



Silvis Public Library Board of Trustees

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, February 9th, 2026, 6:00 pm
806 1st Avenue, Silvis, IL 61282

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, March 10th, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

1. Call to Order: Bev Reese called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call:

In-Person Attendance:

Trustees: Bruce Boyd, Gloria Douglas, Ivy Pittman-Outen, Bev Reese, Beth Tepen, Amanda Watson, Meaghan Terry

Staff: Amy Fry

Absent: Katy Henderson, Amanda VanOpdorp

3. Public Comment: NONE

4. Vote to Establish Consent Agenda:

Trustee, Bev Reese, asked the secretary to read the Consent Agenda dated Monday, February 9th, 2026. Amanda read the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made to establish the Consent Agenda dated Monday, February 9th, 2026.

Motion: Bruce Boyd Second: Meaghan Terry

Secretary, Amanda Watson, requested a Roll Call Vote, ending with the Board President.

Bruce Boyd – yes
Gloria Douglas – yes
Ivy Pittman-Outen – yes
Bev Reese - yes
Beth Tepen – yes

Amanda VanOpdorp – ABSENT
Amanda Watson - yes
Meaghan Terry –yes
Katy Henderson - ABSENT

There were 7 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes in the negative. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the *Consent Agenda dated February 9th, 2026, was established.*

5. Vote to Approve Items on the Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion: Ivy Pittman-Outen Second: Meaghan Terry

Secretary, Amanda Watson, requested a Roll Call Vote, ending with the Board President.

Bruce Boyd – yes
Gloria Douglas – yes
Ivy Pittman-Outen – yes
Bev Reese - yes
Beth Tepen – yes

Amanda VanOpdorp – ABSENT
Amanda Watson - yes
Meaghan Terry – yes
Katy Henderson - ABSENT

There were 7 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes in the negative. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the *Consent Agenda dated February 9th, 2026, was approved.*

6. Approve Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:

7. Director's Monthly Report:

a. January 2026 Statistics

- i. Registration Statistics
 1. New Patrons decreased 13.2% from January 2025 (53/46).
 2. Renewals increased 64.3% from January 2025 (14/23).
 3. Total Active cards increased 10.2% from January 2025 (2936/3234).
- ii. Circulation Statistics
 1. Physical materials – checkouts decreased 14.6% from January 2025 (2073/1770).
 2. E-material – checkouts decreased 5.9% from January 2025 (665/626).
- iii. Programming Statistics
 1. Active Stats (In-Person/Virtual) – Attendance increased 2.5% from January 2025 (236/242).
 2. Passive Stats (Self-Guided/Virtual) – Participation decreased 42.9% from January 2025 (105/60). (We are no longer making takeaway kits)

b. Building Maintenance/Projects:

- i. Camera System: Finn AV & Solutions finished installing the camera system in January.
- ii. Electrical Repairs:
 1. Wall Outlet (Director's Office) - Advantage Electric repaired the electrical outlet in January.
 2. Electronic Signs – Advantage Electric is trying to get the replacement parts for the wireless router. Amy will update the board as this progresses.
- iii. Young Adult Area Renovation – The Young Adult Area is being relocated to the area that currently holds the children's fiction, graphic novel, and non-fiction sections. Prior to the move, each section will be weeded to improve its shelf-appeal. In the future, furniture will need to be purchased for the teen area. Funding for the furniture has yet to be determined. The library staff hope the move will increase use of the area, circulation of young adult materials, and attendance at teen events.
- iv. Spanish Collection Relocation – After the Juvenile and Young Adult areas have been moved, the Spanish collection will be relocated. Spanish materials will be shelved at the beginning or end of each corresponding English language section (example: the Spanish language board books will be shelved at the beginning or the end of the board books written in English, Spanish Adult Fiction will be at the beginning or end of the Adult Fiction that is printed in English.)
- v. Rock River Library District Donation: Launchpads – The Rock River Library District granted a library request for \$2,000 to purchase of Launchpads for the library. Playaway Launchpads are durable, pre-loaded educational tablets designed for kids (ages 3-10+) and adults, featuring learning apps, games, and stories. They require no internet access or downloads, making them safe, portable, and immediately playable. The 12 Launchpads should arrive this month.
- vi. Website: Amy is working on the website. She will update the board as it progresses.
- vii. Fire Alarm Coverage: Amy is trying to set a meeting to discuss rates this month.
- viii. Community Survey (Library Programming) – The library has asked the community to participate in a survey to help better evaluate programming needs. The survey is available online or in a physical version at the library. To increase participation, patrons who complete the survey will

be entered to win a \$20 Amazon gift card. Survey will be available through the end of February.

- ix. Strategic Plan – Amy is meeting with Rachel in February to beginning the implementation portion of the Strategic Planning Process. This will include working on the Evaluation Plan and the Activity Plan. Going forward, they will meet monthly to evaluate and record progress. Amy will update the board at the April meeting. Beginning in June, a Strategic Plan Update will be presented to the board bi-monthly.
- x. Grant Opportunities –
 - 1. 2026 Penguin Grant for Rural and Small Libraries - \$500 and \$1,000 grants will be awarded to Friends groups that raise funds and advocate for their local libraries. In addition, 20 libraries will receive in-kind book donation grants of \$500 to purchase Penguin Random House titles. The Friends will be discussion their application progress during their February meeting, tomorrow evening. Cassie Hall and Bruce Boyd are working on this grant.
 - 2. 2026 Better World Books Literacy Grant – This year’s theme focuses on Libraries & Literacy Access, particularly in marginalized communities. Last year, 8 libraries were selected and awarded \$5-10k each. Amy and Catalina will request funding for a new bilingual storytime and purchase of the supplies and books for the program/collection. The deadline is February 28th.

c. Library Personnel:

- i. Professional Development
 - 1. Training: Amy participated in 7 collection development training sessions, the iRead Resources Guide webinar for Summer Reading, and FOIA/OMA annual training and certification. This month, Amy will also participate in “Responding to ICE at the Library: Real World Approaches,” a free training session offered by the Public Library Association.
 - 2. Meetings: Library staff participated in 4 meetings in January. Amy attended a Departments Head Meeting at City Hall. Rachel, Cassie, Minda, and Catalina had their quarterly programmer’s meeting. Rachel attended RAILS Technical Services Networking Meeting
- ii. Annual Reviews:
 - 1. Staff - Amy has completed all staff reviews and will sit down with staff this week to go over them.
 - 2. Director - Amy met with Katy on Friday to discuss her review. They went over the board’s ratings for 2025 and goals for 2026.
- iii. Staff Vacations: Catalina will be out of town for one week in February. Her events will be led by the remaining staff. Amy will be out of town on Monday, April 13th. She has suggested that the April library board meeting move to Tuesday, April 14th. This will be discussed again at the March meeting.

d. Annual Reports:

- i. FY 24-25 Revenue & Expense Report: Final numbers were not available in time to prepare the report for the meeting. Amy hopes to have the numbers by the March meeting.
- ii. ILLINET – The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan and Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey documents the library’s interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing activity from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and must be completed by March 31, 2026.

- iii. Annual Library Certification - Annual certification is required of all library system members to retain system membership and eligibility for grants administered by the Illinois State Library. The deadline for full submission is March 31, 2025.
- iv. Per Capita Grant:
 - 1. 2025 Grant: The Per Capita Grant assists public libraries in providing library services that meet or show progress toward meeting Illinois library standards. Grant amounts of up to \$1.475 per person, based on the population of the library's service area, are awarded annually to qualified Illinois public libraries. The 2025 Per Capita Grant was due January 30, 2026. Amy completed the grant prior to the deadline.
 - 2. 2026 Grant:
 - a. Eligibility – To be eligible, libraries must provide library services that either meet or show progress toward meeting the Illinois Public Library Standards, adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, and complete the most recent Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR).
 - b. Application - The library will need to explain the library's progress toward meeting the Illinois Public Library Standards. The applicant must submit an application that meets the eligibility requirements, Certification of Compliance, and Expenditure Report.
- v. Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) –
 - 1. For municipal libraries, including the Silvis Public Library, the deadline to complete the Illinois Public Library Annual Report is 60 days after the expiration of the fiscal year (July 1, 2026).
 - 2. For district libraries, including the Rock River Library District, the deadline to complete the Illinois Public Library Annual Report is September 1st of each year, a report shall be filed with the Illinois State Librarian.
- e. **IMLS Funding Update:** Amy presented the board with an article from the American Libraries magazine, discussing an unexpected \$1.4 million budget increase for library programs run by IMLS through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), bringing LSTA funding to \$212.5 million for FY2026. Congress also provided level funding of \$30 million for the school library–focused Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program.
- f. **Supreme Court Book Ban Decision:** Amy presented the board with an article discussing the Supreme Court decision NOT to hear an appeal in a major Texas library book ban case, Little v. Llano County, leaving in place a lower court ruling that allows local officials to remove books from public library shelves. The refusal to hear the case is a major setback for free speech advocates who argue it permits viewpoint-based censorship.
- g. **Special Events:**
 - i. Black History Month - The 2026 Black History Month theme is "A Century of Black History Commemorations." This theme marks the 100th anniversary of the first Black History Week established in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, focusing on the evolution and impact of celebrating Black history. The library has a filled the glass display with library materials celebrating Black history, coloring pages, and bookmarks.
 - ii. Library Lover's Month - Library Lovers' Month is a month-long celebration dedicated to honoring libraries, librarians, and the vital, diverse services they provide to communities. It encourages patrons to show appreciation for their local libraries and the resources they offer. Patrons are encouraged to fill out a heart stating what the love about their library. The hearts are being displayed throughout the month.
 - iii. Blind Date with a Book – In honor of Valentine's/Palentine's/Galentine's Day, the library staff have created a "Blind Date with a Book" display. This is a popular library initiative where books

are wrapped in paper to hide their covers, titles, and authors, encourages readers to discover new authors and avoid judging books by their covers.

- iv. ILP: Still Scared of the Dark—A Evening with R.L. Stine [Zoom] - Becky Spratford, editor of Why I Love Horror: Essays on Horror Literature, will join R.L. Stine in conversation. February 24th at 7pm.
- v. Winter Reading Program Sendoff – The last day to log reading will be February 28th. Participants have one week to collect their prizes.
- vi. Adult Mindfulness Workshop - Jose Burgos will lead this workshop on the theory and practice of mindfulness on March 2nd. Sponsored by the Friends and Royal Neighbors.
- vii. Robert Young Care Coordination Hours – Amy and Minda are meeting with a Care Coordinator from Robert Young Center this week. Going forward, the library will partner with RY for drop-in services at the library. Services include: -housing assistance, Medicaid applications, SNAP benefits, healthcare resources, and mental health referrals.
- viii. Friends Bake Sale – The Friends will hold their annual Good Friday Bake Sale Fundraiser on April 3rd. The Friends are looking for volunteers to donate baked goods, raffle basket items, and their time. For more information, Amy encouraged the trustees to attend tomorrow’s Friends meeting.
- ix. Kite Day – Silvis Main Street is hosting their annual Kite Day on April 4th. The library will host a Bubble Station, Yard Games Area, and provide a spring-themed takeaway craft.
- x. Touch A Truck – Silvis Main Street will be hosting a Touch a Truck event on Saturday, May 24th. The library staff will participate. Additional details at a later date.
- xi. Summer Reading 2026: Plant A Seed, Read – The 2026 iREAD summer reading theme is "Plant a Seed, Read," a farm-to-table concept that compares nourishing the body with food to nourishing the mind with stories. It focuses on gardening, agriculture, and community, with programs for all ages. Programming will explore topics like pollination, local, sustainable food sources, and environmental stewardship. Possible programs include outdoor storytimes, planting workshops, flower arranging, fresh fruit/vegetable exchange, and STEAM activities focused on sustainability. The all-ages event will run from June 1st through July 30th.

8. **Trustee Training – Illinois Public Library Standards/Advocacy and Community Engagement]:** The Advocacy and Community Engagement Standards were discussed. Advocacy helps secure necessary funding and public support by demonstrating the library’s value to policymakers and stakeholders. Community engagement fosters deeper connections and ensures that programs and services address the evolving needs of the community. Together, advocacy and community engagement ensure that libraries remain essential resources.
 - a. Standards Chart – The library meets all 6 core, intermediate and advanced standards. The library director joined the ILA Small and Rural Libraries Forum in January (Standard #5-Advanced). The Small and Rural Libraries Forum represents the interests of small and rural libraries in Illinois, provides a forum for staff at all levels and trustees to discuss issues of particular interest to small and rural libraries, and encourages active participation in Illinois library organizations. The forum meets virtually to plan and host events online and in-person conference programs for library workers, specifically those at small and rural libraries. Amy will attend first meeting will be February 12th.
 - b. Action Plan – The completed Action Plan was presented to the board.
9. **Friends of the Library/Royal Neighbors** – The Friends will meet tomorrow. The agenda includes electing of officers, Royal Neighbors’ bylaws, memberships, meeting schedule, library requests, and fundraising. Fundraising efforts include applying for a Penguin Random House Grant, hosting their Annual Good Friday Bake Sale, and purchasing merchandise (shirts and bags) to sell.

10. Unfinished Business for Discussion and Possible Action:

- a. **Immigration Enforcement Plan** – Amy is attending addition Immigration Enforcement training this month. If needed, she will present an updated plan for board approval at an upcoming meeting
- b. **FOIA Guide and Request Cards** – Amy has begun to update the library’s FOIA Guide. A rough draft will be presented at the March meeting.
- c. **FOIA and OMA Certification** - This was included twice on the agenda. Amy discussed this during her Director’s Report when discussing training. As noted above, she has completed her 2026 certification.

11. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action:

- a. **Trustee Facts File (13: Public Relations):** Chapter 13 discusses creating a Public Relations Policy, cultivating community partnerships, utilizing media in a pr campaign, making public presentations, and the importance of patron input.
- b. **Job Description Review (Assistant Director):** The job description was presented. The board did not find any changes needed.
- c. **Budget Discussion:**
 - i. **Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT):** Amy presented the board with the auditors finding regarding past PPRT disbursements and the percentage used in calculations going forward.
 - ii. **Budget Committee**
 1. **Meeting Update:** The February Budget Meeting was canceled. Amy is still waiting on expected tax revenue figures from the County.
 2. **Next Meeting Date:** It has been rescheduled to March 2nd at 6pm.
- d. **FY26-27 Rock River Library District Contract:** Amy presented the board with the draft FY26-27 Rock River Contract. The contract will be voted on at the March meeting.

12. **Library Wishes:** The library does not have any wishes currently.

13. Items to be placed on next agenda

- Annual Reports (ILLINET, Certification, IPLAR)
- Building Maintenance/Projects
- WRP Report
- IMLS Funding Update
- FY24-25 Revenue and Expense Report
- Trustee Continuing Education (iLEAD Portal)
- Friends/RN Update
- Policy Review (_____)
- Job Description (_____)
- Illinois Standards (Topic)

- Trustee Facts File (Chapter 14)
- FOIA Guide and Request Cards
- Budget Committee
 - Meeting Update
 - Meeting Dates
- APPROVE BUDGET
- RRLD Contract – APPROVE
- Nomination of Officers
- **RESCHEDULE APRIL BOARD MEETING**
- Anything else?

Items to be discussed at future meetings

- Facility Systems list (with maintenance operations)
- Building Maintenance/Repair Checklist
- Capital Asset Plan
- City Council Presentation (Year in Review)
- Centennial FINAL Report
- Strategic Planning Update

12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at: 6:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Watson

