

York County Library Board of Trustees Meeting
August 13, 2026 Fort Mill (Baxter) Public Library 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Tim Steele called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attending board members: Tim Steele, Nancy Nicholson, Terry Plumb, Laura Milem, Carol Herring, and Susan Piening, Dennis Getter. Also attending: Julie Ward (Director YCL), Martin House (YCL).

Public Comments: None

Previous meeting minutes:

Nancy Nicholson made a motion to approve the June 11, 2026, minutes; Terry Plumb seconded. Laura asked that the words “the names of” be added to the minutes noting “Julie Ward gave each trustee (the names of) the books....” The trustees agreed to make this revision for clarity. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Director Julie Ward presented statistics, pointing out the new format. This report reflected an increase in most areas, still catching up from being closed. Total print jobs (individual), all branches, public and library, shows large increase. YCL APP grew to 47,563 sessions. She reported the staff development meetings for the week of August 17 will allow the consultant to hold virtual staff assessment sessions, and they will fill out a facility and service assessment for the consultant. The new library card designations go into effect; Martin House has put together training for staff to be familiar with the designations. Troy will go with him to explain the sirsi component. Small stickers of different colors will be added for different age groups: juvenile, teen, unrestricted. Sarah is going to the branches in the coming week and start working on the physical process of relabeling books in the teen collection (previously young adult). Signage will inform patrons of this change. The summer reading program grew this year to 7,341 users who signed up; they logged a total of 5,312,267 minutes, about twelve hours apiece.

She reminded us of the upcoming programs: Patchwork on September 19, 2026 and Genealogy on October 23-24, 2026.

Treasurer Dennis Getter delivered the budget, noting the very good financial position we are in with Pam’s budgetary forecasting expertise. We ended the year well within our budget with expenses kept under control. The surplus of \$600,000 will go into our reserve fund. July, as the first month of the fiscal

year, carries a larger than normal expenditure that will even out over the next twelve months. He assured the board not to be concerned about large percentages at this time of year.

Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee Carol Herring called on Julie to report on the progress of the kick-off team that met with the consultant and began work on their various areas. The ten members were selected by Julie based on criteria selected by the consultant that will allow a broad spectrum of expertise and experience (programming, circulation, market, IT, outreach, large and small branches, western). This group will help determine who is invited to town hall meetings as they work or live in these communities. They have had one Zoom meeting. Virtual staff meetings with the consultant will begin on August 17; the board of trustees will meet with the consultant via zoom after their regularly scheduled October 8, 2026, meeting. A strategic retreat to be scheduled the week of December 7, 2026, will incorporate a broader base (staff, trustees, community leaders, patrons, Friends) to provide input from various sources. Carol asked the board to provide names to Martin of anyone to invite to the community meetings.

New business:

Policy Committee Chair Dennis Getter made a motion that the board accept the minor revisions to the Collection Development Policy: "A written appeal, setting forth the specific grounds for an appeal, may be submitted within twenty business days, and appeals may be submitted by email." Susan Piening seconded the motion. Dennis explained that the changes address feedback from the community. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Tim Steele announced that the Standing Committee assignments will remain the same.

Chair Tim Steele also announced a name change since all policies have been addressed -- from Policy Committee to Policy / Appeals Committee that will do the legwork on book appeals, assessing all appeals and reporting recommendation. The board of trustees will decide if an appeal needs to be overturned. An objection to the name change was based on concern that this was an encroachment on the responsibility of the professional librarians.

Susan Piening made a motion that the policy committee research Artificial Intelligence technology and that they develop an AI policy regulating staff and patron usage. Dennis Getter seconded the motion. Discussion centered around the need to have this policy, and why all features need to be considered since AI is used in the library now. This policy would determine which processes are safer than others. Martin had hoped to get input from a Winthrop colleague, but at this point has written a draft policy that amalgamates four policies, working with Smarter X Company that sells AI

webinars and coursework. He will share this with the Policy Committee to give them a primer on this subject. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session:

Nancy Nicholson made a motion that the board go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. No action resulted from the executive session.

Carol Herring made a motion to adjourn; Laura Miley seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.