Minutes from Special Meeting on September 10, 2026

The special called meeting of the Red River Parish Library Board of Control was called to order on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 5:15 pm, by President Mike Waters. Present were Heather Wren, Mike Waters, Sharon Jenkins, Lillie McDonald, Kathy McDuffy, Karen Squires, Tray Murray and Acting Director Mary Adkins. Absent was Merritt Cason. Visitors present were Jessie Davis and LaSheka Turner.

The prayer was led by President Waters and the pledge was led by Acting Director Mary Adkins. Dr. Adkins read the minutes of the Aug. 27, 2026, meeting. Sharon Jenkins made a motion that the minutes be approved as corrected. Karen Squires seconded the motion, and the board approved the motion unanimously.

President Waters began the old business with a discussion of the rules of order. He reminded the board that all members should act professionally. In addition, a member must be recognized before speaking. The last member was very emotionally, and remembering these points may help our meetings go more smoothly.

The second point of old business was led by the finance committee. The board discussed the salary scale to complete payment of all staff members. Karen Squires made a motion that the board approve the complete salary scale with a 3% raise at the beginning of each calendar year. Sharon Jenkins seconded the motion. Public comment was allowed after the motion was seconded. The board approved the motion unanimously. Karen Squires thanked the whole finance committee for their hard work.

The point to be discussed was the process of selecting a director. President Waters said that there had been a great deal of controversy because one of the applications had been turned in after 4:00 pm as stated in the Natchitoches Times. There was no time set by the board. We accepted it because we interviewed the person involved. President Waters reminded the board that we could start over. He had heard the word “lawsuit” mentioned and he was concerned by that. Kathy McDuffy said that she thought that the incident had cost us a lot of time and that she did not think that we should start the process over. Heather Wren agreed with Ms. McDuffy. Karen Squires moved that the board accepted the application, and Tray Murray seconded the motion. One member opposed the motion, but six of the members approved the motion.

Section D of the old business was a discussion of background check policy and procedures. The original motion made and passed at the last meeting stated that DA Julie Jones would draft a policy and procedures and present it to the board as soon as possible.

The final point of old business was discussion of open meeting laws and how we as a board might go about the open meeting laws training. Karen Squires explained that she had spoken the Attorney General’s office about a PowerPoint presentation that our DA can do for us. The legislative auditor’s office suggested that we might watch 2 days’ worth of streaming about the open meetings laws that would be very detailed. Finally, the auditor’s office is also in the process of setting up a YouTube page on October 8, led by Liz Martin. The board must simply which of the programs we feel will work best for us. Karen said that she would speak with the DA to see if she is willing to work with us.

The date and time for the next meeting, originally scheduled for Oct. 8, 2026, was not a good time for several of the board members. A new date was set for November 5, 2026 at 5:00 pm. This will be a regularly scheduled meeting and will allow us to discuss a variety of items.

Sharon Jenkins made a motion that we adjourn the meeting. Karen Squires seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45.

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Board President Acting Director