

Davie County Library, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 01-15-2026, 4:00 PM

Location: Davie County Public Library - History Room

Attendees: Brent Ward, Teresa Bivins, Nikki Johnson-Faircloth, David Joyner, John Chandler, Jane McAllister, Glenn Mace, Derrick Wold

Call To Order

On January 15, 2026 the Davie County Library Board of Trustees meeting called to order by Board Chair, Brent Ward, at approximately 4:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Minutes from November 20, 2025 were approved.

Public Comment - ADA Accessibility

A public comment was made Julie Whittaker regarding the placement of ADA access points in library buildings, urging the board to avoid locating them at the back. The speaker shared experiences of individuals with disabilities who find rear entrances inconvenient and less welcoming. The board was encouraged to consult with library patrons who use assistive devices like walkers, scooters, and wheelchairs to understand their needs and preferences for accessibility. The speaker provided the board with a document containing general advice on ADA access and a link to a descriptive manual.

Library Director Wold Report

Operations and Technology Report:

- **RFID Conversion:** The RFID conversion project has been completed, and the security gates are now functional. The only remaining issue is that the self-checkout machine's RFID technology has not yet been synced, and the library is waiting on Bibliotheca for support.
- **Hotspot & Chromebook Program:** The library has experienced significant issues with patrons not returning checked-out Chromebooks & Hotspots. Another library in Harnett County was consulted and reported similar problems.
 - Current efforts to retrieve the devices, such as making reminder calls and remotely disabling the Chromebooks & Hotspots, have been unsuccessful.
 - Due to these ongoing issues and the cost of the program, the director proposed discontinuing the public checkout of Chromebooks and hotspots. A few hotspots would be retained for staff use during outreach events.
 - The grant funding for this program was for one year and has already concluded, so no funds need to be returned.
- **Budget:** Copy provided to Board from Director Wold. Chair Ward inquired if any funding has been received from the Town of Mocksville. Director Wold confirmed, no money has been received.

Staffing

- **New Hires & Promotions:**

- Tori Jones was introduced as the new full-time Library Assistant.
- Melissa Carrion, previously a part-time assistant, has been promoted to Customer Service Supervisor.
- Iqra Tabassum has been hired for the Administrative Assistant position, starting on January 26, 2026

- **Open Positions:**

There are currently six open part-time Library Assistant positions. Offer letters have been sent to two candidates with a target start date of January 20, 2026.

Cooleemee Library Projects

- **Donor Recognition Plaque:** The board discussed creating a plaque to recognize the \$200,000 donation from Arlene Thompson.
- A sample plaque, measuring 16 by 12 inches, was presented by Director Wold with a cost of estimate of \$928. Board Member McAllister raised the concern this price was too high and suggested exploring simpler, more affordable alternatives. Other Board Members agreed. The plaque's proposed location is in the entryway of the new building.

- Director Wold discussed the funds being used for the expansion of the Cooleemee Library space. The planned 800-900 square feet for the library could increase to approximately 1,200-1,400 square feet for the estimated cost of around \$150,000.
- Member McAllister confirmed with Director Wold that a decision has not been made how the \$200,000 gift is to be used and raised the question if this gift should be used for capital expenditures or should that expense be held by the Town of Cooleemee / Davie County.
- The increase to the proposed 1,400 sq. ft. would be slightly smaller than the current Cooleemee Library, which is ~1,800 sq. ft.
- The discussion on the plaque and the usage of the 200,000 gift funds was ultimately tabled again this meeting.

Future Budget and Renovation Plans

- **Upcoming Budget Proposal:** The director will present the library's needs at the Commissioner's Budget Workshop. The proposal will include requests for:
 - A capital improvement plan for new carpeting, painting, and a roof inspection/replacement at the main library.
 - Funding for one full-time or two part-time positions to enable extended evening hours Monday - Thursday to 8:00 PM and open on Saturdays at the Cooleemee Branch.

This ended Director Wold's Report.

Board Discussion:

- **Courtyard and Entrance ADA Renovations:**

Chair Ward advised he and Director Wold meet with Brad Blackwelder and assistant to review construction plans for the courtyard and entrance for ADA renovations to Main Branch. The Library Board recommended the renovations project take place at the front entrance of the building.

Renovation will include but not limited to, removal of existing ground brick so the courtyard is concrete, removal of gates, adding new lighting, an automatic door. The existing courtyard benches, statues, and tree if possible, will stay after renovations. The flagpole will be moved from the parking lot to the front of the building. A small, knee-high retaining wall will be added for safety on the ramp.

Chair Ward noted, Brad Blackwelder's assistant communicated the biggest challenge will be for everything to fit correctly, preventing any water issues.

The project is expected to start sometime between mid-2026 and the end of 2026, pending final plans, approvals including funding from Davie County Commissioners.

New Business

- Chair Ward reviewed and recommended the application of Peter Wertz for a Library Trustee position. He advised acceptance would be a decision of the Davie County Commissioners.

Meeting Notes Completed by:

Nikki Johnson-Faircloth

Secretary DCLTB

1/20/2026