



Livingston Parish Library Board of Control Special Board Meeting July 18, 2025

Minutes

The Livingston Parish Library Board of Control met in a special session on July 18, 2025. The meeting occurred at the Main Branch Library, 20390 Iowa Street, Livingston, LA 70754.

1. Call to Order

Jonathan Davis, Board President, called the meeting to order at **6:00 p.m.**

2. Invocation

Mr. Davis called for an invocation from Ms. Kristan Whann

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance said the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

Present: Kristan Whann, Jonathan Davis, Sheila Goins, DeWanna Christian, Trey Cowell

Absent: Randy Delatte (Ex Officio)

Also Present: Dustin Cotton (Assistant Director of Branch Services), Julia Falcon (Assistant Director of Support Services)

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments were made at this time.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion & Approval: Policy Change for Code 1-105: Organization of the Library, to edit section 3 to remove the requirement of a Master of Library Science degree to serve as an Administrative Librarian and replace it with the requirement of any master's degree to bring it in line with LA RS 25:215
 - i. Presented by Jonathan Davis, Board President

Mr. Davis addresses concerns regarding a meeting so soon after the former director, Michelle Parrish, was removed from her position. Mr. Davis stated that this policy change isn't about *"lowering standards."* He states that a *"master's degree is a master's degree, whether it's in library of science, education, or administration. They're all the same level of schooling, commitment, and advanced learning. By opening this up, we're allowing more qualified candidates to apply, especially those who have already served in a respected leadership role in the parish."*

Mr. Davis stated that the board has no candidates in mind and wanted to be completely fair in this process.

Mr. Davis then stated that he would like to table the agenda line item until the next special meeting, which will be approximately three to four weeks from this date.

Mr. Davis stated that since no action has been taken on this item, there will be no public discussion on it.

- b. Discussion & Approval: Resolution to add Jonathan Davis as Bank Designee for the Livingston Parish Library, bringing the total of Bank Designees to three
 - i. Presented by Jonathan Davis, Board President

Mr. Davis stated that in the absence of one of the acting directors, a third designee would need to sign checks to ensure that bills are paid on time. He stated, *"It's not giving me more authority. It just allows me to be the secondary signer on the checks to make sure things can move forward."*

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment. No comments were made at this time.

Mr. Davis stated that this resolution would also require the removal of any former library check signers. Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services, mentions the removal of Deanna Michelle Parrish and Ronnie Bencaz, a former Board President.

Trey Cowell makes a motion to remove (Deanna) Michelle Parrish as an authorized signer and bank designee, effective immediately, and to add Jonathan Davis as a bank designee authorized signer, seconded by Sheila Goins

Mr. Davis stated, *“Be it further resolved that this will bring the total number of bank designees for the Livingston Parish Library to three. These three individuals are as follows: Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services; Julia Falcon, Assistant Director of Support Services; and Jonathan Davis, Board President.”*

Mr. Davis calls for a vote.

Yeas: Whann, Davis, Goins, Christian, Cowell

Nays:

Absent: Delatte

Abstain:

The motion carried 5-0.

- c. Discussion: Library Board of Control Committee Assignments
 - i. Presented by Jonathan Davis, Board President

Mr. Davis stated that this agenda item is not to be voted upon, but simply a matter of committee assignments. He said, *“With the absence of a full board, we wanted to restructure the committees to make sure that they’re balanced and that we can continue to talk about the ongoing projects, especially the architecture project that we’re doing at the library with the slab.”*

The policy committee will comprise Mr. Davis, DeWanna Christian, and Sheila Goins. Mr. Davis will continue to chair this committee.

The finance committee will comprise Trey Cowell, Kristan Whann, and Sheila Goins.

Mr. Davis stated that with the structure of these committees, he will let them decide who will be chair and secretary at the beginning of the following committee meetings that they have.

Also, the infrastructure committee will comprise DeWanna Christian, Kristan Whann, and Trey Cowell.

Finally, a director search committee will comprise DeWanna Christian, Kristan Whann, and Trey Cowell.

Mr. Davis stated he would like to move to lift the agenda to accept the resignations of the four board members who resigned at the last meeting. He noted that this is a procedural process so that the Parish Council can add it to their next agenda. Kristan Whann seconded this.

Mr. Davis moved to accept the resignations of Jennifer Dorhauer, Becky Morgan, Rodlyn Hammond, and Patricia Wilson. Kristan Whann seconded this.

Mr. Davis calls for a vote.

Yeas: Whann, Davis, Goins, Christian, Cowell

Nays:

Absent: Delatte

Abstain:

The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment.

8 names were listed on the public speaking signup sheet on various agenda items: Jackie Marcec, Mary Loofbourrow, Vicki Turner, Victoria Hermann, Jordan Gonzales, Cathleen Hyde, Marla Elsea, and Dandra Kelly

Public comments may be found by watching the video posted to our YouTube channel.

After a few minutes of discussion, board member Trey Cowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Both Sheila Goins and DeWanna Christian made the motion to second the adjournment. Jonathan Davis asked if anyone was opposed, but before there were any responses, DeWanna Christian left suddenly due to an illness, and a quorum was lost.

7. Adjournment

The loss of the quorum resulted in a *de facto* adjournment, and the meeting ended at 6:19 p.m.