



# Silvis Public Library Board of Trustees

Regular Board Meeting  
Monday, March 9th, 2026, 6:00 pm  
806 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Silvis, IL 61282

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

**1. Call to Order:** Katy Hendersen called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**2. Roll Call:**

In-Person Attendance:

Trustees: Bruce Boyd, Gloria Douglas, Bev Reese, Beth Tepen, Amanda VanOpdorp, Amanda Watson, Katy Henderson

Staff: Amy Fry

Absent: Ivy Pittman-Outen, Meaghan Terry

**3. Public Comment:** NONE

**4. Vote to Establish Consent Agenda:**

President, Katy Henderson, asked the secretary to read the Consent Agenda dated Monday, March 9th, 2026. The secretary read the Consent Agenda.

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

**Motion: Amanda VanOpdorp Second: Bev Reese**

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

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

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

**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 March 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: Bev Reese Second: Bruce Boyd**

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

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

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

**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 March 9th, 2026, was approved.***

**6. Approve Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:**

## 7. Director's Monthly Report:

### a. February 2026 Statistics:

- i. Registration Statistics:
  1. New Patrons: increased 50% from February 2025 (16/24).
  2. Renewals: decreased 5.3% from February 2025 (19/18).
  3. Total Active cards: increased 10.6% from February 2025 (2947/3259).
- ii. Circulation Statistics:
  1. Physical materials: checkouts decreased 11.5% from February 2025 (1736/1536).
  2. E-material: checkouts increased 7.3% from February 2025 (574/616).
- iii. Programming Statistics:
  1. Active Stats (In-Person/Virtual): Attendance decreased 3.8% from February 2025 (211/203).
  2. Passive Stats (Self-Guided/Virtual): Participation increased 1.9% from February 2025 (258/263). (We are no longer making takeaway kits)

### b. Building Maintenance/Projects:

- i. Electronic Signs: Advantage Electric is trying to get the replacement parts for the wireless router. Amy will update the board as this progresses.
- ii. 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 is being weeded to improve its shelf-appeal. In February, the YA Graphic Novel Section was weeded. The YA Fiction Section is being weeded this week.
- iii. 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. The Spanish materials will be weeded when the Juvenile weed has been completed (end of March).
- iv. Playaway Launchpads: The Rock River Library District purchased 12 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 The Launchpads have been processed and will be available for checkout soon.
- v. Website: Amy is working on the website. She will update the board as it progresses.
- vi. Fire Alarm Coverage: Amy is trying to set a meeting to discuss rates this month.
- vii. Community Survey (Library Programming): The library has asked the community to participate in a survey to help better evaluate programming needs. The survey was available online and in a physical version at the library. To increase participation, patrons who completed the survey were entered to win a \$20 Amazon gift card. Responses will be collected and discussed with Programming Staff this month.
- viii. Strategic Plan: Amy is meeting with Rachel this Friday to begin 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.

**c. Library Personnel:**

i. Professional Development:

1. Meetings: Library staff participated in 4 meetings in January.

- a. Amy attended 3 meetings in February (Silvis Library Board Meeting, RAILS Member Update Meeting, ILA Small & Rural Libraries Forum Meeting).
- b. Cassie attended 3 meetings (Circulation Meeting, Library Marketing Meetup, Friends of the Library Meeting)
- c. Minda attended 2 meetings in February (Circulation Meeting, Robert Young Center Outreach Meeting)
- d. Remaining Staff: Rachel, Catalina, Connie, and Jason each attended 1 meeting (Circulation Meeting).

2. February Training:

- a. Amy participated in 8 collection development training sessions, an Ingram Basics webinar, and ILA Marketing Forum training on time management, and First Amendment training (provided by ILA).
- b. Rachel participated in 2 Vega Discover training opportunities (Vega Discover Basics and Vega Discover Showcases).

3. Conferences:

- a. Reaching Forward North: Reaching Forward North is an annual professional development conference for library support staff in central and northern Illinois. With a commitment to providing quality training and information, Reaching Forward North strives to be the premier professional development opportunity in the Northern area of Illinois. Amy and Rachel will attend Reaching Forward North on May 22nd in Rosemont, Illinois.
- b. ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition: The annual ALA Conference is the largest library event in the world, bringing together thousands of library professionals to celebrate, learn, and strategize for the future. In 2026, the conference will be held from June 25-29 in Chicago and marks the association's 150th anniversary. The event will feature educational programming, the extensive "Library Marketplace," and special sessions focused on the impact of libraries over the past and next 150 years. Amy, Rachel, Catalina, and Minda will all attend. Half of the cost is covered by the library budget. The remainder is being covered by a monetary donation from the Lowell N Johnson Foundation.

- ii. Staff Vacations: Catalina's February vacation was rescheduled to a later date. Amy will be out of town on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. She has suggested that the April library board meeting move to Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. This will be discussed later in the 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 April 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. 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. ALA News:**

- i. Federal Bill H.R. 7661: Federal Bill H.R. 7661, introduced in February 2026, aims to restrict federal funding from being used to provide "sexually oriented material" to minors under 18 in schools and libraries. It defines this material broadly, including topics on gender dysphoria or transgenderism, prompting concerns over potential book bans.
  - 1. Key Details and Implications:
    - a. Purpose: The bill seeks to prohibit federal funds authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 from being used to promote or provide sexually oriented material to children under 18.
    - b. Definition of Material: The legislation defines "sexually oriented material" to include depictions of sexually explicit conduct and content related to gender dysphoria or transgenderism.
    - c. Concerns: Opponents, including authors and library advocates, argue the bill's definitions are overly broad, potentially restricting access to a wide range of literature in school libraries and violating 1st Amendment rights.
    - d. Supporters: The bill has received backing from Republican cosponsors aiming to protect children from inappropriate content.
    - e. Stage: The bill is currently in the committee stage as of early 2026.
  - 2. ALA Response:
    - a. Statement:

"Parents, not politicians, should guide their children's reading. In our school, campus, and public libraries, materials are selected by trained literacy professionals who understand child development and community needs. Their work is grounded in one clear purpose: helping young people become lifelong readers.

H.R. 7661 isn't fundamentally about protecting kids. It's about giving politicians broad authority to restrict whose stories are allowed on our shelves. That should concern anyone who believes in the freedom to read and the right of families to make decisions for themselves.

Rather than targeting librarians and teachers, Congress should invest in them. The Right to Read Act offers a better path, supporting well-staffed and well-resourced school libraries, strengthening evidence-based literacy instruction, and protecting the dedicated professionals who help young people discover books that open doors and expand horizons. When we trust families, support educators, and protect the freedom to read, our young people thrive."
    - b. Requests: The ALA urges advocates to call their members of Congress at the Capitol switchboard (202.224.3121) and ask them to oppose H.R. 7661.
- ii. Fund Libraries Campaign (for FY27): The American Library Association (ALA) has launched its annual Fund Libraries campaign, mobilizing library advocates to request their Congressmembers sign bipartisan "Dear Appropriator" letters in supporting full funding for two programs (\$232 million for the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) and \$50 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program.

1. Due Date: Letters must be submitted by March 20<sup>th</sup>.
2. Fund Libraries Links: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/federal-resources/fund-libraries>
  - a. Includes:
    - i. Link to contact your house representatives
    - ii. a resource page with a description of the federal budget process
    - iii. social media graphics and sample social posts
    - iv. bookmark/flyer templates

**f. Special Events:**

- i. Women's History Month: The 2026 Women's History Month theme is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future." This theme honors women who are rebuilding systems to ensure long-term environmental, economic, and social sustainability. The library has a filled the glass display with library materials celebrating Women's history, coloring pages, and bookmarks.
- ii. Winter Reading Program Report: Amy discussed this year's Winter Reading Statistics with the board.
  1. Registration:
    - a. Juvenile registration increased from 4.6% from 2025 [65/68].
    - b. Teen registration increased from 40% from 2025 [7/8].
    - c. Adult registration decreased 27.5% [80/58]
  2. Completion:
    - a. Juvenile completions increased from 51.7% from 2025 [29/44].
    - b. Teen completions increased from 33.3% from 2025 [3/4].
    - c. Adult completions decreased 27.1% [48/35]
  3. Event Attendance: Program attendance decreased 5.9% from 2025 [816/768].
- iii. Robert Young Care Coordination Hours: Minda are meet with a Care Coordinator from Robert Young Center to partner for drop-in services at the library. Services will include: -housing assistance, Medicaid applications, SNAP benefits, healthcare resources, and mental health referrals. Dates TBD.
- iv. Friends Bake Sale: The Friends will hold their annual Good Friday Bake Sale Fundraiser on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Friends are looking for volunteers to donate baked goods, raffle basket items, and their time.
- v. Kite Day: Silvis Main Street is hosting their annual Kite Day on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The library will host a Bubble Station, Yard Games Area, and provide a spring-themed takeaway craft.
- vi. Touch A Truck: Silvis Main Street will be hosting a Touch a Truck event on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. The library staff will participate. Additional details at a later date.
- vii. 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 1<sup>st</sup> through July 30<sup>th</sup>.

- viii. 2026 Bingo Fundraiser: Donation letters will be sent out soon. The library would like to have the fundraiser in August, date TBD.

**8. Trustee Training – Illinois Public Library Standards/Building and Grounds]:** The Building and Grounds Standards were discussed.

- a. **Summary:** Stewardship of public library buildings involves designing, constructing and preserving facilities to ensure accessibility, safety, and functionality, for staff and users. This includes site selection, architectural planning, furniture and fixtures, and incorporating modern technology and sustainability features. Operational responsibilities include routine cleaning, grounds maintenance, structural repairs, HVAC upkeep, and technology updates. Long-term financial planning is needed for libraries to ensure that it remains a well-equipped and inviting space for learning, research and community engagement.
- b. **Standards Chart:** The library meets all 10 core, as well as 3 intermediate standards.
- c. **Action Plan:** The completed Action Plan was presented to the board.

**9. 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 presented a rough draft of the library's FOIA Guide. This will be voted on at a later meeting.
- c. **APPROVE - FY26-27 Rock River Library District Contract:** Amy presented the board with a copy of the proposed contract.

A motion was made to approve the FY26-27 Rock River Library District Contract as presented.

**Motion: Amanda VanOpdorp Second: Gloria Douglas**

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

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

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

**There were 7 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes in the negative. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the *FY26-27 Rock River Library District Contract was approved.***

- d. **Discuss Budget Committee Meeting (March 2nd):** The Budget Committee met on March 2nd to discuss the rough draft of the FY26-27 library budget. Revenue and Expenditures were discussed.
- e. **APPROVE – Budget Meeting Minutes:** The March 2<sup>nd</sup> budget committee minutes were presented.

A motion was made to approve the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Committee Minutes as presented.

**Motion: Bev Reese Second: Amanda VanOpdorp**

**Unanimously Approved.**

**f. APPROVE – FY26-26 Library Budget:**

A motion was made to approve the FY26-27 budget as presented.

**Motion: Amanda Watson Second: Bev Reese**

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

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

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

**There were 7 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes in the negative. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the *FY26-27 Library Budget was approved.***

**10. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action:**

**a. Trustee Facts File (Chapter 14: Trustee Continuing Education):** Chapter 14 different forms of trustee continuing education. These include: the trustee facts file, seminars, webinars, visiting other libraries, ALA/ILA memberships, conferences, and workshops.

**b. Policy Review (Strategic Plan):** Amy presented the board with a copy of the current Strategic Plan. She asked the trustees to keep the printout and bring it back when it is discussed again.  
**HANDED OUT AS A SEPARATE PACKET**

**c. Nomination of Officers:** Nominations of Officers were discussed. Nominations will be presented at the April meeting.

**d. APPROVE – April Board meeting Change (Tuesday, April 14th):**

A motion to reschedule the April Board Meeting to Tuesday, April 14th was presented.

**Motion: Katy Henderson Second: Gloria Douglas**

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

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

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

**There were 7 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes in the negative. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the *April 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting date was approved.***

**e. APPROVE – Job Description (Communications Manager):** Amy presented the board with and updated Communications Manager job description for approval.

A motion to approve the revised Communications Manager job description was presented.

**Motion: Bruce Boyd Second: Amanda VanOpdorp**

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

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

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

**There were 7 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes in the negative. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the *revised Communications Manager job description was approved.***

**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
- ALA News
- FY24-25 Revenue and Expense Report
- Friends/RN Update
- Policy Review

Items to be discussed at future meetings

- Facility Systems list (with maintenance operations)
- Building Maintenance/Repair Checklist
- Capital Asset Plan

- Job Description
- Illinois Standards (Topic)
- Trustee Facts File (Appendices)
- Discuss Immigration Enforcement Training & Guide Updates
- APPROVE - FOIA Guide and Request Cards
- Nomination of Officers (Voting in May)
- 2026 FOIA/OMA Certification

- City Council Presentation (Year in Review)
- Centennial FINAL Report
- Strategic Planning Update

**14. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at: 6:45 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Watson

