



Fayette County Public Library Board Meeting October 21, 2025

Fayette County Public Library

THE FAYETTE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD met on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Distance Learning Lab (DLL) Room of the Fayette County Public Library, 1821 Heritage Park Way Fayetteville, GA 30214.

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Zulema Green, Chair*
 Davina Taylor, Vice-Chair
 Kim Bradley
 Gail Joiner
 J.T Rabun
 Page McDonald

MEMBERS ABSENT: Denise Stripling

STAFF PRESENT: *Michelle Bennett-Copeland, Fayette County Library Director*
 Chris Mallory, Board Secretary and Library Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: *Natalie Marshall, Director, Flint River Regional Library System (FRRLS)*
 Jessica Kuhr, Librarian, Fayette County Library

I.) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Zulema at 4:00 PM.

II.) Approval of Minutes for the June 2025 Meeting

The June board meeting minutes to be considered for approval were put forth by Board Chair Zulema Green. Board member J.T Rabun motioned for an approval.

Board member Kim Bradley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

III.) Michelle Bennett-Copeland, Library Director, Fayette County Public Library

- **Global Diversity Awareness Month – The country that was being celebrated and highlighted this year is Brazil. There were various programs and events that revolved around Brazil and their culture. ☐**
- **Books on Wheels Program started in February of this year and we have delivered about 300 books so far. This is a program that collaborates with Fayette Senior Services, Meals on Wheels, and others to deliver services to the homebound citizens of our area.**
- **September was our first Amnesty month which happened to align with Library Card Sign-Up. This will be an annual event. News about the Amnesty month went out on social media, local newspaper, and posted in the library.**
- **Georgia Libraries Conference 2025 (GLC 2025). There were 3 staff members who attended the conference. Chris Mallory, Alyssa Williams, and Katie Rees. The staff remarked how great it was great seeing how other libraries are marketing their programs and advertising their resources. It was also an opportunity to network with other library staff that you are not able to see on a regular basis.**
- **Miss Humblebees is a database that we no longer subscribe to and have switched to ABCMouse Home Edition due to low engagement. Due to the familiarity that patrons have had with ABCMouse already it was an easy transition, and the numbers have increased as a result.**
- **The annual Performer's Showcase will take place on Thursday, November 6, 2025. The program will start at 8:30am and end around 3:30pm.**

IV.) Natalie Marshall, *Director, Flint River Regional Library System (FRRLS)*

- Baker & Taylor will no longer be operating as a company in January 2026. They have already started to wind down their operations and canceled their back orders. For the past 20 years we have been ordering from 2 major vendors Baker & Taylor and Brodart. We were able to get great discounts through them since we were ordering as a large-scale vendor through our library system. They have been doing the majority of the cataloging and processing for our new books. We are looking into Ingram as an alternative to Baker & Taylor. Ingram has a pre-negotiated deal with all of the library systems that are members of the Georgia Council for Public Libraries, which Flint River is a part of. They have a pre-negotiated deal, which is very similar to the terms that we did have with Baker & Taylor and Brodart as far as discounts, et cetera. This is unfamiliar territory so we will be exploring all of our options as well as doing more technical services processing in-house.
- The Digital Connectivity Grant was rescinded recently. There are about 168 active devices in circulation for our system. This was the number of hotspots that the Regional Board approved of in order to continue this valuable service to our patrons.
- The LibTech funding amounts have been deployed. The total is about \$32,000 for our system which is about half as much as last year. Scott Martin, Technology Manager for FRRLS, will be communicating with the other FRRLS libraries about purchases through this grant.
- The PINES Executive Committee voted in September 2025 on a range of changes from small to substantial in order to increase the efficiency and lower the costs of PINES/courier. Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) has looked into

extending the hold shelf pick up date, changing the algorithm, etc. in order to cut down on costs. There will be re-visiting points. They will be evaluating the changes and will look at the numbers every 3 months. They will evaluate these changes before they try to implement further changes to decrease costs and improve efficiency.

- Annual Report was submitted on September 12, 2025.

V.) Library Representative Report (FRRLS Branches)

Tyrone – Gail Joiner

- 19,000 total circulations
- 4 programs with a total of 3,058 people attending.
- Katie Chambers, Children's Librarian (Tyrone Library), attended the GLC 2025 Conference and presented a program on how Lunch & Learning programming improved the attendance for their library.
- Annual Zombie Apocalypse took place on October 20 with the Tyrone Police Department which was a big hit with the kids.
- Lunch & Learn Program on Friday, October 24, 2025, featuring a presentation from a Funeral Director (Parrot Funeral Home) at the library.

Brooks Public Library – Kim Bradley

- Exploring other options for book ordering since Baker & Taylor was their only book vendor and are actively looking to other vendors for their purchases.

VI.) New Business – Board Member Denise Stripling has stepped down as a board member. The process for new board member representing Peachtree City has begun.

VII.) Board Chair Zulema Green called for a motion to adjourn the board meeting. The motion to adjourn at 4:35 p.m. was called by Board Member Davina Taylor and seconded by Board Member J.T Rabun. The board voted to unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The next library board meeting will be held on Tuesday January 20, 2026, at 4 PM at the Fayette County Public Library.

ATTEST:

_____ *Chris Mallory*_____

Chris Mallory
Board Secretary