

Ouachita Parish Public Library

Board of Control

Minutes

March 12, 2026

The Ouachita Parish Public Library Board of Control Meeting was held on Thursday, March 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, and Ms. Debbie Blue. Ms. Misti Cordell and Mr. Wyman Mardis were absent. Also attending were Ms. Jennifer Johnson, OPPJ Assistant District Attorney; Ms. Nancy Green, OPPL Director and Ms. Casie Castle, OPPL Business Manager.

President Webre called the meeting to order at 12:01pm and Mr. Waren gave the invocation.

There was one agenda change as Ms. Green asked to add an incident report. The agenda with additions was approved on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Ms. Cooper, with all in favor.

President Webre welcomed guests Ms. Dilcie McDonald Green. Mr. Bill Land and Mr. Curtis "CJ" Kelly of Land 3 Architect were also present.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Land was asked to give an update on the new Main Branch Library building. Mr. Land stated that the site sign foundation had been installed, with the sign installation beginning soon. He also mentioned that the furniture installation is underway, but because it started later than planned, it has delayed construction progress because furniture boxes are in the way. The installation of Audio-Visual equipment by Bluum Technology is in the works for installation to begin as well.

The re-asphalting of the parking lot is now $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way complete. However, Amethyst Construction, which is doing the asphaltting, has found a soft spot on the area of the parking lot near Ryan Chevrolet. Mr. Land stated they would need to remove and replace the material in that area before continuing.

Mr. Land also mentioned an ongoing concern due to the furniture delivery and installation. The protective paper covering the floor has shifted and caused damage to the floor and some wall areas. President Webre stated she felt any damage to the floors from furniture installation needed to be rectified by furniture installers. Mr. Land said he had asked the Police Jury Purchasing Department about that, and he was told that since the furniture was purchased on

state contract, it was felt there was really no recourse. Ms. Johnson then stated that she would investigate the wording of the state contract to see if there was anything that could be done.

Mr. Land then reported that the murals have begun to be installed, noting that the first one installed was smaller than the planned size, so he intends to have a discussion with the contractor to be sure the size is corrected and future murals are the correct size when installed.

Mr. Land presented the board with the estimated costs of three possible change orders. The first change was requested by members of the board to paint the cabinets in the rear, large meeting room and remove the ADA cabinet to be replaced by one of similar size to the rest of the cabinets. This change order will have an estimated cost of \$11,770. The second change order is for the repair of the parking lot area that was found to be a soft spot. This change order will have an estimated cost of \$45,000. The third change order concerns recovering the floors with protective covering and repairing any damage to the floors or walls caused by furniture delivery and installation. This change order will have an estimated cost of \$13,482. Mr. Land asked the board if they wished to proceed with these change orders. President Webre stated she felt the cost to paint the cabinets in the large meeting room was excessive. Mr. Land said he could ask for the cost to just paint the outside of the cabinets and not the interior of the cabinets and see what the savings would be. He noted that the project was still around \$770,000 under budget including the cost of the site sign. The board decided to move forward with all three change orders totaling \$70,252 on a motion by Mr. Warren, seconded by Ms. Cooper, with all in favor.

Mr. Land reiterated that the contractor had expressed how the furniture installation has delayed the construction progress. The contractor feels if the furniture installation continues at its current pace, it will be completed in four weeks. Then, construction will take another five weeks to finish after that. So, the project completion date is now estimated to be at the end of April. Mr. Land stated that since the furniture installation delay was not the fault of the contractor, the utility costs that Triad had agreed to pay during construction should be cut off at the end of February.

Mr. Kelly, an associate of Mr. Land, then presented a draft rendering of a new Carver-McDonald Branch to the board. Mr. Kelly mentioned that he grew up in that area and graduated from Neville High School, and he is familiar with the community that the Carver-McDonald Library Branch serves. Mr. Land noted the current Carver-McDonald Branch is approximately 6,200 square feet in size, and the rendering presented was approximately the size of the Sterlington Branch. Mr. Kelly showed the board a slideshow presentation with a more modern exterior to the building, leading to an open floor plan inside the entrance to the building. A flexible meeting room was presented that could hold approximately 100 people or be split into two meeting rooms with an occupancy of 50 people each

The board expressed appreciation to Mr. Kelly for his efforts in the draft rendering and felt it was a good starting point.

Next, the board discussed an update on the West Ouachita Branch Library, which had sustained some damage during the ice storm. Ms. Green asked Ms. Johnson for her input. Ms. Johnson stated that the insurance company was waiting for more information from ServePro such as a cost estimate and scope of work needing to be done. She stated she would send the information to ServePro again in hopes of receiving a response to pass on to the insurance adjuster.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on February 12, 2026, were approved on a motion by Ms. Blue, seconded by Ms. Cooper, with all present voting in favor of approval.

Ms. Green next discussed the Financial Report for February 2026. The Financial Report for February 2026 was approved on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Ms. Cooper, with all present voting in favor of approval.

Ms. Green next presented the Personnel Report for February 2026. The Personnel Report for February 2026 was approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Craig, with all present voting in favor of approval.

Next, Ms. Green discussed an incident that had occurred at the Main Branch the previous Saturday. One of the staff found a book in the Adult Biography section of the building that had been intentionally damaged, with the spine covering melted and burned. Ms. Green noted that a Police report had been filed and security footage had been pulled of the suspect and the suspect's bicycle. The Police are currently investigating and looking for the suspect.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Main Branch Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Ms. Blue, with all present voting in favor.

Alex Webre, President

Nancy Green, Secretary