

Heartland Regional Library System
Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Roll Call: The Heartland Regional Library Board met at the Iberia Library for the February meeting. President Carole Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:15. The following board members were present: Carole Wagner, Toleda Jett, Rachel Williams, Stacey Dunham, and Lerilee Huhman. Heather Walker and Brittany Davenport attended via Zoom. Genna Jett attended by phone. Tierney Earp and Nora Bond were absent. One guest, Sandy Gerhling was at the meeting to speak to the board.

Staff members present were Director Lisa Garro, Assistant Librarian Lysha Thompson, and programmers Michelle Vaughn and Leah Gargus were in attendance.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: Toleda made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Rachel seconded. All approved.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were approved after a motion was made by Lerilee and seconded by Stacey.

Approval of monthly expenditures and transfer of funds: Lisa reported that there had been a recent scam with a fake Intuit QuickBooks payment. During the discussion, it was mentioned to contact the Attorney General's office to report to help prevent the scam happening to other libraries or entities. There is now a code set up to use to ensure we are in contact with the legitimate company. Following the discussion, Rachel made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures and transfer of funds and Toleda seconded. The motion passed.

Director's/Librarians' Reports: The director's, assistant director's, and programming librarians' reports were presented. Michelle shared the latest programming statistics report. She was excited about the recent sourdough classes. She reported that the Home school group used as a science lesson. The AlphaGal program went well at the Eldon Library. She mentioned that someone will be available to help people sign up for SNAP benefits. Michelle also reminded the board of the upcoming programs and showed an example of the handknitting.

The Assistant Director's report was handed out and reviewed.

- Introduced Leah Gargus as the new Maries County library programmer. She came to HRLS with previous library experience and will slide into the position easily.
- Metal detectors will soon be available for check out.
- Two local authors will be doing an author read and book signing. Rachel Johnson at Vienna Library on Saturday and Trisha Orscheln at the Eldon Library on 3/14.
- The Chromebooks that were ordered for the Eldon branch are still out of stock and there has been a price increase. The SHI account rep is trying to find comparable alternatives. Smaller screens are available but prefer to have the larger screens. These were donated by the 100 Empowered Women of Eldon organization.
- Upcoming events: March— plant/seed swap, pantry mixes and peep dioramas. Battle of the Books will be happening at the Vienna school —Mark Twain on 3/18 and the Gateway competition- no date set yet.

The Director's report:

- LAGERS - HRLS may need to adjust the payroll schedule in order to avoid paying increased percentages due to no wages paid in January.
- The state librarian reported that IMLS is now fully funded and there is a small increase from FFY2025.
- Governor Kehoe wants to reduce our Athletes and Entertainers funds by 50%-- this will impact purchases like phonics books, microfilm, Tonies, large print books, kits (purchased in the past with those funds). Looking into possibly joining a humanity organization to fight the cuts.
- Reminder that Hwy 42 road closure for bridge work is happening -- detour through either Brinktown or Argyle.

**See the Director's Report for February 2026 for more details.

Communications: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Sandy Gerhling, owner of Hard Times Bar and Grill, presented to the board that they are interested in buying or leasing a piece of HRLS property. They would like to add an external elevated walk-in cooler to the outside of their building. This would give them more room inside. They would need a ramp to gain access to make deliveries to the cooler. After Ms. Gerhling left, the request was discussed and Lisa will send a map to the owners to see how much land they actually need. The board preferred to lease at this time and will need to research how much to charge and how to write up the contract.

The next item of business was to inform Citizens Bank of Eldon and Central Bank in Eldon that the HRLS board would like to give permission to the director, Lisa Garro, and business office manager, Camelia Hallahan, to access by view only any online accounts. Then the paper statement charges can be stopped. The motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Lerilee. The motion passed.

Finally, Lisa reported that she will meet with Trae Helton of the Maries Co Bank regarding the 401k set up. There was a deadline to stop or change the 3% match last October. The board will need to sign a Certificate of Corporate Resolution with the Capital Group/American Funds in order to make changes to the resolution.

District Board Reports: None.

Committee Reports: The director's evaluation was completed and the committee shared the results with Lisa prior to the meeting. It was suggested to update and share the employee satisfaction survey (Google form) with staff as it was last year. Board members will receive a copy by email and submit suggestions before it is shared with staff.

HRLS Policies: Lisa distributed copies of all the policies. The board members will review the Patron Policies and send any suggested changes to Lisa before next month's meeting. The policy will be discussed and approved next month.

Executive Session: Not needed.

Adjournment: Stacey made the motion to adjourn at 7:48 and Toleda seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted, Lerilee Huhman, HRLS secretary