



Fayette County Public Library Board Meeting April 15, 2025

Fayette County Public Library

THE FAYETTE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD met on April 15, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Distance Learning Lab (DLL) Room of the Fayette County Public Library, 1821 Heritage Park Way Fayetteville, GA 30214.

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Zulema Green, Chair*
 Davina Taylor, Vice-Chair
 Kim Bradley
 Gail Joiner
 Denise Stripling
 Page McDonald
 J.T Rabun

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: *Michelle Bennett-Copeland, Fayette County Library Director*
 Chris Mallory, Board Secretary and Library Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: *Natalie Marshall, Director, Flint River Regional Library System (FRRLS)*
 Lauren Ogletree, Business Manager, Flint River Regional Library (FRRLS)

I.) **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Zulema Green called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

II.) **Approval of Minutes of October 2024 Meeting**

The minutes from October to be considered for approval were put forth by Board Chair Zulema Green. Board member Page McDonald motioned to approve the minutes and Vice-Chair Davina Taylor seconded the motion.

III.) **Michelle Bennett-Copeland, Library Director, Fayette County Public Library**

- Part-time Librarian Angiah Davis has decided to step down from her current role at the library. The position will be posted online soon.
- The customer satisfaction took place at the beginning of the year and it was very informative. Some information that we learned from the survey is that most of the printed book supporters are aged 45 and above. Most of the patrons who participated in the survey were PINES library card holders
- The library has partnered with Meals on Wheels, Friends of the Library, and the Senior Center along with other partners to start the Books on Wheels program. This is a program to help provide books to our homebound citizens. There have been two deliveries so far and we have helped about 18 citizens each time. They can choose 3 books of whatever genre they favor. We are looking to add more items besides books during the summer reading season. We will be adding more items like adult coloring books, crayons, and crossword puzzles.
- Local Author Section - We have a section of the library dedicated to local authors. There is a rigorous process that authors must go through for their book to be added to our library collection. This is a great way to showcase some of our local authors' books if they are not able to have their books officially added to our collection.
- Local Author Showcase - We recently had a local author showcase in which we had 30 authors. They were able to introduce themselves, showcase their work, and sell their merchandise.
- New Library Board Member – Mr. J.T. Rabun is our newest library board member.
- Author Event – We had an author named Deb Miller Landau visit during the month of February. She talked about the book titled “The Devil went down to Georgia” about an African American socialite named Lita Sullivan who was killed in a “hitman” type of situation. The Friends of the Library were able to purchase signed books for our long-time book club members (Monday Morning and Thursday Night Book Club). There was a great discussion around the book and an audience member happened to know the family and attended the

wedding of the Sullivans. They were able to provide even more information and insight into the discussion.

IV.) Natalie Marshall, *Director, Flint River Regional Library System (FRRLS)*

- **Library Board Member Training** – There were a couple of board member training sessions for new library board members and a refresher for older board members. The training is a great way to catch up with board members from the other FRRLS libraries.
- **\$1,427,041 in the FY2025 amended budget for storm relief and materials.** Most of this will go to repair libraries damaged by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, but we will receive some extra materials money at the end of the fiscal year.
\$1,000,000 in LibTech funds for the FY2026 year (public technology needs).
\$2,500,000 in FY2026 MRR funds for repairs and maintenance. FRRLS applied for roof funds for Griffin-Spalding County Library and HVAC funds for Peachtree City Library. Applications are now open for FY2027.
- **Georgia Legislative Session** – The legislative session ended on April 4. SB74/HB483 – Amendment of the OCGA to remove the librarian/library staff exemption from the state’s “harmful to minors” statute died in the committee in the house. HB516 – Remote Participation in Library Board Meetings passed as the last bill in the entire session. More details to follow once Governor Kemp has signed it into law.
- **Current Federal Funding.** Federal library funding via the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) is administered by the Institute for Museum and Library services (IMLS,) most recently reauthorized by Congress in 2018. In an Executive Order on March 14th, the White House included IMLS in a list of seven government entities ordered to cease activities or reduce functions to a minimal amount. Since then, a new Acting Director has been sworn in and most of the staff of IMLS have been placed on administrative leave. At this time, we don’t know what that means for the future of federal library funding and how it will impact Georgia. Through the Grants-to-States program (Main program for federal funding), Georgia typically receives about \$5.2 million per year and expends those funds on statewide programs to maximize impact. The breakdown of the funding is about 80% Local, 15-17% is from the state, and

about 3% Federal. Right now, that critical funding underwrites the following programs:

- PINES & the statewide courier service that drives our ability to transfer books
- GLS – the Georgia Library for the Blind and Print Disabled: digital audio, physical audio, Braille Books, and Large Print.
- Galileo – the statewide database portal that supplies research, Consumer Reports, Mango Languages, LearningExpress test prep and resume builder, and Gale Legal Forms, ancestry.com, etc.
- Summer Reading Program – A base level of support for libraries that includes reading logs, posters, Beanstack, and other summer reading program tools.

V.) Library Representative Report (FRRLS Branches)

- Tyrone – February 21st In-Service Training at Griffin Public Library. Staff always enjoy the training sessions. The LibTech money was used to update the public self-pay station (Coin-op for printer), added receipt printers and barcode scanners. The Adult Lunch and Learn events were well attended. The library will plan to visit Burch Elementary to promote Summer Reading 2025. Red Cross Blood Drive will take place on May 30th from 10am-3pm.
- Brooks Public Library – Kim has been selected to be a Judge for the Maggie Awards (Georgia Romance Awards). There will be a Bingo Program for the Summer.
- Peachtree City Library - A Writer Series has recently begun. It will take place over a 5-week period on Tuesdays at 11am.

VI.) Board Chair Zulema Green called for a motion to adjourn the board meeting.

The motion to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. was called by board member Denise Stripling, and board member J.T Rabun seconded the motion.

The next Library Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 17, 2024, at 4 PM at the Fayette County Public Library.

ATTEST:

_____*Chris Mallory*_____

Chris Mallory
Board Secretary