



QUINCY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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**Quincy Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Minutes**

The special meeting of the Quincy Public Library Board of Directors was called to order at 6:20 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, by President Jon Hoover. The roll call attendance was as follows:

Jon Hoover:	present	Clairice Hetzler:	present
Lena Jones:	present	Dean Lavelle:	present
Scott Walden:	present	Jake Reed:	present
Tony Crane:	present	Harry Ruth:	absent
Megan Dusterhaus-AuBuchon:	present		

Present: 8 Absent: 1
Others present: Natascha Will and Jess Givens

Laura Oakman attended the board meeting to initiate the oath of office for new board members Tony Crane and Jake Reed.

Sarah Rudd from Pittsfield Public Library District attended the board meeting to go over their experience becoming a district library. The Pittsfield Library, founded in 1880 as a city library, officially became a District Library on September 1, 2024. The decision followed discussions about the clearer governance and defined boundaries of district libraries compared to city libraries. With guidance from a library attorney, the Library Board and City Council chose to convert through a joint resolution rather than a public vote. The process involved tight deadlines, requiring board and council approval within 60 days and court approval within 45 days, all completed just in time for the city's budget schedule. After conversion, the library pursued annexation of part of Newburg Township to expand service. Using a special statute, the annexation was placed on the April 2025 ballot and passed. The entire process demanded significant coordination and effort, but it strengthened the library's foundation and positioned it to better serve the wider community.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

Clairice made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Dean seconded and the motion carried.

II. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Jon welcomed new board members Jake Reed and Tony Crane, expressing enthusiasm for their interest in library business. He noted that library attendance has increased, particularly among young adult readers, partly due to the success of the Freed Between the Lines program which sparked strong community engagement.

III. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Ken Grawe informed the board that the bookstore brought in \$2,444.08 during the month of September and reminded the meeting attendees of the book sale held at the library in the large meeting room Thursday, October 23, 2025, through Saturday, October 25, 2025. He added that the Friends of the Library will be hosting their annual December luncheon on Friday, December 5, 2025, and that the board is invited to attend.

IV. RECOGNITION OF CORRESPONDENCE AND PATRON COMMENTS

A former resident of the Quincy area saw the media surrounding the current ongoing of the library and sent an email of encouragement and support. She went on to say that QPL was one of her favorite places in Quincy to spend time grading papers while she was teaching. She also made use of the Illinois Room and doing genealogy research. She concluded her correspondence by thanking QPL for continuing diverse and relevant materials to the community and being an entity that upholds free speech and free reading. Children's Librarian Bill Waters received a thank you card from the QU Children's Literature class for his expertise piquing the interest of aspiring teachers. He also received a handmade thank you note from a young patron thanking him for the books in the children's department that included a drawing.

A longtime library patron reported witnessing a disturbing altercation involving two people yelling, one partially unclothed and falling into shelves, possibly under the influence of drugs. The patron also observed people eating, sleeping, and keeping large bags in the library, along with a strong smell of marijuana. They expressed feeling unsafe and disappointed in the library's current state, saying they now rush in and out instead of spending time there. The patron urged that the situation be addressed.

Natascha informed the board that after the incident report was made, cameras were reviewed, and appropriate action was taken in banning the involved patrons from QPL property. After a lengthy discussion, no policy changes were decided at this time, and the matter has been referred to the Policy Committee for review.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Natascha informed the trustees that three positions remain open at the library for a Reference Librarian Team Lead, a Technical Services Specialist, and a Children's Clerk. The Community Foundation gave the library a grant for Lego Spike Kits and iPads,

aiding in the start of the beforementioned Saturday Lego program.

Natascha reminded the board that when a child reads 1,000 books before kindergarten, Children's Librarian Bill Waters will make an announcement over the library paging system congratulating them on that milestone. She highlighted that recently a young patron met this milestone, and an Amazon delivery driver happened to be in the building dropping off mail when he heard the announcement. He gave the young patron a gift card for completing the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge.

Natascha went on to say that Tech Services has ordered 1,010 books and audio/visual materials, and have been able to catalogue 800 items, even being a staff member.

Maintenance Supervisor Will Matlick lead the inspection walk-through of the building for LIRA. The report indicated that the building is in excellent condition with one minor extension cord adjustment to be made in the Friends of the Library bookstore.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LIBRARY DISTRICT DISCUSSION – Megan mentioned that she would prefer the board establish a permanent Executive Director to be part of the district process before any further decisions on the matter are decided. Dean added that because an annexation has potential to be part of the process that the Townships of the Quincy Area Public Library District board should be involved as well.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF OPEN PAYABLES – Megan made a motion to approve the open payables. Lena seconded and the motion carried. The roll call was as follows:

Jon Hoover:	abstain	Clairice Hetzler:	yes
Lena Jones:	yes	Dean Lavelle:	yes
Scott Walden:	yes	Jake Reed:	yes
Tony Crane:	yes	Harry Ruth:	absent
Megan Dusterhaus-AuBuchon:	yes		

Yes: 7 Absent: 1 Abstain: 1

TREASURER'S BOND – Scott made a motion to approve Natascha sign the updated surety bond for QPL. Megan seconded and the motion carried.

MOBILE LIBRARY COLLECTION - The board discussed concerns regarding the bookmobile's suspension from visiting local Catholic schools after objections to certain titles, particularly This Book Is Gay, due to sexual content considered inconsistent with

faith-based values. Members reviewed the process for selecting and managing materials on the mobile library, noting that books are age-coded and staff guide children to appropriate sections. The Board emphasized the importance of ensuring that all materials provided during school stops, as well as other stops, are age-appropriate, and curated for the audience. Trustees considered whether to adjust scheduling or curate collections differently for school visits, while acknowledging staffing and logistical constraints. It was agreed that further clarification should be sought from the Catholic schools regarding their specific objections and that possible compromises—such as teacher oversight or separate children’s visits—should be explored.

Jake made a motion to remove the book from the Mobile Library collection, and to have it in the collection in the Main building, but the motion failed for lack of a second.

Clairice made a motion that the book not be on the Mobile Library temporarily and that the book stay in the main collection until the board can make a decision once they have more information. Dean seconded and the motion carried. The roll call was as follows:

Jon Hoover:	abstain	Clairice Hetzler:	yes
Lena Jones:	yes	Dean Lavelle:	yes
Scott Walden:	no	Jake Reed:	yes
Tony Crane:	yes	Harry Ruth:	absent
Megan Dusterhaus-AuBuchon:	no		

Yes: 5 No: 2 Absent: 1 Abstain: 1

PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – Scott made a motion to adopt the same public comment procedure the City of Quincy practices. Tony seconded and the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE – Jon appointed Megan, Clairice and Dean for the Executive Director Search Committee.

APPROVAL OF 2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE – Megan made a motion to approve the 2026 schedule for holiday closures. Scott seconded and the motion carried.

- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – Laura Oakman reiterated to the board the importance of FOIA/OMA training and offered to consult with Natascha or any interested board members.

Steven Homan spoke on the discussion of *This Book Is Gay* being in the library collection. He suggested having the book catalogued on higher shelves so children cannot reach the material.

Mobile Librarian Gina Miller provided clarification on the Mobile Library's operations, including the placement of book and the importance of community stops for family browsing. She emphasized the need for a thoughtful and inclusive collection that meets the needs of all patrons including those who rely on the Mobile Library as their primary access point. Gina went on to discuss the success of the Mobile Library reaching new patrons and the importance of maintaining its current operations.

Mobile Library Event Specialist Carrie Hummel provided copies of the Library Bill of Rights, the Illinois statute that discusses book banning, and QPL's Material and Selection Policy to address specific concerns about the Mobile Library's collection and the importance of providing a diverse and inclusive collection. She emphasized the need for clear communication with the community about library policy and maintaining access to all materials.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Megan seconded and the motion carried, adjourning the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

