

MINUTES  
CITY OF DENTON  
DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD  
South Branch Library – January 12, 2026

After determining that a quorum was present, the Denton Public Library Board convened on Monday, January 12, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the South Branch Library at 3228 Teasley Lane, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Jean Greenlaw, Rebecca Fridley, Patricia Peters, Kathryn Pole, and Kerol Harrod  
ABSENT: Ellen Sullivan

Also present: Jennifer Bekker and Marcella Lunn

## 1. PRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

## 2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

**A. LB26-089** Received nominations and elected the 2026 Chair and Vice-Chair for the Library Advisory Board:

- Patricia Peters, Chair
- Kathryn Pole, Vice-Chair

**B. LB26-090** Library Board Chair, Patricia Peters, asked for volunteers and appointed two members to serve as liaison to:

- The Friends of the Denton Public Libraries Executive Board – Rebecca Fridley
- The Emily Fowler Library Foundation Board – Kathryn Pole

**C. LB26-087** Consider approval of the minutes of December 8, 2025.

The Board accepted and approved the minutes. Kerol Harrod motioned, Rebecca Fridley seconded, all in favor.

**D. LB26-088** The Board received an informational report regarding Winter Reading program.

Director Jennifer Bekker provided an overview of the literacy initiative.

The Winter Reading program was developed to encourage reading throughout the year for all ages. The program runs December 1-January 31. Participants can register online using the library's

reading program software. Participants who read three books are entered into prize drawings.

**E. LB26-091**

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

The Friends Executive Board met on Thursday, January 8, 2026. The Board will discussed new tote bags, membership fees, the bookstore, and meeting attendance. The Director of Libraries reviewed the library's 2026 funding requests that were provided at the October 9, 2025, meeting and the Board approved the funding requests.

**F. LB26-092**

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

The Foundation currently has a \$100,000 CD that will come to maturity in April 2026. The Foundation checking account has a balance of \$9,091.51 as of the latest statement in November 2024.

Foundation Trustees met on December 17, 2025. Trustees discussed, voted, and approved to switch banks for the Foundation checking account. They also discussed, voted, and approved to move forward with moving \$50,000 of the \$100,000 CD to a brokerage account to earn additional a higher interest rate and allow Special Collections to use the remaining \$50,000 for identified projects regarding art and textile cleaning and restoration. A flash tattoo fundraiser for April was discussed. Trustees also voted to approve proposed bylaws and approved the use of up to \$500 to hire a graphic designer to create a logo for the organization.

**G. LB26-093**

The Board received a report and held a discussion regarding:

*2026 Library Board Presentation Topics* - Library staff provide brief informational presentations about library services and operations at each Library Board meeting. Library staff are preparing the 2026 topics and seeking input on topics that may be able to be included in the 2026 presentations.

*Santa Story Times* - Each year, Santa Story Time events are scheduled and presented at each library location in December. The Christmas-themed special Story Times include a visit from Santa. This year's events drew significantly larger crowds than have attended in the past. The event at Emily Fowler Central Library drew an audience of 97, just under the room capacity limit. Attendance at the North Branch event had to be capped at 88 attendees to meet room capacity fire and safety limits. Unfortunately, some families were unable to participate but were encouraged to attend the Santa Story Time at South Branch four days later. Staff adjusted to the

new attendance levels pivoted to hold the South Branch Santa Story Time in the open children's area of the building, accommodating the 154 people who attended. Staff plan to add additional Santa Story Time events at North and South Branches in 2026 to address the increased attendance.

*South Branch 30th Anniversary* - South Branch Library celebrates its 30th anniversary this January with special events on Saturday, January 31. Activities include a special Happy Birthday Story Time, face painting and balloon twisting, cupcake decorating, and retro gaming and displays featuring South Branch history.

### 3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

None.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

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Patricia Peters, Chair

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Cynthia Carter, Administrative Assistant  
City of Denton, TX

Minutes approved on: \_\_\_\_\_