



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
April 15, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15. President Anita Radcliffe presided, and Library Director Madison Morris kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Janey Worthington, Lea Ann Coates, Jenine Harris, Ed Scholl, Sherry Taylor, and Fred Toelle. Not present: Trustee Dana Cooley.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes of the March 18, 2026 Meeting

Ms. Worthington moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Dr. Harris seconded. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

None.

President's Report

Ms. Radcliffe noted that the *Neighbors of Webster Groves* published another article about the Library.

Librarian's Report

Ms. Morris reported that the HVAC work was nearly completed. She stated that a large leak occurred in the Children's Room when a pipe carrying roof drainage water became disconnected, causing water to leak through the ceiling. The pipe has since been repaired and the carpet cleaned; however, additional work on the drainage piping system will likely be needed in the future. She also noted that other building repairs are needed, including replacement of the fire panel and repairs to the meeting room projector system.

Advanced Planning

None.

Building and Grounds

See the Librarian's Report.

Finance

Mr. Scholl reported that the monthly budget was approximately \$7,000 over budget, primarily due to increased insurance premiums. He further stated that, year to date, the Library remains a few thousand dollars under budget; however, it will most likely finish the fiscal year over budget by the end of June.

He also noted that the Library continues to maintain healthy reserves; however, the remaining HVAC payment and debt payment will be paid from reserves before the end of the budget year.

Ms. Taylor moved to approve the financial report. Ms. Coates seconded. All were in favor, and the report was approved.

Human Resources

None.

Policy

None.

Friends Report

The Friends of the Library passed a resolution supporting the proposed tax levy initiative. It was also reported that an election committee is being formed to work alongside the Friends group in supporting the Library's upcoming ballot initiative efforts.

City Hall

None.

Tax Levy

Ms. Morris stated that the Tax Committee has been meeting regularly. Recent discussions have focused on determining the appropriate amount to request in the upcoming ballot initiative. The committee reviewed projections for potential 10-cent, 11-cent, and 12-cent increases and considered factors including the senior tax freeze, inflation, and anticipated building maintenance projects.

Using this information, the committee projected potential Library budgets over the next 10, 15, and 20 years. Based on those projections, the committee determined that a 12-cent increase would provide the most sustainable long-term option. Ms. Morris stated that this level of funding

would allow the Library to address building needs, keep pace with operating costs, and reduce the likelihood of needing another tax increase in the near future.

Mr. Scholl moved to proceed with a 12-cent per \$100 of assessed valuation tax increase for the Library's ballot initiative. Ms. Taylor seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

It was also reported that the committee has been working with EveryLibrary and recently attended a presentation regarding what the Library Director, Library staff, and Library Board can and cannot do during an information-only campaign. The presentation also covered the general structure and requirements of such campaigns.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Tax Levy Rate

See above.

Special Meeting

Ms. Morris stated that she would like the ballot language approved before the next regular Board meeting on May 20. However, the Board first needed to vote on the proposed 12-cent increase before the ballot language could be finalized.

Ms. Morris therefore requested a special Board meeting be held on May 6 at 5:30 p.m.

The special meeting will be held in person at 5:30 p.m. on May 6, 2025.

Sunshine Request

Ms. Morris stated that the Library had received a Sunshine request for documents detailing payments to vendors for goods and services rendered to the Webster Groves Public Library District from January 1, 2022 through February 28, 2026. She stated that the request had been fulfilled.

New Board Member

There were questions about when a new board member would be starting.

Ms. Morris stated that City Hall has posted the vacant Board position previously held by Ms. Waugh, but no applicants have applied thus far. She also noted that the Library will receive a new City Council Liaison in May.

Adjournment

Ms. Coates moved to adjourn. Mr. Toelle seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.