

MINUTES
CITY OF DENTON
DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Emily Fowler Central Library – August 11, 2025

After determining that a quorum was present, the Denton Public Library Board convened on Monday, August 11, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Emily Fowler Central Library at 502 Oakland Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Kathryn Pole, Patricia Peters, Rebecca Fridley, Kerol Harrod, Ellen Sullivan, and Eva Poole

ABSENT:

Also present: Jennifer Bekker and Marcella Lunn

1. PRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. LB25-048 Consider approval of the minutes of July 14, 2025.

The Board accepted and approved the minutes of the July 14, 2025 meeting. Pat Peters motioned, Rebecca Fridley seconded, all in favor.

B. LB25-049 The Board received an informational report regarding Story Time Totes literacy support initiative at Denton Public Library.

Haley Phillips, Outreach Librarian, will provide an overview and sample of the new Story Time Totes literacy support initiative.

The Story Time Totes initiative is a pilot program starting this fall. Story Time Totes are bins containing early literacy resources loaned to local licensed in-home childcare providers. The thematic bins include books and activities. They also include information sheets with literacy support tips, songs, and movement activities for providers to lead educational activities and reading with the children they care for. Story Time Totes are an all-in-one kit to equip childcare providers with resources and tools to incorporate early literacy techniques into the children's routines, perform read-aloud books and activities to support social engagement, and train caregivers in literacy education techniques. Bins are rotated among participating providers monthly September-May.

C. LB25-050

The Board received an informational report regarding the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries.

- There have been no changes to report since the last meeting.

D. LB25-051

The Board received an informational report regarding the Emily Fowler Library Foundation.

- There have been no changes since the last Library Board meeting.

E. LB25-052

The Board received a report, held a discussion, and considered approval of the following Denton Public Library Policy updates:

- *Circulation Services Operating Policy*

The Board held a discussion regarding the proposed additional account type and the associated changes. After some debate, Ellen Sullivan motioned, Rebecca Fridley seconded. 2 in favor, 3 opposed. The proposed update did not pass.

F. LB25-053

The Board received a report and held a discussion regarding:

Summer Reading Challenge - The 2025 Summer Reading Challenge, Color Our World, ran June 1 through July 31. This year 2,503 people registered for the program and 1,332 people completed the program, reading at least 5 hours. The completion rate was 53%. Last year a total of 2,073 people registered for the program and 1,192 people completed the program. The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge theme will be Unearth a Story and the design features dinosaurs, archaeology, and paleontology.

Closure Reminders - South Branch Library will close August 15 for staff training. The book return will remain open during the closure. The North Branch Library HVAC units will be replaced August 16-22. The building will be closed and the parking lot inaccessible while the cranes are working. Library staff will work at other branches during the North Branch closure. The closure postings along with information about extending holds due to the closure have made available on social media, the library website, and signs posted on entry doors at each library branch.

PressReader™ Update - Library staff presented about the new PressReader™ digital periodical service at the July 14, 2025, Library Board Meeting. The service was launched in July with a soft launch, with only some demonstrations to groups. In July 567 different publications were accessed, with 81 unique users logging in 162 times and opening 1,350 issues of newspapers and magazines. Marketing for the service has

begun, with bookmarks available at outreach and at branches, upcoming social media marketing, and signs near print periodicals.

3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

The Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Kerol Harrod, Chair

Cynthia Carter, Administrative Assistant
City of Denton, TX

Minutes approved on: _____