

Augusta Richmond County Public Library System

Board of Trustees Emergency Meeting

Headquarters Library Branch

Thursday, October 23, 2025

4:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Augusta Richmond County Public Library System (ARCPLS) Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:37 pm by Board President, Morris Porter.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Morris Porter (President), Brenda Garman (Vice President), Anita Rookard, Anna Reeves, Christine Rhodes, Marsha Cole, Sheila Siler, Kimberly Brown, Leadra Collins. Members Absent: Tonia Gibbons (Treasurer) (excused), Cher Best (excused). Ex-officio members present: Emanuel Mitchell (Library Director), Commissioner Francine Scott. Ex-officio members absent: Robyn Wittenberg-Dudley (Friends of the Library) (excused)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Porter entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Collins moved to approve the agenda as written, Ms. Rhodes seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion to approve the agenda as written passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Porter entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2025 meeting. Ms. Garman made a correction that the 2026 budget request would be on the agenda for the Board Retreat, not the 2027 budget request, as the minutes reflected. Ms. Collins made a motion to approve the September 2025 minutes with Ms. Garman's noted correction. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion to approve the minutes from the September 2025 meeting with Ms. Garman's noted correction passed.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Closed to Public

Mr. Porter entertained a motion that the Board go into Executive Session. Ms. Collins made a motion to go into executive session. Ms. Brown seconded. The Board dismissed the public and went into Executive Session at 4:40 pm. The board welcomed the public and resumed the meeting at 5:09 pm.

- a) Ms. Reeves moved to approve Director Mitchell's ability to propose, on November 6th, to the Commission, the Boards proactive, anticipatory action of closing the Diamond Lakes branch, the loss of part time staff, and reductions of operational hours at all branches to combat a reduction in budget. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Ms. Collins abstained from voting. The motion to approve Director Mitchell's ability to propose, on November 6th, to the

Commission, the Boards proactive, anticipatory action of closing the Diamond Lakes branch, the loss of part time staff, and reductions of operational hours at all branches to combat a reduction in budget passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a) Holiday Schedule for 2026

Ms. Reeves made a motion to approve the Holiday/Closures calendar for 2026. Ms. Collins seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion to approve the Holiday/Closure calendar for 2026 passed.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Ms. Reeves mentioned that board members should think about what their responses should be in regards to push back against library closures.
- b) Commissioner Scott asked what the closest library would be if Diamond Lakes closed. The closest library would be Maxwell, as well as the use of the Bookmobile.
- c) Mr. Mitchell will start sending the approved board meeting minutes to the clerk of the commission and ask that she forward them to the commission.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The ARCPLS Board of Trustees emergency meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.