



**MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ST. CHARLES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
OCTOBER 1, 2026**

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the St. Charles Public Library District was held Thursday, October 1, 2026, at the Library. Present: President Mary Kruse, Vice President/Secretary Bonnie J. Dauer, Treasurer Michael J. Hill, Trustees Claudia Frost, Barbara Diepenbrock, and Jane Shelton, Director Kate Buckson, and Administrative Assistant Virginia Tsipas.

Library staff present: Denise Blaszyński, Victoria Lazarski, Mary Merritt, Pam Salomone, Brittany Smith, Julie Tegtmeier.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Kruse called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

II. ROLL CALL, RECORDING TRUSTEES PRESENT AND ABSENT

Trustee Kruse confirmed there was a quorum present through roll call.

III. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Trustee Shelton, second by Trustee Frost, to approve the Agenda. Carried unanimously.

IV. PROGRAM STAFF PRESENTATION

Communications & Marketing Manager Pam Salomone and Program & PR Coordinator Denise Blaszyński presented results of the program survey that began in 2025, which is part of the Strategic Plan. They surveyed attendees of adults, YA and youth programs to rate their satisfaction. The adult and YA surveys showed a 4.74 rating out of 5 stars and the youth survey results showed 4.75 rating out of 5 stars.

Adult patrons said they were more knowledgeable on topics provided in history and business programming and enjoyed the Sunday concerts. Popular youth programming included story times and K-5 programs. A majority of patrons learned of the programs through the Library newsletter and website/app. Each department planning programs reviews feedback for improvement.

It is rewarding to see patrons' feedback that they return for programs with friends. Ms. Buckson stated Ms. Blaszyński does a great job in adding second performances, when possible, to meet demands of interest.

A special thank you to the St. Charles Public Library Foundation, Friends of St. Charles Library, and the Board, for sponsoring and supporting many programs.

The Trustees thanked the staff for providing outstanding and creative programming and appreciate having programs celebrating America's 250th Anniversary and Pride Month.

V. FINANCIAL DISCUSSION

a. Levy 2026/2027 Presentation

Finance Manager Mary Merritt provided the levy overview to the Board, stating tax revenue for the Library is collected from property owners and that the Library District is a tax capped community. The levy funds requested will be for FY 2027/2028. Calculations are based on EAV estimates, tax rate, TIFs and other estimated expenditures.

The levy is the amount we request, and the extension is what we receive. In FY 2025/2026, we levied just over \$10M and received just shy of that amount.

The 2027 estimated EAV for Kane County will be available in October and is expected to be estimated as in similar years. DuPage County does not provide this estimate; however, they generally are similar to Kane County.

This year's levy request has been proposed to 4.95%; however, our district is tax-capped so we can expect to receive less as our extension. The Library's expenses for updates relating to ADA compliance, the sensory garden to be completed in the fall, increased insurance rates and IMRF require an increase in funding. The grant for the sensory garden will reimburse the Library once the project is complete and payments have been submitted.

Although the Library is not required to hold a Truth-in-Taxation public hearing because the Library has not levied 5% or more, a hearing has typically been held in the past. The Trustees decided to continue to hold the public hearing.

b. Resolution 2026/2027-3 to Determine Estimate of Funds Necessary for FY 2026/2027

The Library is whittling down surplus funds in order to place the funds where most needed. Most fund lines are restricted to specific expenses whereas operating funds can be moved into another fund when needed.

Ms. Merritt is working on a five-year budget to look at all existing funds, and this budget will be updated each year to allocate the surpluses and adjust the operating budget accordingly as time goes on.

The break for the Open Session began at 6:33 pm.

VI. ROLL CALL VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR:

The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, as mandated by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)

Motion by Trustee Shelton, second by Trustee Hill, to go into Closed Session at 6:45 pm, for the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, as mandated by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3). **AYES:** Kruse, Dauer, Hill, Frost, Diepenbrock, Shelton. **NAYS:** None. **ABSTAINING:** None. **ABSENT:** None.

VII. ADJOURN TO OPEN SESSION

Adjourn to Open Session at 8:34 pm.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Hill, second by Trustee Shelton, to adjourn at 8:34 pm. Carried unanimously.



Bonnie J. Dauer
Secretary, Board of Trustees