



beloit public library

Beloit Public Library Board of Trustees

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit, WI

Library Board Room

1. Call to order and roll call – President Girdler called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Members present: Lucas Carter, Rachelle Elliott, Cecilia Gillhouse, and Alissa Girdler.

Members online: Alexis Beran and Courtney Scott

Members absent: Sherry Blakeley, Gerardine Heim, and Keira Wilson.

Also present: Leadership Team Members: Nick Dimassis, Jennifer Laatz, Kim Huber, Michael DeVries, Amy Mitchell, Jessica Graminske, Wyatt Ditzler, and Becky Wilson.

2. Approval of the July 15, 2026 Library Board meeting minutes – Carter moved to approve the July 15, 2026 Library Board meeting minutes as presented. Gillhouse seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (6-0).**
3. Public Comment – none.
4. Library Director and BPL Activity Report – Dimassis introduced new hire Erica Caruana, Library Service Specialist 1 – Customer Experience. A written report was submitted by Dimassis and team. Highlights: Leadership Team toured the new Family Services facility. The most recent Civics Academy was on Data Centers with Art Harrington. Summer Reading Club had 781 participants with around 31% completion in the 3 age ranges. Discovery PLAYce cards are being worked on. They are being used as an evaluation tool; however, cards are not required to enter. All are welcome and the space is free. The flooring for Discovery PLAYce is delayed. Ravenswood Studios' work installing exhibits continues and will halt for a couple weeks once the carpet is here. Furniture will be arriving mid-September with a final delivery in October. We installed the Everbright Wall sponsored by Alliant Energy and the Seasonal Book Display sponsored by Dr. Roger Kapoor and family. Trustee Training Week webinars are all archived. Board members are encouraged to watch any that is of interest. We continue to meet with Luci Creative, Ravenswood Studios, CCI, and Angus Young regarding exhibit fabrication and delivery. Dimassis and Laatz met with City Manager Ortiz Hernandez and the city finance team regarding the 2027 budget. The meeting went well.

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5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Budget/Facilities Committee – Did not meet.
 - b. Personnel Committee – Did not meet.
 - c. Strategic Plan Committee – Did not meet.
6. Old Business – None.
7. New Business -
 - a. **Committee Assignments** – Elliott moved to approve the committee assignments as selected. Gillhouse seconded the motion. **Motion carried (6-0)**
 - Foundation – Carter
 - FABL – Beran
 - Personnel – Elliott, Girdler, Gillhouse
 - Budget & Facilities – Heim, Elliott, Beran, Girdler
 - Strategic Plan – Heim, Carter, Scott, Wilson
 - b. **Monthly financial report and approval of library and café bills** – Carter moved to approve the July payments with the library bills totaling \$100,706.13, Blender - \$1658.78 and FFP Grant \$97,714.61. Elliott seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (6-0).**
8. Reports:
 - a. Beloit Public Library Foundation – Dimassis reported that the Foundation is doing good work. The 3 objectives are: 1. 5 years of operations for Discovery PLAYce - \$1.5 million; 2. Outreach and Renewal for Discovery PLAYce - \$1.4 million; 3. Overall Foundation operations and library requests - \$700K. Next meeting is October 14, 2026
 - b. Friends at Beloit Library (FABL) – Next meeting is September 9, 2026.
 - c. School District Representative – Elliott reported on referendums for the Fall. School District of Beloit will not be going to referendum in the fall. Received a 2 year grant for early literacy coaches. There are 2.0 FTE; Todd Elementary has 1 FTE; Robinson and Gaston each have 0.5 FTE.
 - d. City Council Representative – Dimassis encouraged the trustees to take the Strategic Planning Survey for the City of Beloit.
9. Trustee Activities and Upcoming Events – Beran reported on the upcoming Scoopie Night on 8/25 for Beloit Arts Center.
10. Motion to Adjourn – Gillhouse moved to adjourn. Carter seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (6-0).** Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

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Submitted by: Jennifer Laatz, Business Manager

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