

York County Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
July 10, 2025                      Rock Hill Public Library                      12:00 p.m.

Chairman Tim Steele called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and determined we had a quorum for the meeting.

Attending board members: Tim Steele, Dennis Getter, Carol Herring, Nancy Nicholson, Laura Milem, Susan Piening, and Terry Plumb. Also attending: Martin House (YCL) and Julie Ward (Director YCL), Pam Miler (YCL), Kevin Madden (YC Assistant County Manager), Michael Kendry (YC Attorney).

Nancy made a motion to amend the agenda that we would hear public comments (3 in favor; 3 opposed) at this meeting; Susan seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Caleb Standefur spoke favorably of library services he routinely uses. Megan Hoyt, a local author, is an opponent of reshelving controversial books.

Connor Dunlap voiced his concern for the proposed discriminatory and unnecessary collection policy.

Linda Fischer expressed her support for the board and the commonsense process regarding the collection policy.

Christine Lekich appreciates the library board protecting children, and she likes the new meeting time.

Katie Hay is against the collection policy that would limit access to books.

Nancy made the motion to approve the June 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Dennis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Julie shared the attached statistics, noting all are indicating increased usage, specifically the APP that now has 1611 users. The electrical upgrade for Rock Hill is now out for bid. The next steps will be a pre-bid walkthrough, then weeks to hire a contractor who will outline the process. This will involve closing the branch for an unspecified time that will be determined by the work to be done.

Dennis reported that the library budget is underspent and excess funds will be applied to the fund balance.

Pam's fifth budget revision (see attached) is a result of the final mil rate (4.6) from York County Council. This provided an additional \$80,000 for the library

system. Also, because of the E Rate still being covered by the federal government, she was able to increase the budget by another \$72,000. This brings the total available funds to \$10,298,114. This additional money will be spent for the following:

- \$20,000 for liability insurance
- \$50,000 for strategic planning committee expenses
- \$1,000 for genealogy expo

Pam shared an additional expense they will incur for patron requests—privacy booths that would provide privacy and quiet. The Rock Hill branch will have two of these.

Terry's question of why the need for additional liability insurance was directed to the SC State Library Reference Manual, page 45. According to the county attorney, any further discussion would need to be in executive session.

Julie responded to a concern for cleanliness in the booths by reminding the board that they have to sanitize library surfaces on a regular basis. She distributed a pamphlet that showed the booth options available, and she reviewed security procedures the staff would follow.

Dennis made a motion to adopt the budget as presented; Nancy seconded. The motion passed with one opposed.

Tim reassigned board members to the committees on which they now serve for the next year with the same chairs:

- Strategic Planning: Carol Herring, chair; Terry Plumb and Laura Milem
- Policy: Dennis Getter, chair; Susan Piening and Nancy Nicholson

Carol reported that the Strategic Planning Committee had met at 11:30 prior to the Board meeting. She explained the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) process they will use in the August meeting to assess four areas (facilities, programs/services, staffing, collections) and the expectations for the fall meetings in correlating the information acquired from staff input, board discussions, and community surveys.

Dennis reported on the two workshops that the policy committee already held, as well as the one scheduled for the next Monday. The committee is accumulating information that they will submit to the county attorney for review. They plan to have committee approval before the next Board meeting and will present it to the entire Board at that time.

New business:

Carol made the following motion to change Section 5: Public Comment to read as follows:

Section 5: Public Comment.

The Board may allow public comments at Board meetings, and if allowed, will listen but will not respond.

Persons wishing to address the board should sign the sheet provided by the secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting. The first four people who sign the sheet will be heard during public comments.

Each speaker shall have a two-minute time limit.

There will be a maximum of four speakers at any Board meeting.

The board will hear no more than four speakers.

Anyone who makes a public comment must be a York County resident and state name and address as verification.

SPEAKER ETIQUETTE:

All citizens who wish to address the board should do so in a calm and appropriate manner. The board wants to hear concerns or complaints but will not tolerate personal attacks on individual members, library staff, or any other person or group, including the use of demeaning or vulgar language. The board's number one priority is to conduct business for all citizens of this county.

Nancy seconded. Terry felt we were going back from six speakers, and he preferred allotting a half hour devoted to public comments. Two other board members felt that four was too limited, so Carol amended her motion to six speakers. Susan moved to accept the amended motion; Terry seconded. It passed with one opposing vote.

Tim made the following motion:

I move that staff purchase additional insurance for Library Board members known as Public Entity Liability and Employment Practices Liability Insurance.

Dennis seconded the motion. Terry felt we have adequate county insurance, and it is a waste of money. It passed with one opposing vote.

Tim made the motion that the YCLB adopt the county FOIA fees. Dennis seconded. Michael Kendree, York County attorney, explained that the library does not follow a FOIA policy for fees to cover the cost incurred when a request is made. The law allows the lowest cost for time involved in using a staff person capable of fulfilling this request--in this case, an IT staff member because of the steps required in pulling emails. Julie spoke to the two to three days required to complete this process as passwords must be changed for each

member, and the IT staff member has to access any emails on that particular subject. It is a lengthy process. The motion passed with one opposed.

Kevin Madden, Assistant County Manager, explained the referendum process to help us avoid failure in the future when the voters are asked to approve a referendum to pay for new libraries. Dennis had requested that he help us prepare going forward toward a request for funding. Kevin says our success requires data, which we will glean from the Strategic Planning steps. He felt we were going about this in the most appropriate manner to get the citizens to understand and approve our proposal.

Michael Kendree, county attorney, was asked about county council's input with a referendum. Whether this will be a bond issue will be determined by our future request for funds; will we be able to have a petition or council decision is also to be determined. Since the state of South Carolina has a cap on debt based on property value, we will have to take that into consideration as well. Most of all, the public needs to know what they are voting on. We have had successful referendums in York County when people understand the importance of what they are voting on.

Final words on the referendum: It can be a stand-alone, but it looks sneaky. Terry stressed the importance of getting people organized to promote a referendum—an independent, non-profit organization. He mentioned Pennies for Progress using an outside party for advertising. Kevin spoke of the Chamber of Commerce's support for Pennies for Progress that was vital. Remember, no tax money can be spent to publicize a referendum. And it is expensive to have a separate vote rather than using a general election schedule. Kevin again called for transparency.

Laura made a motion to adjourn; Carol seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.