



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

Minutes

The Livingston Parish Library Board of Control met in a special session on February 18, 2025. The meeting occurred at the Denham Springs-Walker Branch Library, 8101 US Hwy 190, Denham Springs, LA 70726.

1. Call to Order

Becky Morgan, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at **6:03 p.m.**

2. Moment of Silence

Ms. Morgan called for a moment of silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance said the pledge of allegiance.

4. Roll Call

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

Absent:

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

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No public comments at this time

6. Report of Administrative Librarian

Ms. Michelle Parrish, Director, states there are no changes at this time.

7. Special Orders

- a. Election of Officers for 2025
 - i. Board President

Ms. Morgan opens the floor for nominations for Board President

Trey Cowell nominated Randy Delatte, seconded by DeWanna Christian

Becky Morgan nominated Jennifer Dorhauer, seconded by Patricia Wilson

1 comment card submitted on this agenda item

Present in favor and would like to speak: Jordan Gonzalez

Ms. Morgan calls for the vote of Jennifer Dorhauer

Yeas: Morgan, Hammond, Dorhauer, Goins, Wilson

Nays: Davis, Christian, Cowell, Delatte

Absent:

Abstain:

Jennifer Dorhauer is the Board President with a 5-4 vote

8. New Business

- a. Discussion & Adoption: Sexually Explicit Material Checklist rubric to be used by the Board of Control whenever reading, discussing, reviewing, and creating resolutions regarding material reconsiderations and appeals.
 - i. Presented by Jennifer Dorhauer, Board Member

Ms. Dorhauer explains to the board that this checklist uses law as a basis, takes the verbiage of what is considered sexually explicit, and gives an easier way for the board to review. Ms. Becky Morgan asks if this should be submitted to the Policy & Procedure Committee for review or if it could stand as is. Ms. Parrish states it could stand as is unless they want to make it policy and act on it officially. Ms. Parrish states that this is just for the board to use for their guidelines.

MOTION to utilize this checklist whenever reviewing any challenged book made by Jonathan Davis, seconded by Becky Morgan

The board discusses the document and how it would be addressed if the law changes.

Ms. Dorhauer opens the floor for public comment.

3 comment cards were submitted on this agenda item

1 present in support but do not wish to speak: Gregory Neff [sic]

1 neutral that has a question for this agenda item that requires clarification: Cathleen Hyde

1 present in opposition and would like to speak: Mary Loofbourrod [sic]

Ms. Dorhauer calls for a vote.

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

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 10-0

- b. Discussion & Resolution: Whether “Traffick” by Ellen Hopkins meets the criteria outlined in LA RS 25:225C(2)(d)(ii) and the definition provided in LA RS 25:225B(4) as claimed by a complainant who submitted a Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form (3-309a), and whether to move this material to another collection based on this challenge.
 - i. Presented by Trey Cowell, Board Member

Mr. Randy Delatte asked Ms. Dorhauer if agenda items 8b, 8c, and 8d could be combined into one item for discussion. Ms. Dorhauer states she has *“no problem with that.”*

MOTION to adopt all three agenda items 8b, 8c, and 8d made by Randy Delatte, seconded by Sheila Goins

Ms. Dorhauer opens the floor for public comment

7 comment cards were submitted on agenda item 8b

1 present in support and would like to speak: Jennifer Holden

3 present and in support but do not wish to speak: Anthony Vance, Gregory Neff [sic], and Linda Glascock

1 in opposition and would like to speak: Amanda Jones

2 in opposition but do not wish to speak: Wade McAllister and Loxley Doolittle

6 comment cards were submitted on agenda item 8c

1 present in support and would like to speak: Jennifer Holden

2 present and in support but do not wish to speak: Gregory Neff [sic] and Linda Glascock

1 in opposition and would like to speak: Amanda Jones

2 in opposition but do not wish to speak: Wade McAllister and Loxley Doolittle

8 comment cards were submitted on agenda item 8d

1 present in support and would like to speak: Jennifer Holden

2 present and in support but do not wish to speak: Gregory Neff [sic] and Linda Glascock

2 present and in opposition and would like to speak: Amanda Jones and Marla Elsea

3 present and in opposition but do not wish to speak: Wade McAllister, Loxley Doolittle, and Tim Elsea

Ms. Dorhauer calls for a vote.

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

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 10-0

- c. Discussion & Resolution: Whether “People Kill People” by Ellen Hopkins meets the criteria outlined in LA RS 25:225C(2)(d)(ii) and the definition provided in LA RS 25:225B(4) as claimed by a complainant who submitted a Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form (3-309a), and whether to move this material to another collection based on this challenge.
 - i. Presented by Becky Morgan, Board Vice-President

Since the MOTION of agenda item 8b passed, this agenda item will go directly to the Adult collection.

- d. Discussion & Resolution: Whether “Looking for Alaska” by John Green meets the criteria outlined in LA RS 25:225C(2)(d)(ii) and the definition provided in LA RS 25:225B(4) as claimed by a complainant who submitted a Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Form (3-309a), and whether to move this material to another collection based on this challenge.
 - i. Presented by Becky Morgan, Board Vice-President

Since the MOTION of agenda item 8b passed, this agenda item will go directly to the Adult collection.

- e. Discussion & Update: Assessment and progress of the temporary relocation of the Young Adult (YA) materials to the Adult side of the library.
 - i. Presented by Becky Morgan, Board Vice-President

Ms. Becky informed the board of the previous meeting, during which they voted to move the Young Adult items to the Adult side of the library. She asked Ms. Julia Falcon, Assistant Director of Support Services, to give an update on this progression.

Ms. Falcon informs the board that all physical materials moved that were previously given a deadline by the end of February were completed on February 14, 2025. She goes on to say that since they are ahead of schedule, they would need to move the YA to Adult via the computer records starting tomorrow, 2/19/25, instead of waiting until the end of the month, if possible.

Ms. Morgan would like to thank the library staff for working so diligently on this move and for being so far ahead of schedule.

Mr. Delatte asks to pass a RESOLUTION of congratulations and thanks to the library staff from Michelle on down. He says, *“This board should take a vote and put it in the minutes how proud we are of the job they’ve done.”*

MOTION of congratulations and thanks to the library staff made by Randy Delatte, seconded by Becky Morgan

Ms. Dorhauer calls for public comment.

No public comments at this time.

Ms. Dorhauer calls for a vote of Mr. Delatte's MOTION

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

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion carried 10-0

- f. Discussion & Approval: Amend the adopted 2025 Livingston Parish Library budget to the original budget presented on November 19, 2024, Budget Hearing
 - i. Presented by Jennifer Dorhauer, Board Member

Ms. Dorhauer spoke to the board and explained that at the last meeting, she brought the proposed November 19, 2024, budget to the board, and it was voted on to table this discussion until Mr. Delatte and the new board members had a chance to review it in full. She uses the public libraries in Louisiana's 2023 statistical report to compare Livingston Parish's 2023 budget expenditures with the rest of the state library. This was *"to show that our library does have conservative spending."*

She emphasizes that she will focus on two-line items as an example of the conservative spending in the library's current budget, which was passed in December. The two-line items were 6000 – Employee Salaries and 6120 – Benefits.

Ms. Dorhauer's analysis revealed that the original budget was more conservative than initially perceived, as the library cut other line items to accommodate the cost-of-living increases in salaries and benefits.

MOTION to amend the 2025 budget to restore all zeroed-out line items and to increase line items were to be reduced back to the amount originally introduced by the administrative librarian at the November 19, 2024, public budget hearing made by Becky Morgan, seconded by Rodlyn Hammond

Ms. Dorhauer opens the floor for public comment

16 comment cards were submitted on this agenda item.

5 present and in support and would like to speak: Elizabeth Fontenot, Cathleen Hyde, Wade McAllister, Marla Elsea, and Jordan Gonzalez

6 present and in support but do not wish to speak: Amanda Jones, Gayle Pittman, Elise LeBlanc, Tim Elsea, Loxley Doolittle, and Francine Smith

4 present and in opposition and would like to speak: Larry Davis, Gregory Neff [sic], Anthony Vance, and Summer Smith

1 neutral that has a question for this agenda item that requires clarification:
Marla Elsea

Due to the length of public comment, **the comments and board discussion may be found by listening to the posted audio recording or watching the posted video link to our YouTube channel.**

Mr. Davis asks for a friendly adjustment to the Comic-Con budget to reduce the amount back to \$16,500, and Ms. Dorhauer agrees.

Mr. Trey Cowell interjects and speaks about former Board President Tori Hymel creating an ad hoc Finance Committee before her departure. He also spoke at Comic-Con and discussed the budget needs that were “up in *air*.” Mr. Cowell informed the board of some items that could stay within the current budget and didn’t need to be increased, such as security and travel. Mr. Cowell states that he is trying to amend the adopted budget responsibly, ensuring taxpayer money is used efficiently and effectively.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION to approve the amendments that were presented to the board in an email and to amend the adopted budget according to the changes there were made by the finance team made by Trey Cowell, seconded by DeWanna Christian

Ms. Patricia Wilson asks for documentation before wholeheartedly agreeing to the justification of the amending of the budget.

Ms. Dorhauer gives a recess so those present can submit public comment forms on the substitute motion.

Recess from 7:00 pm until 7:05 pm.

Ms. Dorhauer opens the floor for public comment.

15 comment cards were submitted on this SUBSTITUTE MOTION

4 present and in support and would like to speak: Amanda Robert, Larry Davis, Jennifer Holden, and Summer Smith

3 present and in support but do not wish to speak: Anthony Vance, Gregory Neff [sic], and Ryan Westmoreland

5 present and in opposition and would like to speak: Cathleen Hyde, Ann Harris, Francine Smith, Ryan Westmoreland, and Jordan Gonzalez

2 present and in opposition but do not wish to speak: Elise LeBlanc and Loxley Doolittle

1 neutral that has a question for this agenda item that requires clarification: Marla Elsea

There was some confusion over which budget version was being discussed. However, it was necessary to note that only the reduced budget was ever voted on. The original budget proposed by the director was never voted on.

Concerns were also raised regarding the finance committee meeting behind closed doors, leading to concerns about transparency.

Due to the length of public comment, **the comments and board discussion may be found by listening to the posted audio recording or watching the posted video link to our YouTube channel.**

Ms. Dorhauer calls for a vote on Mr. Cowell's SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Before voting, Ms. Dorhauer asks Mr. Cowell to clarify the motion and specify the line items. Mr. Cowell states Adult Literacy, Readers Club, Comic-Con,

eBooks, audiobooks, Advertising, Marketing and Promotions, Summer Reading, an increase in Book Festivals, and Adult Programs. Mr. Cowell reiterates he would like to amend the adopted budget that the library is working with right now to change those line items to what was presented.

Ms. Dorhauer calls for a vote on the SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Yeas: Davis, Christian, Cowell

Nays: Morgan, Hammond, Dorhauer, Goins, Wilson, Delatte

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion failed 3-6

Ms. Dorhauer calls for a vote on Ms. Morgan's original motion to restore all zeroed-out line items and to increase line items were to be reduced back to the amount originally introduced by the administrative librarian at the November 19, 2024, public budget hearing

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

Nays: Davis, Christian, Cowell

Absent:

Abstain:

The motion passed 6-3

9. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn made by Jennifer Dorhauer, seconded by Rodlyn Hammond

The meeting adjourned at **8:02 p.m.**