



Livingston Parish Library Board of Control Special Board Meeting August 8, 2025

Minutes

The Livingston Parish Library Board of Control met in a special session on August 8, 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. Rodlyn Hammond.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance said the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

Present: Becky Morgan, Kristan Whann, Rodlyn Hammond, Jennifer Dorhauer, Jonathan Davis, Sheila Goins, Patricia Wilson, DeWanna Christian, Trey Cowell, Randy Delatte (Ex Officio)

Absent:

Also Present: Dustin Cotton (Assistant Director of Branch Services), Julia Falcon (Assistant Director of Support Services), Kyla Webb (Head of Community Engagement; Interim Director)

Mr. Davis states that he has spoken with the library attorney and the district attorney, and, due to no legal counsel in attendance, he will *"entertain a motion for an early adjournment, if necessary."* Mr. Davis follows with *"This is something I wanted to allow*

at the beginning of the meeting in the event that any of the members needed or wanted to adjourn the meeting early. If there is no motion, if nobody sees the need for that, and y'all would like to continue, then I say we move forward."

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Davis states that public comments will be allowed on each agenda item that is voted on.

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment.

30 names were listed on the public speaking signup sheet or spoke on various agenda items: Mary Loofbourrow, Victoria Hermann, Vicki Turner, Clark Forrest, Marla Elsea, Brian Gunter, Kaylee Whitehead, Bobby Green, Ann Harris, Barbara Walker, Jackie Marcec [sic], Stephanie Rockco, Holley Hughes, Philip Guay, Mandy Jo Pickering, Ryan Westmoreland, Amanda Jones, Anthony Vance, Zoe O'Brian [sic], Jennifer Carrell [sic], Francine Smith, Lolita Chatelain [sic], Kathleen Dawhim [sic], Greg, Alex Aureis [sic], Jessica Legath, Rebecca Roberts, Larry Davis, Abby Crosby, and Heidi Kinchen

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

6. New Business

- a. Executive Session – Personnel Matters: Discussion of terminating the Director's 'at will' employment
 - i. Presented by Jonathan Davis, Board President

Mr. Davis stated that the board would not go into an executive session and asked the board to make a motion or discuss this matter. Mr. Delatte noted that the person in question sent an email requesting an open meeting to discuss the matter. Also, given that this is an open meeting, anyone wishing to discuss the item may do so.

Ms. Wilson then addressed the board and the public regarding her early departure from the July 15, 2025, board meeting.

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment on this agenda item.

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

Mr. Cowell asked if the agenda could be lifted to go into the executive session to discuss the legal emails, but nothing on Ms. Parrish's review. Mr. Delatte stated there must be

“a unanimous vote to lift the agenda to do anything.” He then asked if the board had been advised to revote on terminating the at-will employee. Mr. Cowell stated that he *“feels that’s why we need to go into executive session as a board to discuss the legal emails that we have been provided that we probably should not discuss in an open meeting, but nothing about the character of the job of Michelle Parrish.”* Mr. Davis then added *“our labor attorney did suggest that we vote on this agenda item.”*

MOTION to terminate the at-will employee, the former Director, Deanna Michelle Parrish made by Randy Delatte, seconded by Jonathan Davis

Mr. Davis calls for a vote.

Yeas: Delatte, Dorhauer, Goins, Whann, Davis, Christian, Cowell

Nays: Hammond, Morgan, Wilson

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 7-3.

- b. Discussion & Approval: Appointment of an Interim Director to serve a term starting immediately and lasting until a permanent Director is hired
 - i. Presented by Jonathan Davis, Board President

Mr. Davis asked for nominations for the interim director position.

Ms. Goins nominates Kyla Webb, seconded by DeWanna Christian.

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment.

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

Ms. Kyla Webb approached the podium and introduced herself to the board at this time.

The board then discussed the duties of the Interim Director, with Mr. Delatte asking if full powers would be enacted upon the Interim Director.

Mr. Dustin Cotton also informed the board that he and Ms. Julia Facison, as acting directors, have complete confidence in Ms. Webb.

MOTION to accept Kyla Webb as Interim Director made by Sheila Goins, seconded by DeWanna Christian

Yeas: Christian, Cowell, Delatte, Dorhauer, Goins, Hammond, Morgan, Whann, Wilson, Davis

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 10-0.

Mr. Davis asks the board for approval to move agenda item C to after the election of officers.

- c. Discussion & Approval: Resolution to add the Interim Director as a Bank Designee for the Livingston Parish Library, bringing the total of Bank Designees to four
 - i. Presented by Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services

After moving agenda item C, the board proceeded to agenda item D.

- d. Discussion & Approval: Resolution to allow the Interim Director to take over Treasury duties for the Livingston Parish Library with Hancock-Whitney Bank to assist with budget matters, including the creation of the 2026 Annual Budget, until a permanent Director is hired
 - i. Presented by Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services

Mr. Cotton spoke to the board and stated that with Ms. Webb now as Interim Director, this agenda item needed to be noted in the minutes so that it would be easier to handle bank duties.

MOTION to allow the Interim Director, Kyla Webb, to take over Treasury duties for the Livingston Parish Library with Hancock-Whitney Bank to assist with budget matters, including the creation of the 2026 Annual Budget, until a permanent Director is hired, made by Randy Delatte, seconded by Patricia Wilson

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment.

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

Mr. Davis calls for a vote.

Yeas: Christian, Cowell, Delatte, Dorhauer, Goins, Hammond, Morgan, Whann, Wilson, Davis

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 10-0.

- e. Discussion & Approval: Policy Change for Code 1-105: Organization of the Library, to edit section 3 to remove the requirements 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 expand acceptable degree qualification for the position

- i. Presented by Jonathan Davis, Board President

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment.

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

The board took a short recess at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Davis resumed the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Davis addressed the public by stating that agenda item 6e was *"not meant to lower the standards."* He goes on to state that now the board is back at full capacity, he would like to entertain a MOTION that a decision made on this item would not affect the next director that we choose and that we vote on this at the meeting after the next director is chosen in order to make sure that there is nobody that doesn't have a degree that somebody's thinking about promoting or moving forward with.

Mr. Delatte states that he *"never did consider removing the qualifications."* He says that if the qualifications are cut, you won't have anyone with experience in that position.

MOTION that we do not lower the qualifications, and we move on, made by Randy Delatte, seconded by Jennifer Dorhauer

Mr. Davis opens the floor for the remaining public comment.

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

Mr. Davis asks for clarification on Mr. Delatte's motion. Mr. Delatte stated that he was against the agenda item to lower the qualifications.

Ms. Becky Morgan restates Mr. Delatte's motion by stating, *"Your motion tonight is to maintain the requirements of a master's of library science degree for the administrative librarian position."* Mr. Delatte responded, *"Exactly. Do not water it down."*

There is a discussion among the board on the difference between an MLS and an MLIS degree.

Mr. Davis then asks Ms. Dorhauer to rescind her second to Mr. Delatte's MOTION by stating, *"As a show of unity to move forward, I'd like to second."* Ms. Dorhauer responds, *"As a show of unity, I will rescind my second."*

Mr. Davis seconds Mr. Delatte's MOTION and calls for a vote.

Yeas: Christian, Cowell, Delatte, Dorhauer, Goins, Hammond, Morgan, Whann, Wilson, Davis

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 10-0.

- f. Discussion & Approval: Review, edit, and approve the job description for the Livingston Parish Library Director
 - i. Presented by Jonathan Davis, Board President

Mr. Davis asks the board if anyone wants to discuss any potential changes they'd like to make. He also states that he doesn't believe any information has changed except for any relevant date information, according to the last time the director was hired. Mr. Cotton states that this is the same job description written for 2023.

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment. There were no comments at the time.

MOTION to approve the job description as is made by Patricia Wilson, seconded by Rodlyn Hammond

Mr. Davis calls for a vote.

Yeas: Christian, Cowell, Delatte, Dorhauer, Goins, Hammond, Morgan, Whann, Wilson, Davis

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 10-0.

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

Mr. Davis stated that his agenda item would be moved to the end of the meeting so the president could appoint the committee members.

- h. Election of Board of Control Officers
 - i. Presented by Jonathan Davis, Board President

Mr. Delatte stated he would like a resolution to see the board officers return to where they were before the previous meeting. He also said he would like to pass a resolution for Jonathan's great job keeping us together and working. He also stated that the next election is in November, and there can be nominations at that point.

MOTION to pass a resolution to reinstate officers who were previously in charge, Ms. Jennifer, and Ms. Becky, made by Randy Delatte

Mr. Davis asks if this can be done solely by a resolution or if nominations need to be made. Mr. Delatte states that if *"you want to be sure, we can do nominations too, but nominations"* require public input.

Mr. Davis seconds Mr. Delatte's resolution.

Mr. Delatte congratulated Mr. Davis on his leadership and togetherness as Board President.

Mr. Davis calls for a vote.

Mr. Cotton restates the MOTION to reinstate Jennifer Dorhauer as Board of Control President, Rebecca Morgan as Vice-President, made by Mr. Delatte and seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment.

Ms. Christian asks Mr. Davis, "So with you seconding the motion, I'm taking that as you're not interested in being the president anymore?" Mr. Davis stated it is correct: *"I never wanted this to be a permanent position."*

Mr. Davis calls for a vote.

Yeas: Delatte, Dorhauer, Goins, Hammond, Morgan, Whann, Wilson, Davis

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain: Christian, Cowell

The motion carried 8-0.

Ms. Dorhauer states that agenda item 6C needs to be discussed at this time.

- c. Discussion & Approval: Resolution to add the Interim Director as a Bank Designee for the Livingston Parish Library, bringing the total of Bank Designees to four
 - i. Presented by Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services

Mr. Cotton states that this should be done in two parts. The bank resolution itself needs to be read aloud, and to remove Jonathan as a bank designee as part of the resolution.

Mr. Cotton reads aloud, *"So this resolution will be that the following library staff and board members be added as bank designees for the Livingston Parish Library: Kyla Robertson-Webb, the Interim Director, and Jennifer Dorhauer, the Board President. Be it further resolved that this will bring the total number of bank designees at the Livingston Parish Library to four, with the removal of Jonathan Davis. These four individuals are as follows: Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services; Julia Falcon, Assistant Director of Support Services; Kyla Webb, Interim Director; and Jennifer Dorhauer, Board President."*

Mr. Davis opens the floor for public comment.

There is no public comment on this agenda item at this time.

MOTION to accept the resolution as read made by Becky Morgan, seconded by Rodlyn Hammond

Ms. Dorhauer calls for a vote.

Yeas: Christian, Cowell, Delatte, Davis, Goins, Hammond, Morgan, Whann, Wilson, Dorhauer

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 10-0.

The last agenda item for discussion is 6G.

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

Ms. Dorhauer states that she would like to return to the prior appointments before any other meetings. The only difference needed is changing Michelle Parrish as the staff representative on the Government and Community Relations Committee to Kyla Robertson Webb as that member. Also, on the Finance Committee, change Michelle Parrish being the staff representative to Kyla Robertson Webb, serving in that position until there is a permanent director. Ms. Dorhauer also states that the Hiring Review Committee will comprise Ms. Morgan, Mr. Davis, Ms. Goins, and herself.

Ms. Dohauer asked if there were any further questions. One audience member asked, *"Are there any set dates for the committee meetings yet?"* Ms. Wilson states that the Finance Committee has dates for August 12th and August 24th or 26th, but she needs to check with the committee to ensure everyone is still available.

Ms. Wilson asked who was on the Facilities Committee. Ms. Dorhauer stated Ms. Morgan, Ms. Whann, Ms. Christian, and Mr. Davis. Ms. Morgan asked if she could be replaced on that committee. Ms. Dorhauer stated she would speak with the board members and decide later who would replace Ms. Morgan.

7. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn made by Mr. Delatte, with no rebuttal.

Ms. Dorhauer adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.