

# Ouachita Parish Public Library

## Board Of Control

### Minutes

February 12, 2026

The Ouachita Parish Public Library Board of Control met on Thursday, February 12, 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, Ms. Misti Cordell, and Ms. Debbie Blue. Mr. Wyman Mardis was absent. Also attending were Ms. Nancy Green, OPPL Director and Ms. Casie Castle, OPPL Business Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m., and Mr. Waren led the invocation.

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

President Webre welcomed guests Ms. Dilcie McDonald Green and Ms. Susan Wible.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Land of Land 3 Architect then began his update on the new Main Branch Library building. Mr. Land stated that while construction was moving along, there had been a delay due to the recent ice storm. Ms. Cooper asked how long the delay had been, and Mr. Land responded that the delay was no more than a week. He mentioned that the site sign and lawn irrigation for the small green space in the front parking lot of the building had begun.

Mr. Land also indicated that Triad will begin re-asphalting the parking lot next week and that Amethyst Construction will do this work. He also said the metal will be installed on the arch above the entranceway soon.

Mr. Land noted that construction had been delayed by the furniture boxes, but with Pettus beginning to build and install the furniture, construction is moving along again. The delays mentioned should only extend the project to the end of March. Mr. Land mentioned that when the furniture was delivered, the protective paper covering the floor had shifted, so once the furniture is fully installed, they will be better able to check the floor for any damage.

Mr. Land then mentioned that Bluum Technology was ready to install the AV equipment in the branch, and shipments of the equipment were beginning to arrive. He also said that he has connected them with Triad to schedule a time to come and begin the installation. Mr. Land indicated that at this time, nothing has begun with the mural installation, but that Triad is using Signs Now, a local vendor, for the installation.

Ms. Green reported to the Board about the damage to the West Ouachita Branch Library due to the ice storm. Ms. Green stated that ceiling tiles had fallen and water had leaked into the building, but the damage was bad but not as bad as it could have been, as no trees fell on the building. Mr. Bratton asked about the kind of roof that was on the building, and Ms. Green stated it was a flat roof. Ms. Green indicated that the insurance adjuster had come to the Branch on Tuesday and that the damage was mostly on the outer perimeter of the ceiling but there was no timeline for the repairs at this time.

The Carver-McDonald Branch was the next item on the agenda but since Ms. Jennifer Johnson, OPPJ Assistant District Attorney, was unable to attend the meeting, the board decided to postpone any discussion of the Carver-McDonald Branch until the next meeting. Ms. Johnson was in the process of researching the ownership of the land and building. The board agreed to wait until Ms. Johnson was present to discuss it further.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on January 8, 2026, were approved on a motion by Mr. Bratton, seconded by Ms. Blue, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The Statistical Report for January 2026 was presented and approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Cooper, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The Financial Report for January 2026 was then presented and approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Craig, with all present voting in favor of approval, and the Personnel Report for January 2026 was presented and approved on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Ms. Cooper, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the Main Branch Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Mr. Bratton, with all present voting in favor.

Alex Webre, President

Nancy Green, Secretary