

Fort Dodge Public Library Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2026

I. Call to order/Roll Call

President Merrily Dixon called to order the regular meeting of the Fort Dodge Public Library Board of Trustees at 3:33 p.m. on February 23, 2026 at the Fort Dodge Public Library.

The following persons were present: Rita Schmidt (Director), Heidi Ingram (Staff), Merrily Dixon, Jim Kramer, Deb Kelleher and Brittney Hindman.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Hindman and seconded by Kelleher. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the January meeting minutes was made by Kelleher and seconded by Hindman with the one correction of adding a 0 to the foundation funds \$50,000 not \$50,00. Motion carried.

IV. Comments/Questions from the Public

V. Bills and Financial Reports

- a) Kelleher moved payments in the amount of \$1,328.45 to be approved in the Gift and Memorial Accounts Hindman seconded. Motion carried.
- b) Kelleher moved payments in the amount of \$3,660.21 be approved in the City Funds Accounts Dixon seconded. Motion carried.

VI. Communications/Board Education

Update on proposed Legislation. Two bills passed out of committee, House files 2622 and 2324. 2324 states public schools can't contract with public library for bookmobile and online resources. 2622 would make library boards voluntary and would give them less power. The responsibility would fall on city council.

New "age appropriate standards" set by the state that the libraries would have to meet and if you didn't wouldn't be eligible for funding.

Gift monies would be controlled by city council. These bills will need to go to the senate. Two others failed.

Dixon reported on trustees training-advocacy. Don't violate open meeting laws, know your board and its limits. Use your library, talk about it to everyone, attend city and county local meetings.

VII. Committee Reports

FDPL Foundation met per Kramer. Future looks positive and investments are making money.

VIII. Director's Report

Programming/Services

Children's Services

- Anastasia visited the 3rd and 4th grade classes at Duncombe Elementary during the week of February 16th, where she introduced students to library services, highlighted new and popular titles, and encouraged reading.
- Childcare Discovery Center is scheduled to visit the Library over spring break.
- St. Edmond Preschool classes have been scheduled for Library visits in April.
- Approximately 20 students from Iowa Central Community College toured the Children's Department. As part of the visit, Anastasia prepared curated booklists on several high-interest topics, which were very well received by the group.
- Anastasia will return to Duncombe Elementary in May to present information about the Summer Reading Program at an all-school assembly, helping promote participation and awareness ahead of the summer season.

Adult Services

- The Adult Winter Reading Program will conclude on February 28th. Participation has been strong, with positive engagement from patrons.
- Planning for the Adult Summer Reading Program is underway, and Pascale has begun planning presenters and programs for the summer.
Rita will be speaking at the Daybreak Rotary meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd, providing an update on library services, programs, and initiatives.

General Services

- The required paperwork for our E-Rate discount has been successfully filed.
- Our FY27 subscription to Bridges has been renewed in the amount of \$7,512.59.

Budget

- Rita has no new updates regarding our FY27 budget request at this time but anticipates additional information following the City Council meeting on Monday, February 23rd.

Remodel/Renovation

- Brittney and Rita met to discuss next steps for forming the renovation/remodel committee. Also began identifying potential individuals, organizations, and community partners who may offer valuable expertise or perspective related to our renovation goals.

Personnel

- Performance reviews for Pascale and Anastasia have been completed.
- Heidi's six-month probationary period concluded in early February. Her performance review will be completed within the next few weeks.

Policies

- Included in this month's board packet is a revised version of the *Borrowing Library Materials* policy. Revisions include the removal of references to music CDs, the addition of an Adventure Passes section, and general refinements for clarity and consistency.

State Library

- A new self-paced training course covering Iowa Code Chapters 21 and 22 is now available through Workday Learning. This training is recommended for new board members or anyone interested in a refresher on open meetings and public records requirements.

Building

- The new heat pump has been replaced.
- The boiler has passed inspection.

IX. Old Business

Renovation/Remodel discussion-Hindman is on the committee and with Rita they have made a list of potential people to invite to be on the committee and also to come to brainstorming sessions. Will finalize the committee and start meeting. Rita will meet with Ryan Maehl to write the RFP for the architect.

X. New Business

- a) Borrowing Library Materials Policy-Revision. Removed music CDs and added Adventure Passes. Some language was condensed. Moved by Kelleher and seconded by Kramer to approve. Motion carried.

XI. Adjournment

Kelleher moved a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Kramer. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.