in the teen section." Ms. Miller stated, "That's been proven over and over again. The parents are ignorant."

Ms. Pinkerton expressed that she used to use the Pickens Library branch as a homeschooling resource for her son, but when she joined the library board and found out all this stuff, she was scared to use it.

The Director pointed out that there are thousands of people that use the teen section, who don't have a problem with it.

Ms. Pinkerton explained that they have to service the whole community and there are people in the community that are not happy with the selection in the teen section, so by keeping the old collection policy we are only pleasing some of the community not the whole.

The Assistant Director mentioned that if you're pleasing another part of the community, then you're going to make the other part of the community unhappy. Ms. Pinkerton replied, "But they can still get the book."

The Assistant Director stated, "Sund Vs city of Wichita Falls. The judge wrote, 'If a parent wishes to prevent her child from reading a particular book that parent can and should accompany the child to the library and should not prevent all children in the community from gaining access to constitutionally protected materials. Where First Amendment rights are concerned, those seeking to restrict access to information should be forced to take affirmative steps to shield themselves from unwanted materials. The onus should not be on the general public to overcome barriers to their access to fully protected information.'"

The Director explained, "If you want to move forward with this policy, I just need to know your expectations are for implementation. Do you want us to look through all the books and the books that are coming in?" Ms. Pinkerton said, "Yes."

Dr. Wheeler brought out that the way this collection policy is written to decide whether it meets that criteria, you would have to look through every children's, juvenile, and teen book in the library.

Ms. Miller stated, "I think it's the boards place to make the policy and it's the Director's place to come up with a plan of how she's going to implement the policy." The Director replied, "That's why I'm saying, what does it look like to you, so that so that I can implement a policy to make sure I know what your intention is."

The Assistant Director stated, "We're asking all these questions because we want to make sure that the policy is something that doesn't violate anybody's rights and that it is something that we can reasonably implement. That's why we're asking these questions and bringing up these cases. It's not because we want to sit here and argue about it. If we thought that this was legal or we wouldn't have any questions, then we wouldn't have any issues."

Ms. Miller asked, "If we're just moving the books, how are we violating anyone's rights?"

The Assistant Director replied, "Because you're segregating then based on the content, and there's been multiple cases about that."

Ms. Miller replied, "I'm still waiting to see a list of those cases." The Director mentioned that she sent a list to Ms. Miller in August, but she will send her another one.

Mr. Aiken made the point that every book in the library is categorized based off of content already. The Director pointed out that it's not only content, but also who they were written for.

The Director stated, "We are going to try to implement this to the best of our ability."

Ms. Miller stated that she knows this is hard for the Director because it goes against the way she's been running the library for years. The Director replied, "This goes against a lot more than that."

Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to accept the collection policy with the amendments to bring to the board. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to accept Review of Material Policy with updated changes as written

The Policy Committee agreed upon the following amendments for the materials policy:

- Pg. 1 Para. 4 - "Pickens County community members can have (1) active Reconsideration Requests every (30) days"
- Pg. 2 #4 - "The Library Director will select (2) professional librarians to conduct an independent review of the library material. This individual shall consult and rely upon the standards stated in the board-

approved *Collection Policy*. The librarian will provide their individual recommendation to the Director, after reading the whole book and doing some research using expert sources and reviews. The director will consider this recommendation along with the *Collection Policy* and make final decision which will be emailed to the petitioner within (15) business days of receipt of their initial request. If additional time is needed the Director will notify the petitioner and the Chairman with anticipated new date.”

- Pg. 2 #5 - “Before the meeting at which the review will be discussed, the Library Board will be required to read the whole book”
- Pg. 2 #5 - “The Director will gather together all the information related to the request and send it to the Chairman of the Board, who will add the request to the next Board meeting that follows an intervening period of at least (30) days from the time the Chairman’s receipt of the information.”

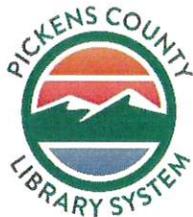
Mr. Aiken made a motion to recommend the board accept the review of materials policy with the amended changes. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion to table ALA – Library Bill of Right & Freedom to Read

Ms. Miller made a motion to table ALA – Library Bill of Rights & Freedom to Read. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting ended at 4:10 pm

DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

6:00pm February 12, 2026
Hampton Memorial Library
304 Biltmore Road Easley, SC 29640

PRESIDING: Mr. Danny Parton, Chair- District 3 (Pickens)

Dr. Alfred Wheeler – District 1 (Clemson)	Mr. Robert Sams – District 5 (Easley)
Ms. Nancy Miller, Sec – District 2 (Six Mile)	Mr. Brian Aiken – District 6 (Dacusville)
Ms. Alesa Pinkerton, V. Chair – District 4 (Liberty)	Mr. Mark Kilburn, Treasurer – At Large

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

a. Roll Call for the Record

Ms. Miller did roll call. The full board was present.

b. Accept Agenda as written

Mr. Aiken made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Mr. Kilburn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Parton led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Motion- changes to Constitution Article V

Mr. Aiken made a motion to accept the changes to Constitution Article V. Mr. Parton stated that no second is needed. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion - changes to Bylaws: Article IV & IX

Mr. Parton made a motion to accept the changes to Bylaws: Article IV and IX. No second needed. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion – Collection Policy as written

Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to accept the Collection Policy as written. No second needed.

Mr. Kilburn thanked the policy committee for coming up with this collection policy. He proposed making a few changes to it.

Mr. Kilburn's proposed changes to Collection Policy:

- PG 1- 2nd Paragraph – Last Sentence before bullets:
STRIKEOUT “the” and ADD “a”

ADD – “that conforms to this collection policy.”

It will read "...a selection process that conforms to this collection policy."

Mr. Parton asked all in favor of this amendment. Unanimous vote. Amendment approved.

Mr. Kilburn's proposed changes to Collection Policy:

- PG 2 – 2nd Bullet from the bottom
ADD “National Book Rating Index”

Mr. Kilburn said, “this source provides information that is relevant to the collection policy and the criteria that we’re establishing... I’d like to add that as a suggestion to help in the evaluation process.” The Director pointed out that she is not familiar with that as a resource.

Mr. Sams stated that if the Director has not heard of this, he does not see why it should be added.

Mr. Parton asked all in favor of adding this amendment. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken, and Ms. Miller all voted in favor. Mr. Sams and Dr. Wheeler voted against. Amendment approved.

Mr. Kilburn's proposed changes to Collection Policy:

- PG 4 – 1st Paragraph
STRIKEOUT “use” and ADD “follow”
STRIKEOUT “as a resource” and ADD a “.”

It will read:

“The following two sections: Children’s and Teen’s Collections will follow the “Guidance on Collection Development for Minors” by the South Carolina State Library.”

Mr. Parton asked all in favor of adding this amendment. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken, and Ms. Miller all voted in favor. Mr. Sams and Dr. Wheeler voted against. Amendment approved.

Mr. Kilburn's proposed changes to Collection Policy:

- PG 4 – Middle of page
DELETE “** If materials contain...etc.” (the whole sentence)

Dr. Wheeler stated that he too has some corrections that he would like to make after they finish with Mr. Kilburn's amendments.

Mr. Parton asked all in favor of this amendment. Unanimous vote. Amendment approved.

Mr. Kilburn's proposed changes to Collection Policy:

- PG 4 – 2nd to last paragraph
MOVE below Last paragraph on Page 4
ADD “Paragraph (C) provides clarification of terms and will be referred to for the following” (the following would be the listing of the criteria materials)

Mr. Parton asked all in favor of this amendment. Unanimous vote. Amendment approved.

Mr. Kilburn's proposed changes to Collection Policy:

- PG 5 – 1ST Paragraph
DELETE “Criteria” and CAPITALIZE “M” it would read “Materials that contain the following”
ADD to list “5. Patently Offensive”

Mr. Parton asked all in favor of adding this amendment. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken, Ms. Miller, and Mr. Sams all voted in favor. Dr. Wheeler voted against. Amendment approved.

Dr. Wheeler stated that he has a lot of problems with this policy and he sent notes on it. He stated that he appreciated that some of the things were included. Dr. Wheeler said, "There are still numerous outstanding issues. But just as a general statement, before we consider voting. Given the potential legal ramifications which have been articulated by board members, the library staff and informed members of the public. Not to mention the enormous impact of the distribution of the workload on library staff and the impact on library services. I think we should table voting on these policies, but particularly this one until we get legal advice from an attorney who is experienced in civil rights, constitutional law and preferably public library policy. I would hate to see us stumble into expensive lawsuits, wasting taxpayer money and staff time if we can easily avoid it. And there really is no hurry. And I know you don't all agree, but if it isn't broken, why fix it? Using the existing policies, we were approved for state funding. So, I believe we can sign the certification and continue to work on these policies or if you want to temporarily hold the certification, I think the library can use existing resources to purchase materials while they sort this out. But if we insist on going forward, I do have some corrections to this policy." Dr. Wheeler handed out copies to the board of his edits.

Dr. Wheeler stated that under the children's collection is currently says, "the following *criteria* will not be included." Dr. Wheeler points out that what it should say is "materials that have the following *content* will not be included." Dr. Wheeler clarified that you don't include criteria in collections, it is the content you're calling into question.

Dr. Wheeler made a motion to table this policy until we get legal advice. Mr. Sams seconded the motion. Mr. Sams stated that in September of last year the county attorney recommended that the library board get our own attorney to discuss these policies, so we're not changing the policy and then having to defend it. Mr. Sams said, "We've had a number of emails from not only patrons, but also library staff members. So, if these policies are recommended, we're going to have to eliminate some extremely popular programs that library staff cannot handle these changes and the current programming."

Dr. Wheeler makes the point that he is concerned that the policy leaves a lot of room for interpretation, and we can't put that burden on the librarians to make these kinds of decisions. He mentioned that librarians would have to review over 86,000 books and reclassify all the YA into Teen and this will have a massive impact on library services and not much programming will get done. Dr. Wheeler said, "We need to be prepared for major blowback, not to mention the specter of lawsuits. So that's just to expand on my idea of why this should be tabled at this time."

Mr. Kilburn mentioned that the collection policy was updated a couple years ago, and he asked what law firm was used to review that collection policy before it was implemented. Mr. Kilburn expressed that what has changed is the budget proviso saying that we need to remove books that are of prurient interest to minors, this is not a difficult issue, there is the legal definition of prurient interest. If we want to have funding from the state, we have to certify that that we have a collection policy in place that corresponds to that proviso. Mr. Kilburn stated that the previous board did go ahead and signed and received funds, but that was also a contentious issue because of this very fact that the collection policy does not really address what was in the proviso which came later.

Mr. Sams confirmed with the Director that we have received the first half of the state funding for this fiscal year and the board's main battle with funding is with the county. Mr. Sams makes the point that it seems like the board is not respecting the expertise of the library staff. Mr. Parton explained that the board's job is to finalize responsible policies, the director develops policies with the policy committee, and the board has the final say.

Dr. Wheeler makes the point that the main issue is that professional librarians do not put any prurient material, according to the legal definition, in the library. Dr. Wheeler asked the Director if she would agree with that statement. The Director said, "I would agree." Dr. Wheeler stated that the board can sign the certificate without having a new collection policy. Ms. Pinkerton stopped discussion and said, "Point of order, isn't there a motion on the table? Can we go to the motion?"

Mr. Parton called for a vote on Dr. Wheeler's motion to table the collection policy. Mr. Sams seconded the motion. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Sams voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Aiken and Ms. Miller were opposed. Motion failed.

Dr. Wheeler suggested the following amendments:

Pg. 4 - "The following criteria for children material will not be included..." to "The following content for children material will not be included..."

Pg. 4 - "The following criteria for juvenile material will not be included..." to "The following content for juvenile material will not be included..."

Pg. 5 - "Criteria materials that contain the following will not be included..." to "Materials that contain the following will not be included..."

Dr. Wheeler clarified that this makes more sense.

Mr. Kilburn made a motion to consider Dr. Wheeler's amendments. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to accept the collection policy with the additional amendments that we voted on. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken and Ms. Miller voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Sams voted against the motion. Motion carried.

6. Motion – Review of Materials/Reconsideration Policy as written

Ms. Pinkerton made a motion for the Materials and Reconsideration Policy to be accepted as written. No second needed.

Dr. Wheeler suggested the following amendment:

- Pg. 2 #5 - "The Director will gather together all the information related to the request and send it to the Chairman of the Board, who will add the request to the next Board meeting that follows an intervening period of at least (30) days from the time the Chairman's receipt of the information."

Dr. Wheeler made a motion to accept this amendment of the Materials/Reconsideration Policy. Mr. Sams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Wheeler suggested the following amendment:

- Pg. 2 #4 - "The director will consider this recommendation along with the Collection Policy and make a final decision which will be emailed to the petitioner within (25) business days.."

Dr. Wheeler made a motion to accept this amendment of the Materials/Reconsideration Policy. Mr. Sams seconded the motion. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Sams voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken and Ms. Miller voted against the motion. Motion failed.

Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to accept the Materials/Reconsideration Policy as written with amendments. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken and Ms. Miller voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Sams voted against the motion. Motion carried.

7. Sign Certification form for State library

Mr. Kilburn made a motion to postpone signing the Certification form for the State Library until the next board meeting in March. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion.

Mr. Kilburn suggested that we need time to implement the changes to the collection policy before the board signs this document.

Dr. Wheeler asked why we made all the changes to the collection policy if we are not going to sign the certificate, wasn't that the whole point. The certificate was signed under the old policy and now we have a new policy that is exactly what you wanted, and you don't want to sign the form.

Ms. Pinkerton stated that they have a collection policy that will help us be in compliance, but at this moment nothing has been moved, so we are not in compliance. Waiting to sign will give us a month to get some of these books moved.

Dr. Wheeler said "How many of these books are you going to be able to review in the next month? Maybe 2% of them? So, 2% of the books will be evaluated. And so, on that basis, you will be more comfortable signing this? Again, this makes absolutely no sense to me whatsoever!"

The Director pointed out that there is a timeline issue that's very important to this. We were under the impression that this special called meeting tonight was called just to do this. If the board waits until March to sign, the library will get the payment at the end of April or May. All of state money must be spent by the end of June. It is a big deal not to have spent that money by the end of June.

Mr. Parton expressed that his understanding was that you have until June to submit this form. The Assistant Director clarified that you have to have the funds spent by June 30th.

Mr. Aiken stated that from his experience with the school district, this is correct the funds have to be spent, ordered and received by the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Pinkerton asked if the first state aid payment has been spent. The Director stated that they are close to having spent the first installment.

Mr. Kilburn asked about the process for county to receive the money and the library spending it.

The Director stated that the county finance director likes to see the funds hit our account before we can spend it, because of all the controversy. Because of that it causes delays in ordering.

Mr. Kilburn expressed that he is not comfortable signing because of the amount of reconsiderations, so he does not feel we are in compliance with the proviso.

Dr. Wheeler stated that there isn't any prurient material in the library and we received our funding last time, so waiting a month to sign the form does not good. He sees no point in not signing.

Mr. Kilburn made a motion to postpone signing the Certification form for the State Library until the next board meeting in March. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken and Ms. Miller voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Sams voted against the motion. Motion carried.

8. Executive Session - Motion to go into Executive Session

Mr. Aiken made a motion to go into Executive Session. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Parton explained what will be discussed in executive session is updates on FOIA request to board members, responding to a letter from American United about separation of church and state.

Adjourned to Executive Session at 7:11 pm.

a. Legal Matters

Meeting called back into order at 7:42 pm.

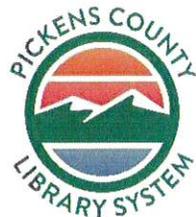
Ms. Pinkerton made a motion to comply with the FOIA request. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Aiken made a motion to send the county attorney's letter to American United that they are not breaking the constitution in line with the law. Mr. Kilburn seconded the motion. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Aiken, Mr. Sams and Ms. Miller voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler voted against the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Sams made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Next Meeting: Regular meeting, March 19, 2026, 6:00pm at Sarlin Library- Liberty

DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

6:00pm February 24, 2026
Hampton Memorial Library
304 Biltmore Road Easley, SC 29640

PRESIDING: Mr. Danny Parton, Chair- District 3 (Pickens)

Dr. Alfred Wheeler – District 1 (Clemson)
Ms. Nancy Miller, Sec – District 2 (Six Mile)
Ms. Alesa Pinkerton, V. Chair – District 4 (Liberty)

Mr. Robert Sams – District 5 (Easley)
Mr. Brian Aiken – District 6 (Dacusville)
Mr. Mark Kilburn, Treasurer – At Large

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm. All board members were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Mr. Parton made a motion to move to executive session with only the board, to discuss a personnel matter concerning the Library Director. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion. Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Kilburn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Aiken voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Sams voted against the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Parton dismissed the public, including the Director and Assistant Director.

The board returned from Executive Session at 7:56 pm. Mr. Parton made a motion that the Board of Trustees terminate the employment of Library Director, Stephanie Howard, immediately. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion. Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Kilburn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Aiken voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Sams voted against the motion. Motion carried. The Director, the Assistant Director and the board clerk entered the room as the vote was concluding. Mr. Parton asked that the Director meet him and Ms. Pinkerton in the conference room after this meeting.

Mr. Parton was asked by the board clerk to repeat what took place before the Director, the Assistant Director, and the board clerk entered the room. Mr. Parton stated that he made a motion that the Board of Trustees terminate the employment of Library Director, Stephanie Howard, immediately. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion. Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Kilburn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Aiken voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Sams voted against the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Parton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Aiken made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kilburn seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Next Meeting: Regular meeting, March 19, 2026, 6:00pm at ~~Sarlin Library – Liberty~~ location change: Hampton Memorial Library



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

5:30pm Friday -March 6, 2026

Hampton Memorial Library

304 Biltmore Road Easley, SC 29640

PRESIDING: Mr. Danny Parton, Chair- District 3 (Pickens)

Dr. Alfred Wheeler – District 1 (Clemson)

Ms. Nancy Miller, Sec – District 2 (Six Mile)

Ms. Alesa Pinkerton, V. Chair – District 4 (Liberty)

Mr. Robert Sams – District 5 (Easley)

Mr. Brian Aiken – District 6 (Dacusville)

Mr. Mark Kilburn, Treasurer – At Large

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm. Mr. Patron made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

1. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Aiken led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Enter Executive Session - S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (A)

Mr. Parton made a motion that only the board move into executive session to discuss the hiring of an interim director of the Pickens County Library System, until we hire a full-time library director. He noted that the candidate that they are interviewing has expressed that he does not want the permanent library director position. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion.

Mr. Sams made a point of order on behalf of Dr. Wheeler that the board has not established a process or voted on how to interview candidates. Mr. Parton asked for a motion for Mr. Sams point of order. The Assistant Director explained that the Chairman would just need to rule on the point of order, and that there is no need for discussion, just a ruling of whether you agree or disagree. Mr. Sams stated that Dr. Wheeler suggested that the board postpone the executive session until the board has established a process for interviewing a candidate for the interim library director position. Mr. Parton ruled against Mr. Sams' point of order.

Mr. Parton explained that the interim process is always at a fast pace compared to hiring a full-time person, so we can get someone quickly that can keep the library functioning and working. The primary job of the interim director is to keep the library door open and keep the programs going. Mr. Parton explained that the state library has referred to this candidate as a resource, Ken Roper is familiar with this process, and the chair has the authority to bring in an interim director before the board.

Mr. Kilburn suggested that they take a vote to agree with the chair or overrule chair's position. Mr. Parton explains that if Mr. Sams wants to appeal this decision, then the board would take a vote.

Mr. Sams mentioned that he probably wouldn't get a second to his motion to delay, but less than a half hour ago the board got an email from Stephanie Howard stating that she is filing a grievance. Mr. Parton said, "That's not about what we're discussing right now."

Mr. Parton restated the motion that only the board move into executive session to discuss the hiring of an interim director of the Pickens County Library System, until we hire a full-time library director. He noted that the candidate that they are interviewing has expressed that he does not want the permanent library director position. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton and Mr. Aiken voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Sams voted against the motion. Motion carries.

Mr. Parton dismissed the public at 5:39 pm.

3. Personnel Matters – Interview a candidate for the Interim Library Director position

4. Adjourn Executive Session

Executive session ended at 6:50 pm

5. Executive Session – Discussion and possible action

Mr. Parton made a motion to recommend to the county Bruce Heimburger as Interim Director of the Pickens County Library System until we hire a full-time Library Director. He noted that the candidate that they are interviewing has expressed that he does not want the permanent library director position. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Mr. Parton mentioned that Mr. Heimburger was recommended by the South Carolina State Library. They resource 46 library systems in South Carolina and this is what they do, they will have people that come in and help the libraries.

6. Restart all cancelled programs – Discussion and possible action

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Preschool Storytime | American Girl |
| Mother Goose on the Loose | Wiggle & Giggles |
| Teen Game Night | Mini Maestros |
| Messy Munchkins | Teen Thursdays |
| Teen Art Club | |
| Poetry Writing Workshop and Reader’s Round Table | |
| Saturday Storytime | |
| STEAM Adventures with Jack and Annie | |

Mr. Parton stated that the programs were cancelled due to the former library director’s implementation process.

Mr. Aiken made a motion to restart all cancelled programs. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion.

The Assistant Director mentioned that as long as the next motion passes, we will be able to restart programming, however, a lot of planning goes into these programs, and it will take some time to get needed supplies. We can start the Preschool Storytimes at all the locations as well as American Girl next week. Other programs can start the following week, and monthly programs will start in April. The Poetry Writing Workshop will be rescheduled, and Book Boxes will start up in May.

Unanimous approval.

7. Pause Collection Policy implementation process until an Interim Library Director is hired- Discussion and possible action

Mr. Kilburn made a motion to pause the collection policy implementation process until an interim library director is hired. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion.

Ms. Pinkerton wanted clarification on if pausing the implementation would help with staffing for programs. The Assistant Director stated that yes, pausing the implementation will allow for the programs to restart.

Unanimous approval.

8. Change time of meetings from 6:00pm to 5:30pm- Discussion and possible action

Mr. Parton made a motion to change the time of the board meetings from 6:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion.

Ms. Pinkerton asked if that is a problem with reserving the room. The Assistant Director stated that it is not a problem for the room reservation, but it would make it difficult for the public to engage in the meetings. Mr. Parton stated that the reason for the change is based on the hiring of the interim director, because he will be working two days a week, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 20 hours a week and working remotely the rest of the time. He will have a 2-hour drive after board meetings, so if we can start a little bit earlier for him that would be helpful. However, if it interferes with the public coming, then let the board know and we can adjust it back.

Mr. Kilburn clarified that it is a change just to help him with his travel time and after a permanent director is hired, we can revert back to 6:00 pm. Mr. Parton agreed.

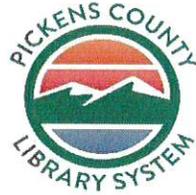
Unanimous approval.

Mr. Sams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Aiken seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Regular meeting, March 19, 2026, 5:30 pm at Hampton Memorial Library

DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED



PCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

6:00 pm Tuesday -March 10, 2026
Hampton Memorial Library
304 Biltmore Road Easley, SC 29640

PRESIDING: Mr. Danny Parton, Chair- District 3 (Pickens)

Dr. Alfred Wheeler – District 1 (Clemson)
Ms. Nancy Miller, Sec – District 2 (Six Mile)
Ms. Alesa Pinkerton, V. Chair – District 4 (Liberty)

Mr. Robert Sams – District 5 (Easley)
Mr. Brian Aiken – District 6 (Dacusville)
Mr. Mark Kilburn, Treasurer – At Large

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 6:00 pm

- a. **Roll Call for the Record** – Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Sams, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, Mr. Kilburn, and Mr. Aiken were all in attendance. Ms. Miller was not in attendance.
- b. **Accept Agenda as written** – Mr. Parton made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Mr. Aiken seconded. Unanimous approval.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (A), allows that specifically delineated and qualifying matters may be discussed outside the presence of the public.

- a. **Personnel - Section 30-4-70(A)(1)**
 - **Employee Grievance**

Mr. Parton made a motion to move to executive session. Ms. Pinkerton seconded the motion. Unanimous approval. Executive session began at 6:04 pm.

3. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS (as needed)

While the SC Freedom of Information Act allows for certain matters to be discussed outside the presence of the public, any votes on such matters can only take place once the board has returned to public session.

Mr. Parton closed executive session at 6:33 pm. Mr. Parton made a motion to affirm the previous vote taken on Tuesday February 24, 2026, to terminate the former Library Director, Stephanie Howard, in response to her grievance, to affirm means to deny her grievance. Mr. Kilburn seconded the motion. Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Parton, Ms. Pinkerton, and Mr. Aiken all voted in favor. Mr. Sams and Dr. Wheeler voted against. Motion carries. Grievance denied.

Mr. Aiken made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kilburn seconded. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Next Meeting: Regular meeting, March 19, 2026, 5:30 pm at Hampton Memorial Library

Pickens County, S.C.



YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT FY26

FOR 2026 13

ACCOUNTS FOR: 01 GENERAL FUND	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFERS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
01540 COUNTY LIBRARY							
01540 4010 SALARIES & WAGES	1,892,796.00	.00	1,892,796.00	1,260,287.83	.00	632,508.17	66.6%
01540 4012 FICA	166,611.00	.00	166,611.00	109,441.75	.00	57,169.25	65.7%
01540 4013 WORKER'S COMPENSATIO	5,913.00	.00	5,913.00	1,398.61	.00	4,514.39	23.7%
01540 4014 RETIREMENT	413,087.00	.00	413,087.00	270,869.86	.00	142,217.14	65.6%
01540 4015 HEALTH INSURANCE	392,751.00	.00	392,751.00	265,218.80	.00	127,532.20	67.5%
01540 4016 DENTAL INSURANCE	8,316.00	.00	8,316.00	6,081.42	.00	2,234.58	73.1%
01540 4017 LIFE INSURANCE	306.00	.00	306.00	213.00	.00	93.00	69.6%
01540 4020 OVERTIME	25,750.00	.00	25,750.00	22,503.82	.00	3,246.18	87.4%
01540 4025 PT SALARIES & WAGES	332,767.00	.00	332,767.00	194,236.95	.00	138,530.05	58.4%
01540 4070 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,300.00	.00	1,300.00	250.00	.00	1,050.00	19.2%
01540 4100 OFFICE SUPPLIES	29,000.00	.00	29,000.00	20,942.37	1,107.69	6,949.94	76.0%
01540 4110 POSTAGE	4,000.00	-250.00	3,750.00	2,824.43	.00	925.57	75.3%
01540 4140 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,590.00	250.00	1,840.00	1,792.69	.00	47.31	97.4%
01540 4150 TRAVEL EXPENSE	2,000.00	.00	2,000.00	1,010.65	.00	989.35	50.5%
01540 4160 SAFETY ITEMS	700.00	.00	700.00	.00	.00	700.00	0%
01540 4170 FUEL & OIL	3,000.00	.00	3,000.00	1,200.60	.00	1,799.40	40.0%
01540 4190 CREDIT CARD FEES	1,800.00	.00	1,800.00	1,030.60	.00	769.40	57.3%
01540 4200 ELECTRICITY & HEATIN	132,000.00	.00	132,000.00	58,657.99	.00	73,342.01	44.4%
01540 4210 TELEPHONE	30,000.00	.00	30,000.00	16,821.47	4,760.86	8,417.67	71.9%
01540 4220 WATER & SEWER	20,000.00	.00	20,000.00	6,769.36	.00	13,230.64	33.8%
01540 4262 COPIER CONTRACT	31,000.00	.00	31,000.00	.00	.00	31,000.00	0%
01540 4263 SECURITY MONITORING	1,777.00	89.00	1,866.00	1,865.52	.00	.48	100.0%
01540 4264 PEST CONTROL CONTRAC	2,500.00	.00	2,500.00	1,027.00	.00	1,473.00	41.1%
01540 4265 SOFTWARE CONTRACT	75,000.00	12,700.00	87,700.00	87,297.51	.00	402.49	99.5%
01540 4266 EQUIPMENT CONTRACT	15,000.00	.00	15,000.00	14,650.15	.00	349.85	97.7%
01540 4268 FIRE ALARM INSPECTIO	1,892.00	.00	1,892.00	1,513.20	.00	378.80	80.0%
01540 4269 FIRE EXTINGUISHER CO	3,700.00	.00	3,700.00	1,321.49	.00	2,378.51	35.7%
01540 4270 REPAIRS TO EQUIPMENT	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	.00	.00	1,000.00	0%
01540 4280 REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS	75,000.00	-2,089.00	72,911.00	36,282.35	.00	36,628.65	49.8%
01540 4290 REPAIRS TO VEHICLES	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00	4,027.16	.00	-27.16	100.7%
01540 4400 FOOD	700.00	.00	700.00	620.69	.00	79.31	88.7%
01540 4430 CLEANING & SANITATIO	20,000.00	.00	20,000.00	10,724.10	786.77	8,489.13	57.6%
01540 4621 PROPERTY INSURANCE	39,000.00	1,161.00	40,161.00	40,161.22	.00	.00	100.0%
01540 4622 TORT INSURANCE	35,600.00	-2,418.00	33,182.00	33,181.23	.00	.77	100.0%
01540 4624 LICENSES	120.00	.00	120.00	.00	.00	120.00	0%
01540 4625 PERMIT FEES	900.00	.00	900.00	880.00	.00	20.00	97.8%
01540 4630 RENT-BUILDINGS, EQUI	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	.00	.00	1,000.00	0%
01540 4640 TRAINING	2,459.00	6,000.00	8,459.00	7,796.00	.00	663.00	92.2%
01540 4640 GE577 TRAINING: LSTA	.00	2,531.43	2,531.43	2,531.43	.00	.00	100.0%
01540 4650 CONSULTING & CONTRAC	20,000.00	.00	20,000.00	6,317.75	.00	13,682.25	31.6%

Pickens County, S.C.



YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT FY26

FOR 2026 13

ACCOUNTS FOR: 01 GENERAL FUND	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
01540 4710 00128 PROGRAMMING/OUT	24,000.00	.00	24,000.00	17,232.57	538.95	6,228.48	74.0%
01540 4710 GE565 DEPARTMENTAL SU	.00	500.00	500.00	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
01540 4710 GE566 DEPARTMENTAL SU	.00	13,290.00	13,290.00	5,294.28	.00	7,995.72	39.8%
01540 4710 GE569 DEPARTMENTAL SU	.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	1,871.28	.00	2,128.72	46.8%
01540 4710 GE581 DEPARTMENTAL SU	.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	.00	.00	1,500.00	.0%
01540 4780 BOOKS	140,000.00	-6,000.00	134,000.00	20,282.30	121.02	113,596.68	15.2%
01540 4783 00055 FRIENDS OF LIBR	5,000.00	.00	5,000.00	1,595.00	.00	3,405.00	31.9%
01540 4789 LIBRARY MISC DONATIO	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	.00	826.79	173.21	82.7%
01540 4790 BOOKS (STATE AID)	329,445.00	-47,519.00	281,926.00	228,833.95	11,880.08	41,211.97	85.4%
01540 4810 COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	30,000.00	-12,700.00	17,300.00	-8,664.47	.00	25,964.47	-50.1%
01540 4820 OFFICE FURNITURE & E	25,000.00	.00	25,000.00	4,606.15	.00	20,393.85	18.4%
01540 4915 MACHINERY & EQUIPMEN	.00	80,080.00	80,080.00	40,265.00	39,815.00	.00	100.0%
TOTAL COUNTY LIBRARY	4,346,780.00	53,125.43	4,399,905.43	2,803,065.06	59,837.16	1,537,003.21	65.1%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	4,346,780.00	53,125.43	4,399,905.43	2,803,065.06	59,837.16	1,537,003.21	65.1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,346,780.00	53,125.43	4,399,905.43	2,803,065.06	59,837.16	1,537,003.21	

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT FY26



FOR 2026 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANSFRS/ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
GRAND TOTAL	4,346,780.00	53,125.43	4,399,905.43	2,803,065.06	59,837.16	1,537,003.21	65.1%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Cassie Hamilton **



Foundation Donations

February 2026

The mission of the Pickens County Library System Foundation is: To solicit, accept, and acquire donations of public/private funds and properties in order to promote, support, and enhance the programs, services, and the future of the Pickens County Library System.

The Pickens County Library System Foundation is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3.

Donor Tree Leaves & Upgrades Sold Thus Far

Items Remaining

Family Donor Leaves (\$150) – 361	139 (of 500 total)
Children’s Donor Leaves (\$150) – 159	140 (of 300 total)
Contributor Stones (\$1000) – 12 (Sold Out)	0 (of 12 total)
Acorns (\$250) – 11 (Sold Out)	0 (of 11 total)
Magnolia Flowers (\$250) – 9 (Sold Out)	0 (of 9 total)
Pinecones (\$250) – 7 (Sold Out)	0 (of 7 total)
Large Cloud with Bird (\$5,000) – 2	1 (of 3 total)
Small Cloud (\$200) – 1 (Sold Out)	0 (of 1 total)
Sun (\$10,000) - 0	1 (of 1 total)

Foundation Banking Account

Beginning Balance as of 01/30/2026	\$79,212.02
Interest	\$0.00
Debits/Checks	\$0.00
Credit	\$218.83
Ending Balance as of 02/27/2026	\$79,430.85



**South Carolina Public Library
Collection Development Funding Certification
FY 2026 – Payment #2**

County: _____

This form certifies that the above-named county public library meets the requirements of all legislation related to the Aid to County Library Allotment (S.C. Code of Laws, § 60-1-80, S.C. Code of Laws, § 60-1-90, S.C. Code Regs. Vol. 26 Chapter 75). The above-named county library further certifies to having library board-approved policies related to Collection Development, Requests for Reconsideration of materials, and a policy that clearly identifies the age at which a child can obtain a library card without parental consent. This certification indicates that professional standards have been followed when selecting and organizing materials in the collection and that the above-named County complies with state funding regulations - specific legislative language follows:

Proviso 27.1. (LIB: Aid to Counties Libraries Allotment) *The amount appropriated in this section for “Aid to County Libraries” shall be allotted to each county on a per capita basis according to the official United States Census For 2020, as aid to the County Library. No county shall be allocated less than \$150,000 under this provision. Counties shall receive their allocations in two equal parts, to receive this aid, local library support shall not be less than the amount actually expended for library operations from local sources in the second preceding year. Prior to receiving each of these funds allocations, county libraries must certify to the State Library and have an adopted policy in place that their county libraries do not offer any books or materials that appeal to the prurient interest of children under the age of seventeen in children’s, youth, or teen book sections of libraries and are only made available with explicit parental consent. Failure to provide these certifications in a manner satisfactory to the State Library shall result in the immediate withholding of the allocation. If the local Legislative Delegation presents evidence that these requirements are not being met by a county library, the delegation may request a comprehensive review of the certification by the State Library. All remaining funds shall be withheld until the State Library verifies full compliance with these requirements and issues a written determination of compliance to the delegation.*

By signing below, I certify that I have read and fully understand the State Aid to County Libraries – Comprehensive Review Procedure.

_____/_____
Public Library Director sign and print name **Date**

_____/_____
Public Library Board Chair sign and print name **Date**

Return to: Breanne Smith, brsmith@statelibrary.sc.gov, S.C. State Library 1500
Senate Street Columbia SC 29108 (803) 734-8626
South Carolina State Library Page 1 of 1 Collection Policy Certification – FY26