

# Ouachita Parish Public Library

## Board Of Control

### Minutes

January 8, 2026

The Ouachita Parish Public Library Board of Control Meeting was held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at the Main Branch of the Ouachita Parish Public Library. In attendance were the following members: Ms. Alex Webre, President; Ms. Kathy Craig, Vice-President; Mr. Larry Bratton, ex officio member; Mr. Darris Waren; Ms. Betty Ward Cooper, and Ms. Debbie Blue. Mr. Wyman Mardis and Ms. Misti Cordell were absent. Also attending were Mr. William Long, OPPJ Treasurer; Ms. Jennifer Johnson, OPPJ Assistant District Attorney; Ms. Nancy Green, OPPL Director; Ms. LaKeisha Bosworth, OPPL Assistant Director; and Ms. Casie Castle, OPPL Business Manager.

President Webre called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm and asked Mr. Waren led the invocation.

There were no agenda changes, and the agenda was approved on a motion by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Bratton, with all in favor.

President Webre welcomed guests, Mr. Bill Land of Land 3 Architect, and Ms. Dilcie McDonald Green.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Land then gave an update on the new Main Branch Library building. He discussed that the acceptance of proposals for the site sign will close on Thursday. He mentioned that he had reached out to six local contractors for this job, including Triad, and that quotes were requested to include the lawn irrigation for the small green space in front of the building, but no vendors have responded at this time.

Mr. Land next referred to the 6 large photo walls and 1 mural that will be a collaboration of photos. The cost was originally included in the contract with Triad, but he is still working to see how much Triad had estimated the cost to be for the murals and if credit for the cost will be given for the library to find another vendor to install them. He has reached out to HD Graphics, a local vendor in Monroe, and received an estimated cost of \$12,000 to create and install the murals. He is in the process of trying to connect the owner of HD Graphics with Triad to discuss the installation.

Mr. Land reminded the board that Bluum Technology won the bid for the AV equipment in the branch. He also mentioned that Pettus Office Products is planning to begin assembling and installing the furniture that was purchased for the library soon. Pettus had the lowest bid at \$179,000 for the specialty furniture, so once this order is made and arrives, they will begin assembling it as well.

Mr. Land then stated that the lawn irrigation would need to be completed before the parking lot could be repaired and repaved. He mentioned that Triad's contract expires in March, and he feels that Triad's completion should be ahead of the expiration of their contract. Mr. Land next mentioned that Triad had accidentally removed the north-facing canopy covering the door in the Children's area, where buses will drop off school groups. Since it was a mistake on Triad's part, they will be replacing the canopy at no additional charge. Triad asked Mr. Land if the library would accept a 4-foot-deep canopy in place of the 10-foot deep one that was originally there. At this time, all Board members agreed that they wanted a 10-foot canopy. Mr. Land also noted that Triad had removed cabinets from the upstairs break room that were supposed to remain in place, and they would be replacing those at no additional cost as well. This ended Mr. Land's updates.

Mr. Bratton then asked Ms. Green and Ms. Bosworth about the transfer of communications from the current Main Branch to the new building. Ms. Green and Ms. Bosworth both stated that the library's IT department regularly visits the site to stay on top of and ensure the transfer will happen and be completed in a timely manner. Mr. Waren asked Ms. Green and Ms. Bosworth how long they felt it would take to move the branch to the new location. Ms. Green said she felt it would take around 2 to 3 weeks due to having to box up all the books, move them to the new location, unbox them, and organize them.

The Carver-McDonald Branch was the next item on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Waren mentioned the area directly behind the current location and a green space to the side of the branch in front of the school as possible areas for parking lot expansion. The board discussed how the current location seems to be the best place for the branch with no other viable options being found and that the previous idea of building a new branch behind the school does not seem feasible due to limited exposure of the branch were it to be placed there. Mr. Land was asked to work on a rendering of the Carver-McDonald Branch as a new branch and as a remodeled branch.

Ms. Green asked Ms. Johnson if there was an update about the lease on the current Carver-McDonald property. Ms. Johnson stated that they were still trying to determine who was involved in the lease of the property. Ms. Johnson stated at the previous board meeting that the property is listed as being owned by the City of Monroe and not the Monroe City School Board as originally thought. It is believed the record of change is possibly in the Monroe City School Board records.

Ms. Dilcie McDonald Green then asked to speak as she wanted to express that she agreed with the Board's idea to try to leave the Carver-McDonald Branch at its current location. She also commented that if remodeling is done, the building should be left as a one-story building. The board agreed with her comments, and Mr. Land then stated he would begin looking at creating rendering ideas for a one-story building.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on December 11, 2025, were approved on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Mr. Waren, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The Statistical Report for December 2025 and for the report for the year were presented and approved on a motion by Mr. Waren with a second by Ms. Cooper with all present voting in favor.

The Financial Report for December 2025 was presented and approved on a motion by Ms. Cooper and a second by Ms. Blue, with all voting in favor.

The Personnel Report for December 2025 was approved on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Ms. Blue, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Cooper, with all present voting in favor.

Alex Webre, President

Nancy Green, Secretary