beloit public library

Beloit Public Library Board of Trustees
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit, WI
Library Board Room

1. Call to order and roll call – President Girdler called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

   Members present: Sherry Blakeley, Lucas Carter, Rachelle Elliott, Cecilia Gillhouse, Alissa Girdler, and Gerardine Heim.
   Members online: Alexis Beran (arr. 6:09) and Cecelia Gillhouse.
   Members absent: Courtney Scott 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 August 19, 2026 Library Board meeting minutes – Elliott moved to approve the August 16, 2026 Library Board meeting minutes as presented. Carter seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (6-0).**

3. Public Comment – none.

4. Library Director and BPL Activity Report – Dimassis introduced new hires Karla Martinez and Hannah Flores, both Library Service Specialist 1 – Customer Experience. Dimassis and the team submitted a written report. Highlights: Partnership with Society for Learning Unlimited (SLU) for a couple of programs. Lavinia Goodell display in front of the Riverside Room. Civics Academy: Accurate Information about Data Centers: Economic, Energy, and Environmental Impacts with speaker Art Harrington. The program is available for viewing on the BPL website. Bookleggers is off and running. Scheduling of outreach visits for retired teachers interested in volunteering in Discovery PLAYce. Dimassis also reported on the Non-State grant awarded to the City of Beloit earmarked for Discovery PLAYce. A part of the grant requires a 20 year commitment on whatever the money was used for. In our case it is Discovery PLAYce. The City Attorney wants an agreement that the BPL Foundation will pay back the grant if Discovery PLAYce closes before the 20 year commitment. More to come at a future meeting.

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. **Affirmation of American Library Association Library Bill of Rights** – Carter moved to affirm the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights. Elliott seconded the motion. **Motion carried (7-0).**
    b. **Affirmation of American Library Association Library Code of Ethics –** Blakeley move to affirm the American Library Association Library Code of Ethics. Carter seconded the motion. **Motion carried (7-0).**
    c. **Discussion and Action on Behavior Policy –** Elliott moved to postpone action on the Behavior Policy to the October meeting. Heim seconded the motion. **Motion carried (7-0).**
    d. **Monthly financial report and approval of library and café bills** – Carter moved to approve the August payments with the library bills totaling $58,004.04, Blender - $2,531.95 and FFP Grant $396,329.02. Blakeley seconded the motion. **Motion carried (7-0).**

8. Reports:
    a. Beloit Public Library Foundation – Dimassis reported that the Foundation sent out the invitations to Discovery PLAYce Grand Opening events. Next Meeting is October 14, 2026.
    b. Friends at Beloit Library (FABL) – Beran reported that FABL is having the big book sale October 22 – 24. Discussions have begun on the 2027 annual meeting presenter. Newsletter and renewal letters are coming out soon. Next meeting is November 11, 2026.
    c. School District Representative – Elliott reported that 10/10 is the Multicultural Hispanic Heritage Month event. The district is in assessment season with standardized reading and math testing. BMHS Homecoming is 10/16. Turner is 9/19.
    d. City Council Representative – Blakeley reported that Rock County Sheriffs Office and Beloit Police Department entered into an agreement with Rock County providing 4 deputies 6 days a week.

9. Trustee Activities and Upcoming Events – None

10. Motion to Adjourn – Elliott moved to adjourn. Heim seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (7-0).** Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Submitted by: Jennifer Laatz, Business Manager