

Independence Public Library
Library Board of Trustees
February 19, 2026

The meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was held in the Library Community Room of the Independence Public Library.

Those present at the meeting were Laura Blaker, Robin Bleichner, Quentin Stenger, Deb Clark, Matt Rittgers, Emily Ownby, Nancy Dodge, and Jake Bass. Also in attendance, Bret Weber, City Council Liaison, Michelle Nejd, Deputy Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Robin Bleichner at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Jake Bass, seconded by Emily Ownby to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jake Bass and seconded by Nancy Dodge to approve the minutes with the amended changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills were reviewed. Motion made by Jake Bass and seconded by Quentin Stenger to approve the bills. The motion carried unanimously.

STATISTIC

The library's Facebook Total Reach was one of the highest 99,613 on record. Build-A-Fort Family Fun Night was a great success.

NEW BUSINESS

Fines and Fees Policy

A motion was made by Quentin Stenger and seconded by Nancy Dodge to approve policy with the recommended changes.

Library Board Bylaws

Looked over bylaws and moved to the March meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Library Budget FY 2026-27

A motion was made by Nancy Dodge, seconded by Emily Ownby to approve the

updated budget. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Programming Update

Brochure was distributed for the 2026 One Book Indee Program. There are events and activities throughout February and March coordinating with the One Book Indee selection, To Catch a Storm by Mindy Mejia.

Legislative Updates

Discussed the different bills that have passed the first funnel. Laura recommended that the board contact the legislature regarding the potential crippling of public libraries across the state.

Building and Grounds Updates

Ranger Reed has been hired to remove snow. Leak in ceiling and soffit drip issue were addressed and Laura has requested quotes. Fundraising event for May 2, 2026 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for a few shifts.

Library Board Training

Covered in the Legislative Updates.

Board and Staff Reports

Tax season has started and Jake stated that the volunteers will be using the Library Community Room from Feb 6th to April 10th. May 2nd from 10:00 to 2:00, the library will be holding a fundraising event. Matt Rittgers is moving and will be leaving the board. Discussions have started about the RAGBRAI stop in Independence on July 23, 2026.

ADJOURNEMENT

A motion was made by Jake Bass and seconded by Emily Ownby to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Deb Clark
Secretary