

Meeting of the Muscogee County Library Board
August 11, 2025 – 11:00 am
Columbus Public Library, Synovus Rooms A & B

Members in Attendance:

Darcy Brito, Chair
Denise Eckley, Treasurer
Judy Barnett
Susan Berry
Asante Hilts
Sharon Childs Jamison

SirMichael Jones
Reggie Lewis
Shannon Reynolds
Jennifer St, John
Mary Angela Stone McMurphy

Also, in Attendance:

Alan Harkness, Director, CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries)
Katie Burnett, Assist. Director of Public Services, CVL
Tracie Price, Assist. Director of Business Services, CVL
Gabbi Hart, Operations Coordinator, CVL
Amber Brookins, Materials & Statistics Coordinator, CVL
Elyse French, Branch Manager of CPL, CVL
Laura Ann Mann, Executive of the Muscogee County Library Foundation
Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL

- I. Call to Order – Chair Brito called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.
- II. **Approval of June 9, 2025, minutes.**
Chair Brito asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2025, meeting. Hilts made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Eckley. The motion was approved unanimously by Brito, Barnett, Berry, Eckley, Fox, Hilts, Jamison, Reynolds, St. John and Stone. (Jones and Lewis arrived after this motion.)
- III. Public Comment – There was none.
- IV. Muscogee County Library Foundation
Executive Director Mann gave a presentation to the board about the role and mission of the Muscogee County Library Foundation. She also broke down the financial support that the foundation gives to the CVL.
- V. Treasurer's Report
Assist. Director Price covered the FY25 Period 12 financials which ended June 30, 2025. These are not the official final numbers as the end of years final report has not yet been released by the MCSD.
- VI. Director's Report
Director Harkness handed out the new CVL Fall program guide to the board. The CVL reached a million items checked out in a fiscal year for the first time since 2017. He discussed the increase in digital circulation and the slight decrease in print material. Director Harkness went over the latest dashboard statistics. There are 28,685 cardholders, the highest it has been since tracking of cardholders began. Physical visitors are down slightly from FY24. Computer use is steadily increasing but not yet reaching pre-COVID numbers. He went over outreach and program numbers as well as internet use.

CVL exceeded the Summer reading goal of 2 million 25 minutes read. At the Muscogee County School Board Meeting in September, for the first time, CVL will be recognizing individual

schools for their participation in Summer Reading. Awards will be handed out for most read and most growth.

VII. Branch Report

Assist. Director Burnett showed pictures from the Summer Reading events at different branches. There have been several well attended events during the summer months at each branch. Assist. Director Burnette introduced the new CPL Branch Manager Elyse French.

CVL will be hosting a Cake & Cards event at each of the branches on different days. If you come and sign up for or renew a library card you will receive a piece of cake. Event dates are available in the fall program guide. Assist. Director Burnett introduced the resource of the month for August, Brain Fuse. This is an online tutoring programming available free for CVL cardholders from 2pm to 11pm, for grades kindergarten to 12th grade including ACT and SAT prep.

VIII. New Business

A. Review and vote on listed policies

i. GSV2 Volunteer Background Check Policy

Jones then made a motion to approve the changes to the above policy as presented. Jameson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, Reynolds, Stone McMurphy and St. John.

ii. INF3 Computer Internet Use

Hilts made a motion to approve the changes to the above policy as presented. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, Reynolds, Stone McMurphy and St. John.

iii. INF5 Photographs/ Videos

Hilts made a motion to approve the changes to the above policy as presented. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, Reynolds, Stone McMurphy and St. John.

iv. PER3 Harassment

Lewis made a motion to approve the changes to the above policy as presented. Jamison seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, Reynolds, Stone McMurphy and St. John.

v. PER16 Overtime

Eckley made a motion to approve the changes to the above policy as presented. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, Reynolds, Stone McMurphy and St. John.

vi. PER21 Public Records

St. John made a motion to approve the changes to the above policy as presented. Eckley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, Reynolds, Stone McMurphy and St. John.

vii. PER23 Outside Employment

Hilts made a motion to approve the changes to the above policy as presented. Jamison seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Brito, Berry, Eckley, Hilts, Jamison, Jones, Lewis, Reynolds, Stone McMurphy and St. John.

IX. Chair's Report

Chair Brito thanked everyone for their commitment to the Muscogee County Library Board.

X. Next meeting is set for September 8, 2025, at 11 AM. Location: Columbus Public Library. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 PM